

Educator Update this week

Welcome Back!

Changes in the Schools and Student Services branch

The Department of Education now has a Facebook page

Managing illness, including COVID-19

FreshGrade Student Portfolio Discontinuation

Decommissioning FirstClass Sept. 15

Professional Learning Opportunities

Resources for Educators

[Quick Links to Resources Related to Our COVID-19 Response](#)



Welcome back!

Welcome back all educators for the 2022-23 school year. I hope you all had a wonderful summer break. As Deputy Morgan highlighted in this week's Nicole's Notes, this year, we are focused on working collaboratively to make our schools more inclusive, safe and caring learning environments as we work on completing the actions in the Safer Schools Action Plan and implementing RISE: reimagining inclusive and special education. We know that the last couple of years have been challenging and want to make sure you have all the supports you need in your work as educators. The Department of Education, your school community, Yukon First Nations and community partners are all ready to help you and your students succeed. I am very proud to support you on this learning journey, and we are excited for another school year of learning and growing together.

Watch this [video of Nicole Morgan, our Deputy Minister addressing all educators.](#)

Changes in the Schools and Student Services branch

Not only is this year special due to the newly established Yukon First Nation School Board, but we have also adjusted the Schools and Student Services Branch of the Department of Education to align with our priorities and collaborative work with our partners.

The Department of Education works with Yukon First Nations and partners to set the general direction for K-12 education including curriculum, funding and the legal framework for which school authorities operate. This coming school year there will be three distinctly different school authorities who have the responsibility for the provision of K-12 programming in Yukon public schools. Those three authorities are:

- Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon (CSFY)- Executive Director, Marc Champagne
- First Nation School Board (FNSB)- Executive Director, Melissa Flynn

- Yukon Education (YE)- Superintendents, Marilyn Marquis-Forster and Trevor Ratcliff

Central administration staff will be adapting their processes to ensure effective communication with school authorities and to ensure the responsibilities of the Department of Education are carried out in order to effectively support school authorities in the provision of K-12 programming.

Meet the team at the department:

Assistant Deputy Minister for Schools and Student Services – Cassandra Kelly

I would like to introduce Cassandra Kelly, the new Assistant Deputy Minister for Schools and Student Services. With more than 26 years of Yukon government experience in 5 different departments, her work is informed by strong working relationships with a number of First Nations governments and partners. “I’m excited to contribute and continue learning from the Yukon education system, I am also looking forward to working and learning alongside our colleagues and partners in the First Nation School Board as they realize their vision for learning in the Yukon” she says.

Executive Director of Inclusive Policy and Practice- Karen Campbell

The Department of Education has established a new 2-year term position, Executive Director of Inclusive Policy and Practice which will report directly to the ADM of Schools and will be working with school authorities to ensure inclusive and safer school policies and practices are implemented in all Yukon public schools.

Yukon Education Superintendent- Trevor Ratcliff

Trevor Ratcliff has joined the Yukon Education school authority, as Superintendent. Trevor has over 32 years of dedicated service to Yukon schools. During that time, he worked in both rural Yukon and Whitehorse where he served as a teacher, vice-principal, and principal. Trevor holds a Master's Degree in Secondary Curriculum Education and a Bachelor's Degree in Education specializing in science and math.

Trevor is a long-time Yukoner and has built meaningful relationships with students, community members, school councils, and key partners. Yukon Education is grateful for his commitment to Yukon students and educators and will benefit from his experience.

The Department of Education now has a Facebook page

Yesterday, we launched the department's [official Facebook page](#). This will help us communicate with the public. Our social media will be focused on educating, inspiring and informing the public, and will feature posts from the full learning continuum - early learning, K-12 schools, and adult education and training.

We hope you 'like' our page, and follow along as we highlight programs available for Yukoners and the exciting the work of the department.

Managing illness, including COVID-19

We are returning to a much more normal school year. We know the pandemic has had unintended effects on students. We are focused on a two-year recovery phase that supports learning, mental health and wellness for all. You can learn more about our [recovery plan here](#).

As we continue to learn to live with COVID-19, we have the opportunity to make decisions based on our personal risk. The Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Ranade, issued a statement on what students, teachers, staff and families can expect for the year ahead.

Parents and caregivers should use their best judgement to determine whether a child is well enough to attend school or other activities. Children who are ill – regardless of symptoms – should stay home to rest, recover, and avoid infecting others. Observe and talk to your child frequently to see if they have new or worsening symptoms. You may find this updated [stoplight guidance](#) helpful.

We will continue to use the well-established process for school-based surveillance and reporting communicable diseases. This process requires principals to notify YCDC when there are an above-average number of absences due to reported illness. We know that these processes work from years of putting them into practice.

We are not re-instating mask requirements. The decision to wear a mask at school, on the bus or any public setting, is a personal one. Vaccination for children is not mandatory, but is encouraged, and remains the best way to protect against severe outcomes from COVID-19.

You can see the CMOH's [full statement here](#).

We are committed to keeping schools open and safe for kids – especially for those who depend on a school as a reliable safe space. The pandemic has taken a toll on the mental health and wellbeing of our educators, students, and their families, and we will continue to seek more and better ways to support each other.

FreshGrade Student Portfolio Discontinuation

As communicated in the spring, FreshGrade student portfolios is being discontinued Aug. 31, 2022.

What this means for Yukon teachers, students and parents:

- As of Aug. 31, 2022 FreshGrade will no longer be available.
- A working group of Yukon Educators and Central Administration staff have been evaluating alternatives and have made a recommendation for replacement.
- We are currently completing a privacy impact assessment for the Seesaw and hope to have it ready for use in schools this fall.

Plan for Wrap-Up

- **Communicate to Parents**
 - Teachers that have used FreshGrade may choose to communicate to parents that the product will be going offline Aug. 31, 2022. (some instructions to download video and photos are below)
- **Review Portfolio Posts**
 - Teachers using FreshGrade should review posts to ensure that photos and images comply with district guidelines, i.e., no student images where parental/guardian permission has not been granted. This is because families can download images and videos posted in their child's portfolio, which may include other students in the classroom.

- **Save Teacher Created Materials**

- If you have teacher-created materials you wish to keep, copy and paste them into another format.

To save any photos or video:

From a computer, please:

1. Log into your child's portfolio **before** August 31, 2022.
2. Click on any video or picture that you want to save
3. Click on the words "Download" that appear at the top of the page, in the middle. This will open the photo or video in a large format.
4. Click the three dots in the bottom right-hand corner.
5. Choose "Download"

From an iPhone, please:

1. Log into your child's portfolio **before** August 31, 2022.
2. Click on any video or picture that you want to save
3. Choose the square with the arrow pointing up
4. Scroll down and choose: Save Image (the square with the arrow pointing down)

Decommissioning FirstClass Sept. 15

Yukon Education migrated from FirstClass to MS Outlook in the Fall of 2021, however FirstClass remained accessible in read-only mode from the yesnet network (while in schools) for individuals to access archived information.

As of September 15, 2022 FirstClass will no longer be available. ITSS will decommission the server hosting it.

Until Sept. 15 users will have the option to:

- Move some of your old data from FirstClass to Outlook or start fresh
- Move your contacts from FirstClass to Outlook
- How to export contacts from FirstClass and import them to Outlook- [Knowledge Base article](#)
- How to export email from FirstClass (please note you cannot import these emails into Outlook)- [Knowledge Base article](#)

Professional Learning Opportunities

Epson Brightlink Interactive Whiteboard Training

Are you looking for training to see how to better utilize your Epson interactive whiteboard in the classroom? Epson has developed some online training resources specifically for teachers. Check it out:

<https://epson.com/brightlink-training-resources-for-teachers>

Resources for Educators

Connected North

We are honoured to be serving Yukon schools again this year and bookings are available using the online app. You can access the login from the tab on the website <https://www.connectednorth.org/en> or from <https://sessions.connectednorth.org>.

Feel free to email CN School Lead, Brenda Sherry, at bsherry@takingitglobal.org for any assistance in getting started!

Our new 2022-23 online menu, as well as hard copies, will be available in early September, but bookings can start now with the online app. Feel free to watch this video review of the booking process to help you get started: [Video Link](#)

Locally developed curriculum – Climate Change 10 – Local Action

The Locally Developed Curriculum Committee has approved its latest courses, “[Climate Change 10 – Local Action](#)” at Wood Street School, and [Climate Change 12 – National and Global Action](#) at Aurora Virtual School. Climate Change 10 seeks to inform students about the many dimensions of climate change and engage them in monitoring, mitigation and adaptation actions with their family and neighbors. Climate Change 12 challenges individuals and communities to take environmental and climate action. Things like upgrading our home insulation, riding our bikes and taking public transit are important, but these small-scale personal choices take place in a wider world. Our social, political, and economic systems have a responsibility to lead by example, set policies that will guide communities and governments to tackle the climate challenge effectively. For permission to offer these courses outside of Wood Street/Aurora, please fill out the [permission form](#) and contact [Emily.Sheppard](#).

Quick Links to Resources Related to Our COVID-19 Response

- [Yukon Education Recovery Document: Guidelines for K-12 Schools](#)
- [Education updates and supports on COVID-19](#)
- [Talking and Sharing with Kids and Families on COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 and teenagers: Supporting Youth Mental Wellness](#)
- [Mental health and wellness support during COVID-19](#)
- [Wellness Together Canada free resources and support](#)
- [Yukon information on COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 Self-Assessment](#)
- [Canada response and Health Canada information](#)
- [Council of Yukon First Nations COVID-19 info hub](#)
- [Yukon vaccination clinics and information about the vaccine](#)