

December 9, 2022

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## A special Holiday message from the Deputy Minister

This week marks the last edition of the Educator Update for the 2022 calendar year. The holiday season is a meaningful time to recharge and connect. I wish you and your loved ones rest and health.

It is with gratitude that I acknowledge your unwavering commitment to learners. From every corner of our vibrant territory, educators continue to lead with optimism and courage.

I look forward to 2023 and continuing on the path of pandemic recovery and working together to seek the changes we wish to see in Yukon's education system.

I encourage you to take time to reflect on the relationships you've made with your students this year and the positive impacts you are having on their learning journey.

Nicole

## Literacy and numeracy working groups

We are looking for diverse representation to join working groups. Monthly meetings will begin in January 2023.

### 1. Yukon Culturally Responsive Literacy Strategy Working Group

#### Purpose:

The Yukon Culturally Responsive Literacy Strategy Working Group (YCRLSWG) will develop a literacy approach for Yukon Schools in alignment with BC's curriculum and Yukon's updated Balanced Literacy Framework. We have reached out to First Nations Education directors and other partners and stakeholders as well. Please feel free to share with any local community members, partners, or stakeholders who may be interested in this committee.

Please contact [Marjorie.MacDonald@yukon.ca](mailto:Marjorie.MacDonald@yukon.ca) if you are interested in participating in this group.

### 2. Yukon Culturally Responsive Numeracy Strategy Working Group

## Purpose:

The Yukon Culturally Responsive Numeracy Strategy Working Group (YCRNSWG) will develop a numeracy approach for Yukon Schools in alignment with BC's curriculum. We have reached out to First Nations Education directors and other partners and stakeholders as well. Please feel free to share with any local community members, partners, or stakeholders who may be interested in this committee.

Please contact [Ann.Larnder@yukon.ca](mailto:Ann.Larnder@yukon.ca) if you are interested in participating in this group.

## Professional Learning Opportunities

### January 16th, 2023 Professional Development Sessions

The Department of Education will be offering multiple sessions to educational staff for the January PD day that will include the following topics:

- Differentiated Instruction
- Decolonization
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- French Immersion Session (pre-registered already)
- SMART Notebook
- Sexual Health Education
- Supporting students with Mental Health and Wellness

Sessions will be in person, virtual or hybrid. Please [register for sessions](#) by **January 9th** and more details will follow. There is space in the registration field to let us know what specifically would be most helpful. For example, if you register for literacy PD, you will be able to tell us specifically what you would like to achieve from the PD (i.e. approached for balanced literacy in high school).

### PD opportunity: Mental Health Strategies in the Classroom - Supporting Student Mental Health

There are two sessions available Thursday Dec. 15:

- 8:30 - 11:30 OR
- 12:30 - 3:30 at the Alpine Bakery Upstairs

Yukon teachers will gain insights into how to support students to manage their mental health and apply these strategies to their classroom practice. Join Sparkle & Wild facilitator Scott McKenzie in this interactive workshop. More information is available [here](#).

To find out more and register contact [nikki.krocker@yukon.ca](mailto:nikki.krocker@yukon.ca) or call 867 332 0631

## Resources for Educators

### Interested in having your students meet the ADST goals in a fun and interesting way?

The Yukon Robotics Challenge provides an opportunity for students to meet the curriculum goals. Students are given specific tasks to program an EV3 robot to complete. Teams of students work together to complete as many of the 5 tasks as they can prior to evaluation day. Students are then asked to show a panel of

judges/evaluators how they completed the tasks. As well, students meet with judges/evaluators to discuss some of the ideas and challenges faced in building and programming the robot.

While this was designed to target students in grade 6, students from grade 4 to 7 (rural areas, this is more flexible) are welcome to take part. Help can be provided to teachers and students in programming and understanding the tasks. If you are new to the Challenge or if you have not participated previously, you will need to ensure that you provide your students with enough time to learn the programming/coding and then to figure out how to do the tasks.

Generally, this learning has culminated in a half day Challenge event. The event will take place in late April or early May with arrangements made with individual schools about days and times. Teams who complete the standards are awarded medals while the school with the highest percentage of teams to meet the standards receives a trophy to keep for one year and a plaque to keep.

We have partnered with Engineers Yukon and several other groups to help achieve the Challenge goals.

There are a few kits available if you are interested and do not have any kits. These will go out on a first come, first served basis. Lego no longer makes the EV3 kits so new kits ordered would be the SPIKE Prime. These are slightly different but should be able to do the same tasks.

The Yukon Robotics Challenge is governed by a committee. Jill Potter (Elijah Smith Elementary) and David Michayluk (Jack Hulland Elementary) are the two teachers on the committee. David McInnes is the Department rep. Glenna Howard and Laura Markle are the co-coordinators. For further information please feel free to contact Glenna at [ghoward@northwestel.net](mailto:goward@northwestel.net). If teachers want to know how this works in a classroom, as a club, or the benefits of doing this with students, please feel free to contact Jill or David at [jill.potter@yesnet.yk.ca](mailto:jill.potter@yesnet.yk.ca) or [david.michayluk@yesnet.yk.ca](mailto:david.michayluk@yesnet.yk.ca)

Please indicate your interest to Glenna Howard by Dec. 15, 2022 [ghoward@northwestel.net](mailto:goward@northwestel.net).

## Yukon Wildlife Preserve

**Field trip opportunities** for Yukon student's at the **Yukon Wildlife Preserve!** We are wanting to connect with teachers to let them know we are **open daily from 11:30am to 5:00pm**. Come visit us to experience 12+ iconic Yukon species spread over 350 acres. We can accommodate an earlier arrival time (dependent on daylight, arrival earlier than 10:30am currently means you would be starting off in the dark), just reach out to us to book in advance.

Yukon School Groups receive a discount of 40% off General Admission, along with a complimentary leader to paying guest ratio of 1:5 (Breakdown: if there are 10 students and 2 adults, you pay for the students and the adults are complimentary; if there are 10 students and 3 adults, then two adults would be complimentary and the third adult would pay the 40% discounted general admission rate).

*Options for field trips include:*

1. Self-guided walk
2. Guided walk
3. Step-on Guided Tour
4. Charter Guided Tour

Please visit our website - <https://yukonwildlife.ca/experience/hours-and-admission/> - for more information and pricing breakdowns, or email [education@yukonwildlife.ca](mailto:education@yukonwildlife.ca)

If you are interested in booking one of these options for your class please email [education@yukonwildlife.ca](mailto:education@yukonwildlife.ca) as booking in advance is required for some options.

Wondering about our **School Programs**? These highly successful programs are delivered in partnership with the Department of Education, and are provided during winter and spring sessions. **They will be returning in 2023!**

We will be providing **winter** programming for Grades 2, 3 and 7 in **February/March 2023**, and **spring** programming for Grades K, 1, and 4 in **May/June 2023**. Updates on dates available and when registration will open will be provided on our website – <https://yukonwildlife.ca/experience/school-programs/> – and via emails sent to grade specific teachers yesnet accounts. If available updates may be provided here via Educator Updates.

### **Caribou in the Schools: Learning Resource & Community Booklets**

Available for educators in the Southern Lakes and beyond

*These resources allow educators to engage students in the unique history and ongoing story of the Southern Lakes Caribou. Educators can use this learning resource to guide their lessons, giving insight into ways in which caribou have been co-managed, provide perspectives on how students may be drawn to learn more about caribou, and perhaps become stewards in their personal and professional lives. Curriculum-connected lessons range from Kindergarten to Grade 12 each containing an in-class introduction followed by outdoor hands-on learning activities and a multitude of printable materials to support students' learning.*

*Alongside the creation of the Learning Resource, Community Booklets for each of the six communities were designed for students and educators alike. In addition to containing data and facts gathered from a Western Science perspective on the Southern Lakes Caribou, they also feature community-specific contributions from the Elders and Knowledge Holders who have been a part of the advisory group interviews.*

*Since 2018 the creation of this program has involved six nations within the Southern Lakes Region and many funders, all to whom we hold much gratitude: Carcross/Tagish Renewable Resources Council, Laberge Renewable Resources Council, Yukon Government (Department of Education), and Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust.*

All resources can be found online at [southerlakescaribou.com/educators](https://southerlakescaribou.com/educators)

Community Booklets [can be downloaded here.](#)

Learning Resource [can be downloaded here.](#)

### **Quick Links**

- Check [Teams](#) for the PD opportunities
- [School health and safety during COVID-19](#)
- [Mental health and wellness supports](#)
- [Can your child go to school, daycare or return to regular activities?](#)
- [Yukon Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education Recovery Plan](#)

- [Wellness Together Canada free resources and support](#)
- [Yukon information on COVID-19](#)
- [Practice the Safe 6](#)
- [Non-medical masks in the workplace](#)
- [Canada response and Health Canada information](#)
- [Council of Yukon First Nations COVID-19 info hub](#)
- [Yukon vaccination clinics and information about the vaccine](#)
- [Yukon First Nation School Board](#)