

December 1, 2020

Dear Educational Assistants, Teachers and Aboriginal Language Teachers

Re: Invitation to participate in January 15 focus group on inclusive and special education

My name is Nikki Yee and I am the consultant leading the review of inclusive and special education services in Yukon. As part of the review, your experiences, challenges, and triumphs with inclusive and special education are critical. I write you today to discuss two opportunities for you to be a part of the review, if you wish to participate. The first is through a Zoom focus group meeting on Jan. 15, and the second is through the online tool. You may access the following resources to use as a springboard for your participation.

- **Video Overview** (6 min.) <https://youtu.be/krwubfADtEk>
- **Interim Update** that summarizes what I've learned so far <https://yukon.ca/en/review-inclusive-special-education-interim-update>
- **Template** prompts for engagement <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hbYx0GEJxJfQrHonx8TieH94IWputzcP/view?usp=sharing>

Focus Groups

To ensure I have an opportunity to hear many different perspectives from across the territory, the Department of Education and I have arranged for focus group meetings on January 15 during your PD day: one in the morning with Educational Assistants and one in the afternoon with Teachers, Aboriginal Language Teachers, and new Administrators that have not attended previous focus groups.

I invite each school to choose one educational assistant (for the morning session), and one educator (for the afternoon session) to provide insights from the unique educational and community contexts of your school. There are also 20 additional openings if more than one person from each school wishes to participate. If you have not been chosen to represent your school, but wish to attend, please forward your name, position title, school, and contact information to Nikki.yee@alumni.ubc.ca by Dec. 11, 2020. I will choose a sample from these submissions that represent the greatest possible diversity.

Online Tool

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please take the time to share your experiences and perspectives through the online tool, which will be available and shared to all school staff, students, families, and communities in December. Filling out the online tool is important to ensure I hear from as many of you as possible and will be very helpful to me in finalizing my report on these services in March.

Thank you so much for your time. I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikki Yee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nikki" being more prominent than the last name "Yee".

Nikki Yee, PhD