

## Educator Update this week

[Inclusive and Special Education](#)

[Reporting and Assessment](#)

[Curriculum](#)

[Professional learning opportunities](#)

[Other opportunities for schools](#)

[Resources for educators](#)

[Action items for consideration](#)



## Inclusive and Special Education

- **Inclusive and special education review update**

We recently announce our review of inclusive and special education underway and wanted to provide educators an update. We previously committed to this review as we know there are gaps in how these programs are meeting the needs of students and families. This review also responds to recommendation #70 from the 2019 report of the Auditor General of Canada, Kindergarten Through Grade 12 Education in Yukon.

Nikki Yee will be conducting the review. Ms. Yee is a doctoral candidate in Special Education at the University of British Columbia, with a focus on Indigenous and inclusive education. She has 12 years of diverse teaching experience from pre-Kindergarten to university and has provided special education supports for schools.

Ms. Yee is beginning this review with an internal phase, focused on reviewing the Department of Education's current practices, procedures and legislated responsibilities, researching promising practices from other jurisdictions, and speaking with central administration and school staff. She recently met with central administration staff and school administrators.

We are planning opportunities for Nikki to connect with school staff this spring to hear from you about your experiences and perspectives as part of this internal phase for this review. We will provide further updates as scheduling is finalized.

The second phase of this review will focus on gathering external perspectives from students, families, Yukon First Nations, school communities and partners in education, and is still being planned for the spring. We will announce details once plans are finalized.

We anticipate Ms. Yee's initial recommendations in June 2020, which will then be discussed with education partners through the Advisory Committee for Yukon Education and with Yukon First Nations to develop short, medium and long term actions in response to this review.

## Reporting and Assessment

- **Grades 4 and 7 Yukon Foundation Skills Assessments (YFSA)**

The YFSA documents have been sent back to schools about a month now. If you would like to see them, please check your office. Principals have access to the online student and school data sets in case you would like to print raw data reports.

- **Student assessment survey for 2019-20 school year**

This year, we will be surveying schools that started following the new assessment and reporting requirements in 2018-19. The survey opened Feb. 17 and will run to March 15. Read more about the survey and look at the [results from last year](#).

The assessment and reporting practices for 2019-20 are finalized and will not change. The intention of the survey is to provide schools with more feedback that will help improve the reports we provide to parents and students. It will also help inform the department on how to further support schools with assessment and reporting.

Your feedback is also important, if you have any questions or suggestions please send them to [paula.thompson@gov.yk.ca](mailto:paula.thompson@gov.yk.ca).

## Curriculum

- **Core Competency framework Collaboration day**

The Core Competency framework from the BC Ministry of Education has recently undergone some amendments after an initial period of use. These tweaks are a deepening of the previous framework and do not represent a foundational shift.

Yukon Education is hosting a day of collaboration to align and update existing Core Competency materials and resources used in Yukon Schools. Goals for the day include: co-creating resources; developing practical applications for classroom use; professional development focused on core competencies.

If you are interested in participating in this day please express your interest by February 20, 2020.

When: Wednesday, March 4, 2020, 8:45-3:00

Location: Alpine Bakery

Please RSVP by Thursday, February 20, 2020 to: [jesse.jewell@gov.yk.ca](mailto:jesse.jewell@gov.yk.ca)

- **Nav Canada's Explore Aviation Summer Camp**

Explore Aviation Summer Camp will offer 24 young women and 24 young men insider access to learn how aviation works in Canada, and who helps keep aircraft flying safely. This one week, all-expenses-paid camp uses hands-on learning to explore exciting career choices in aviation to allow participants to experience the power and potential of a science education.

The camp will take place in Cornwall, Ontario, this summer from Aug. 9-14 for young women, and from August 16-21 for young men. NAV CANADA\* has opened enrollment and is seeking applications from teens entering Grade 10 in September 2020.

Visit [NAV CANADA's website](#) for more information. The application deadline is March 8, 2020.

## Professional learning opportunities

- **Master of Education in Numeracy**

A Yukon-based opportunity for a Master of Education in Numeracy through Simon Fraser University (SFU) is being explored for 2023. More expressions of interest are needed in order to keep moving forward. For more information, contact [Paula.Thompson@gov.yk.ca](mailto:Paula.Thompson@gov.yk.ca). There is no commitment necessary at this time.

- **2020 Indigenous Mental Health, Addictions and Healing Summit**

This three-day, information packed Indigenous Summit promotes the journey to healing and wellness. Day one offers optional full-day workshops, followed by two days of plenary sessions and breakout workshops.

March 25 – 27, 2020 at the Westmark Whitehorse Hotel & Conference Centre, Whitehorse

For more information and to register go to [aboriginaltrainingandconsultingservices.com](http://aboriginaltrainingandconsultingservices.com).

- **Option for Educational Assistants for April 24<sup>th</sup> 2020 PD day**

Elijah Smith Elementary School will be offering a workshop for EAs focussing on 'Supporting literacy learners; in the classroom, in small groups, one-on-one'. Jane Wilson, Reading Recovery Teacher Leader, will be facilitating this workshop. This session will provide instruction on taking running records of children's reading, as well as providing support when working with children on reading and writing skills. It will be appropriate for EAs who work with children, reading at levels between Grade 1 and Grade 3. Space will be limited to 20 participants. If interested, please forward names to Jeff Cressman at [jeff.cressman@gov.yk.ca](mailto:jeff.cressman@gov.yk.ca) or 667-5992.

## Other opportunities for schools

- **Looking for a CBC Junior reporter for AWG**

Do you know an outgoing student who is curious and interested in media and writing? CBC North is looking for a junior reporter to help cover the Arctic Winter Games in March. The reporter would help cover the opening ceremonies (evening of March 15) and closing ceremonies (evening of March 21), plus events or stories during two days of the week. This is a first for CBC North so it is an exciting opportunity.

The Junior Reporter would work with a producer who would help write scripts and develop story ideas. There would be some training before the start of the Games.

The student would be in front of the camera on television and social media, record audio that would air on radio, and take photos and video for social media and online stories. This opportunity could include interviewing athletes at events, finding interesting stories from the athletes' perspective. This is a paid opportunity.

If you have any questions, contact Jane Sponagle at [jane.sponagle@cbc.ca](mailto:jane.sponagle@cbc.ca) or (867) 668-8432 (work)

- **The Victoria Gold Yukon Student Encouragement Society attendance initiative**

Up to \$150,000 is available for the attendance initiatives in the 2020-2021 school year. This initiative is intended to get schools and other community allies to start thinking about innovative ways to improve attendance and engagement at school. Deadline for applications is Thursday, March 12th, 2020.

For questions, contact Simon Blakesley at [simon.blakesley@gov.yk.ca](mailto:simon.blakesley@gov.yk.ca).

More info and applications are available at [www.everystudenteveryday.ca](http://www.everystudenteveryday.ca)

## Resources for educators

- **Science resources on careers of the future**

To help spark classroom discussions about careers of the future, Amplify Science has developed a set of Scientist Profile Cards that describe exciting science and engineering and include classroom discussion prompts. [Free Amplify Science classroom resources](#)

- **BC Early Learning Framework and Play Today Handbook (for primary teachers)**

The BC Ministry of Education has officially taken their **Early Learning Framework** and **Play Today Handbook** out of draft. The framework and handbook are resources for primary teachers to support and enhance classroom teaching practices. The resources are aligned with the redesigned curriculum and provide an overview of early learning environments and teaching. A copy of each will be sent to Yukon Kindergarten classrooms, but they are relevant for all primary grades.

View and download the [BC Early Learning framework](#) and the [Play Today Handbook](#).

## Action items for consideration

- look at the Student assessment survey [results from last year](#).
- Contact [jesse.jewell@gov.yk.ca](mailto:jesse.jewell@gov.yk.ca) about the Core Competency framework Collaboration day
- Visit [NAV CANADA's website](#) for information about their Explore Aviation summer camp
- Register for the [2020 Indigenous Mental Health, Addictions and Healing Summit](#)
- Contact [Paula.Thompson@gov.yk.ca](mailto:Paula.Thompson@gov.yk.ca) if you are interested in a Master of Education in Numeracy
- Contact [jeff.cressman@gov.yk.ca](mailto:jeff.cressman@gov.yk.ca) or 667-5992 for the workshop on "Supporting literacy learners"
- Contact [jane.sponagle@cbc.ca](mailto:jane.sponagle@cbc.ca) or (867) 668-8432 (work) for the Junior Reporter opportunity
- Contact [simon.blakesley@gov.yk.ca](mailto:simon.blakesley@gov.yk.ca) for the Victoria Gold Yukon Student Encouragement Society attendance initiative