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Early Learning

The Government of Yukon recognizes that high quality early learning opportunities support improved long-term outcomes for children in all areas of their education and development. An Independent Expert Panel was created to complete a comprehensive review on health and social services in Yukon. The resulting report, [Putting People First](#), includes 76 recommendations on health and social services in the territory.

The three immediate priorities as part of the response to these recommendations are:

- increasing access to high quality, affordable childcare options for Yukon families and children starting on April 1, 2021;
- offering full-time early kindergarten programs in all rural Yukon schools starting in the 2021–22 school year; and,
- transferring the Child Care Services Unit from Health to the Department of Education as of April 1, 2021 in order to better support these initiatives and coordinate early learning services.

We will be providing more information and updates as we move forward on these exciting early learning initiatives that will support learning and improve outcomes for Yukon children, families and our long term community health and education. [Learn more and read the complete news release.](#)

Reporting and Assessments

Yukon Foundation Skills Assessment administration - Monday, February 15

Assessment administration Feb. 15 - March 12, 2021.

Resources for Educators

10 Days of Mental Health for Educators from ASCD

This [10-day series](#) will provides resources, both free and for purchase, that can help make space for yourself this year and create school environments where educators' and students' emotional needs are met.

TED-Ed Video-Based Lessons

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TED-Ed is working with educators and TED speakers throughout the world to create and share high-quality, interactive, video-based lessons on a daily basis, for free. [Sign-up](#) to have a handful of engaging lesson plans organized by age group that span all subjects delivered to your inbox every day.

Professional Learning Opportunities

Natural Curiosity - Spring Professional Learning Series

The Natural Curiosity online coaching program has been adapted to a [new 4-part series](#). This virtual learning series will bring educators deeper into their own inquiry and ecology of natural curiosity. Educators will explore the four-branch pedagogical framework of environmental inquiry and the associated Indigenous lenses that present tangible entry points towards a reciprocal relationship with the Land participating as co-teacher. March - June, for 2 hours in the evening. [Register - Natural Curiosity](#).

Building Capacity in Planning for Literacy and Numeracy Instruction Webinar

[Registration](#) is now open for this third webinar in the Teaching Tenaciously series, designed to support teachers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn how numeracy and literacy are embedded in the curricular competencies in B.C.'s curriculum and discuss considerations and strategies for planning competency-building literacy and numeracy learning opportunities.

[Building Capacity in Planning for Literacy and Numeracy Instruction Webinar](#) - Feb. 11 at 3:30 pm PST

Registration Closes Soon for the National Apprenticeship Conference

Online registration closes on February 19 for CAF-FCA's [National Apprenticeship Conference](#).

This national event showcases innovative programs, policies and research underway across Canada.

The event will take place on a virtual platform February 22-23. Check out the [full program](#)

Virtual Institutes

There is still time to register for one of our virtual Corwin Institutes. Feel free to [browse the calendar](#) and find the right institute that aligns with the professional learning goals you have.

You can use the code VIRTUAL at registration for \$50 off your registration fee. [Register now](#)

Other Opportunities for Schools

Every Student, Every Day applications now being accepted for 2021-22

The [Every Student, Every Day Attendance Initiative](#) is inviting proposals for 2021-2022 funding to support projects and ideas that will help improve attendance at Yukon schools. For the 2021-22 school year, we will distribute \$150,000 amongst successful applicants. More than one proposal per school or community may be submitted and the successful applicants will be announced in April 2021. See attached application package for more details.

Deadline for proposals is March 10, 2021 at 4:30p.m.

Recite with us this winter – Poetry in Voice

Congrats to the 2021 Junior Recitation Champions of [Poetry In Voice](#)! Students from grades 6, 7, and 8 wowed our judges for the third year in a row with amazing poetry recitations.

Meet the [2021 Junior Champions and watch them recite](#). This year, for the senior contest, a total of [42 Semifinalists](#) will be named, and each will win \$250, along with the chance to win our new [People's Choice award](#), and the possibility of being named one of our 9 National Finalists. You can hold your [classroom and](#)

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[school contests online](#) this year. Read more about the [Team Regionals, prizes, and how to join](#). You can submit your champions' videos until March 4, 2021.

Poem submissions for Voices/Voix

Encourage your students in grades 9-12 to discover their own poetic voices by writing for [VOICES/VOIX](#), a bilingual student poetry journal. Eligible poems can be inspired by:

- one of our [writing prompts](#) (we now have nearly 50 in English!)
- a Poet In-Class visit (either in person or a virtual visit)
- a poem in our [senior anthology](#).

The submission deadline is Friday, April 30. [Consult the website](#) to learn more.

Bring the excitement of poetry directly into your class

World class poets can come, at no cost, directly to your classroom to bring poetry to life for your students from the [Poets In Class](#) program. They are scheduling visits from Jan. 4 to June 1. Scroll through the [list of poets](#) and plan out your visit. Kick things by screening the [short intro video](#) for your students.

Action Items for Consideration

- Early Learning Initiatives - [Learn more and read the complete news release](#)
- [TED ed video based sessions](#)
- [Register - Natural Curiosity](#)
- [Building Capacity in Planning for Literacy and Numeracy Instruction Webinar](#) - Feb. 11 at 3:30 pm PST
- Online registration closes on February 19 for CAF-FCA's [National Apprenticeship Conference](#)
- Corwin Virtual Institutes - [Register now](#)
- [Every Student, Every Day Attendance Initiative](#) - Deadline for proposals is March 10, 2021 at 4:30p.m
- [Poetry In Voice](#), senior contest - submit your champions' videos until March 4, 2021
- Encourage your students grades 9-12 to write for [VOICES/VOIX](#)
- Scroll through our [list of poets](#) and plan out a visit from a poet in your class

Some Reminders from Previous Updates

- Sample letters to help explain your progress reports for K-7 are in the [Primary](#) and [Intermediate](#) TEAMS.
- January 15 PD Day recordings are available on-demand [here](#).
- Rural administrators and rural Kindergarten educators please provide comments and any additional questions about the planned program enhancements to our team via email to curriculum@gov.yk.ca by February 15, 2021.
- Missed Peter Liljedah's session on Creating Thinking Classrooms and building numeracy competencies? The recording has been posted in TEAMS. Please join upcoming after school sessions with Peter along with another full day on April 30. Reserve your spot with Tanya.Lewis@gov.yk.ca. The session dates for Secondary (8-12) are Feb. 10, Mar. 3, & Apr. 14. The session dates for Primary/Intermediate (K-7) are Feb. 11, Mar. 4, & Apr. 15. Time: 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM.
- In Future Voices of Equity and Justice, we continue to hear from courageous student leaders in grades 3-6 speaking about equity and justice for First Nations, Metis and Inuit children on Feb. 12, 19, & 26. More info.
- In the [@ICTC_CTIC](#) 4-course program, students learn about cyber. Enroll your class for free today.

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- Gr. 12 students are invited to participate in a [field test](#) of grade 12 literacy assessments, Feb. 22 – Mar. 4.
- Grades 3 – 8 educators, [register here](#), to collaboratively score the YFSAs, Mar. 29 – 31.
- YFSA Exemption and Adaptation forms can be filled out and emailed to Nikki.Krocker@gov.yk.ca
- Contact bsherry@takingitglobal.org for Virtual Field Trips or to engage with an Indigenous Role Model. Website: <https://connectednorth.org/en/>. Online Session Menu: [English](#) or [French](#). (Session Statistics)
- Register for the Apple Virtual Teaching and Learning with iPad Series [English French](#). For example, [Thinking Routines with Numbers](#) on Feb. 18, 5 PM – 6 PM.
- Fountas & Pinnell Implementation Support [Feb 10, 2 PM](#), [Feb. 10, 4 PM](#), [Mar. 10, 2 PM](#), or [Mar. 10, 4 PM](#)
- Stillness Workshop Sessions: Feb. 19 and March 5. [More info and registration](#).
- Reading and Writing Strategies for the Online and In-Person Classroom webinar series to help you pinpoint goals for your readers and writers and support them over time. March 2, 9, and 16. [Register](#).
- View the [updated Math First People \(Elementary and Secondary\)](#).
- Review the Laser Cutter Resources Page which includes the [Laser Cutter Schedule](#) and FAQs.
- Check out resources built for you: [Educator Update Archive](#), [Educators' Place](#), Resource Services Digital Resources, and [YESNet Portal](#).

Quick Education Links for 2020-21 School Year

- [Education updates and supports on COVID-19](#)
- [Updated 2020-21 school calendar important dates](#)
- [Find your school operational plan](#)
- [School bus information and schedules](#)
- [Health and Safety guidelines for K-12 school setting \(updated November 2020\)](#)

Quick Links to Resources on COVID-19 Related Topics

- [COVID-19 Directive 6](#)
- [Non-medical masks in the workplace](#)
- [How to wear a non-medical mask poster](#)
- [Mental health and wellness supports](#)
- [COVID-19 Self-Assessment](#)
- [Talking and Sharing with Kids and Families on COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 and teenagers: Supporting Youth Mental Wellness](#)
- [COVID-19 counselling and crisis support](#)
- [Practice Safe 6](#)
- [Wellness Together Canada](#)
- [Yukon information on COVID-19](#)
- [Canada response and Health Canada information](#)
- [Council of Yukon First Nations](#)