

## Educator Update this week

- [New First Nation School Board](#)
- [Prime Minister's Award nominations](#)
- [Mental health supports](#)
- [Assessment and reporting](#)
- [Professional learning opportunities](#)
- [Resources for educators and students](#)
- [Other information](#)
- [Action items for consideration](#)
- [Quick links to resources related to our COVID-19 response](#)



## New First Nation School Board

Last week marked a historic moment in the Yukon, as we received the [results the First Nation School Board referendum](#). Seven school communities voted in favour of being operated under the new Yukon First Nation School Board, and are on track to transfer for the 2022-23 school year:

- Chief Zzeh Gittlitt School in Old Crow,
- Ross River School in Ross River,
- St. Elias Community School in Haines Junction,
- Johnson Elementary School and Watson Lake Secondary School in Watson Lake,
- Nelnah Bessie John School in Beaver Creek,
- Takhini Elementary School in Whitehorse, and
- Grey Mountain Primary School in Whitehorse.

Establishing the Yukon First Nation School Board is a major step in advancing reconciliation – a path that started 49 years ago with the historic document, championed by Yukon First Nations Chiefs: [Together Today for our Children Tomorrow](#). The new school board is also an example of effective collaboration among Yukon First Nations and the Government of Yukon in supporting First Nations students, and in ensuring all Yukon students benefit from learning about Yukon First Nations ways of knowing, doing and being.

Staff at the schools listed above remain employees of the Government of Yukon, as outlined in legislation and bound by applicable collective agreements. Principals of these schools will report to the board's executive director rather than a superintendent within the Schools and Student Services Branch. The schools will continue to deliver the British Columbia curriculum and be subject to the Yukon's Education Act.

There is a lot of work and planning in the days and months ahead to make the transition, and many of you will have questions about what this means for those schools. All impacted staff are invited to a Q&A session to

talk through some of these questions and information about next steps. Please share the following information with any impacted or interested school staff:

### **Q&A session on the Yukon First Nation School Board referendum**

- Monday, February 7, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.
- Zoom (<https://yukonedu.zoom.us/j/81166024525?pwd=SE90TXAvSGZBVTNYQlo1dE9KdHZodz09>)

Additionally, a Q&A for staff that was previously developed and shared with schools where referenda were occurring is included alongside this newsletter – please feel free to share this reference document.

## **Prime Minister's Award nominations**

Now more than ever is the time to nominate an outstanding educator who is inspiring the next generation to be bold innovators. Help them get the recognition they deserve. **The nomination period closes on February 8:**

- [Click here to nominate a teacher](#)
- [Click here to nominate an early childhood educator](#)

Need inspiration? Check out the 2021 Prime Minister's Award recipients for [Teaching Excellence](#), [Teaching Excellence in STEM](#), and [Excellence in Early Childhood Education](#)!

## **Mental health supports**

### **Mental health resources for classrooms**

The RCMP National Youth Services has lesson plans about mental health available for a variety of grade levels. The resource “zen garden” on [mindyourmind.ca](http://mindyourmind.ca) (mym) is a resource for young people ages 13 to 17, created from a partnership between mym, Strong Minds Strong Kids, Psychology Canada and a group of Canadian high school students. It was designed to support youth in learning about and managing their stress. Learn more at: <https://mindyourmind.ca/tools/zen-garden>

### **Digital Threat Assessment and Safer Schools Together PD for Teachers and Counselors**

The International Centre for Digital Threat Assessment and Safer Schools Together have a variety of courses that school administrators and counsellors can use to learn about school safety and threat assessment. The goal with their courses is to provide ways that people can intervene early at signs of worrisome behaviours and prevent tragedies. Their website currently has a variety of “micro modules” available to teach about threat assessment on social media platforms like TikTok, Snapchat, and Instagram. There are costs to participate in these programs. Learn more at: <https://icdta.org/>

## **Assessment and reporting**

Please reach out to the [Curriculum and Assessment](#) team for support on assessment and reporting, and to review the [Communicating Student Learning Applebook](#) and [Questions and Answer Sheet](#) for more details.

## Professional learning opportunities

### Carol Ann Tomlinson: workshop on what it means to “teach up”

"Teaching up" proposes planning first for students who are advanced, then scaffolding the learning of other students to enable them to access the same kind of high-quality learning experiences, which are often reserved for a relatively small group of learners. This session will explore the rationale for and principles and practices of teaching up. Participants will examine and analyze examples of teaching up and have opportunities to reflect on and debate the potential benefits and drawbacks of "teaching up." [Register now](#) for the session on Monday, February 28, and learn more at: [Raising Ceilings: What Does It Mean to “Teach Up”?](#)

### Making Media Across the Curriculum: course for educators

Making Media Across the Curriculum is a self-directed, online course for in-service and pre-service teachers and other educators. The course will provide training and resources to incorporate digital media production such as games, film and animation in their classrooms from kindergarten to Grade 12, across the curriculum. Upon completion of the course, participants will be certified by MediaSmarts as Media Maker Experts. [Sign up here](#) for the next session starting on February 7, 2022. A French version of this course will take place in summer 2022. For more information contact [info@mediasmarts.ca](mailto:info@mediasmarts.ca).

## Resources for educators and students

### ShareEdBC

ShareEdBC is an online, invitation-only platform that provides educators and educational partners across B.C. and the Yukon with access to curated content aligned with the new curriculum. ShareEdBC aims to help users across the province and territory share and find a collection of resources designed to support the goals of the curriculum. ShareEdBC is a place for B.C. and Yukon educators to engage, inspire and spark the imaginations of our learners. It is located at [www.shareedbc.ca](http://www.shareedbc.ca).

Once invited, Yukon educators will be able to log in using their **@yesnet email address**, create a profile and start using ShareEdBC to view and share resources, as well as make connections with others.

### ShareEdBC: Important information for Yukon Teachers

To request an account, email [ShareEdBC@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ShareEdBC@gov.bc.ca) from your [@yesnet.yk.ca](mailto:@yesnet.yk.ca) email address. The email invitation will originate from ShareEdBC to your **@yesnet email address**. To activate the invite, **the "Activate ShareEdBC" button must be clicked** that is inside the email. The invite will expire after 21 days. After joining, users can log in from [www.shareedbc.ca](http://www.shareedbc.ca) or from [portal.yesnet.yk.ca](http://portal.yesnet.yk.ca). Your [@yesnet](mailto:@yesnet) email address is your login. To learn more about ShareEdBC, visit the [YESNet information webpage](#).

### Mentorship 11: new locally developed course

The Locally Developed Course Working Group has approved its latest course: “[Mentorship 11](#)” at [Porter Creek Secondary School \(PCSS\)](#). This course seeks to develop the skills and knowledge required to be a tutor and role model in the school community. The course includes 90 hours in a practicum context and 30 hours of direct instruction applying learning theory, including Yukon First Nations pedagogy. For permission to offer this course outside of PCSS, please fill out the [permission form](#) and contact [David Schroeder](#).

### **Canadian Children's Book Week**

Canada Children's Book Week 2022 is a virtual event running from May 1 to 7. The application deadline to host an author and/or illustrator is February 3. Book Week provides opportunity to connect with authors across the country and there are presentation kits available if your community does not have reliable internet.

This year, [Celia Krampien](#), [Cory Silverberg](#), [Danica Lorier](#), [Karen Spafford-Fitz](#), [Lee Edward Födi](#), [Mahtab Narsimhan](#) and [Rowena Rae](#) will be available in the Yukon for virtual visits. Click on each of their names to visit their Book Week profile pages, including their presentation/workshop descriptions. [Click here to apply](#).

### **Youth quilt making challenge**

Quilt Canada is hosting a quilt making challenge for children in three age categories: 5 to 9 years old, 10 to 14 years old, and 15 to 19 years old. [Click here](#) for details.

### **Opportunity for youth ages 14 to 18: [Ingenious+](#)**

Yukon University's Innovation & Entrepreneurship (I&E) is partnering with the Rideau Hall Foundation for a new competition called Ingenious+. This initiative has a strong regional and community focus for innovative youth ages 14 to 18. It is open to Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth. The goals are to give youth the opportunity to innovate for good and to share their strategies to address problems at home, across Canada and around the world.

- 3 to 5 Yukon innovators will be chosen to each receive a \$1,000 cash award, plus mentorship.
- 3 national winners will be selected to receive: 1<sup>st</sup> prize \$10,000; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize \$7,500; 3<sup>rd</sup> prize \$5,000 and customized mentorship from leading Canadian innovators.

**The deadline to apply for Ingenious+ is February 15, 2022: <https://ingeniousplus.ca/apply-now/>.**

### **Canadian spelling bee competition for students**

Registration is now open for the annual Spelling Bee of Canada competitions. See the [website](#) for details.

### **LSF climate change education survey**

[Yukon's Youth Panel on Climate Change](#) has called us to action! Answer the call to all educators, parents, students and members of the general public: [Learning for a Sustainable Future](#) (LSF) needs to hear your voice on the importance of climate change education in Canada!

This survey is an opportunity to provide Yukon's voice in the national movement for positive climate action through education. It also provides a good understanding of where you sit in your knowledge, values and efforts towards this all-encompassing issue. The survey takes 15 to 20 minutes to complete and answers will remain confidential and anonymous.

The results will be used to develop recommendations to governments, school districts and educators to help Canadian youth address climate change. The 2021-2022 survey is being conducted with support from Environment and Climate Change Canada and the [Canadian Teachers' Federation](#). [Leger](#), the largest Canadian owned market research company, is providing data collection and analysis. **Deadline: February 11, 2022.**

Learn more and access the survey here: <https://lsf-1st.ca/research-policy/survey/>.

### Collaborate with other Yukon educators and curriculum consultants

[Primary](#), [Intermediate](#), and [Secondary](#) educator TEAMS were created last year. If any teacher, administrator or educational assistant is not a part of a team, please consider joining. These teams are a great place for accessing information and professional development opportunities, as well as sharing ideas with one another.

## Other information

### Victoria Gold Yukon Student Encouragement Society, in partnership with Yukon Education

The Every Student, Every Day Attendance Initiative is inviting proposals for 2022-23 funding to support projects and ideas that will help improve attendance at Yukon schools. For the 2022-23 school year, we will distribute \$300,000 amongst successful applicants. More than one proposal per school or community may be submitted; please take note of instructions for submitting multiple proposals in the application package. The successful applicants will be announced in April 2022. See [the website](#) for more details. **The deadline for proposals is March 4 at 4:30 p.m.** Questions can be sent to [Jill.Delaney@yukon.ca](mailto:Jill.Delaney@yukon.ca).

### Off-site field trip risk management reminder

As we are enjoying the warmer winter weather, please keep in mind that tobogganing, sliding, etc. are considered **complex off-site trips**. This is due to the hazards involved with these activities. As with all complex trips, a risk analysis is part of the trip planning process, as is oversight by the Off-Site Review Committee. In most cases, hazards are able to be mitigated to a level where a trip can proceed. From more information, please contact the Off-Site Review Committee Chair: [Jesse.Jewell@yukon.ca](mailto:Jesse.Jewell@yukon.ca).

## Action items for consideration

- Check out the [Professional learning opportunities](#) featured in this update.
- Check out the featured [resources](#) this week

## Quick links to resources related to our COVID-19 response

- [K-12 School Guidelines for 2021-22: COVID-19](#)
- [Yukon Education Recovery Document: Guidelines for K-12 Schools](#)
- [Can your child go to school or return to regular activities?](#)
- [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 COVID-19 information](#)
- [COVID-19 self-assessment](#)
- [Practice the Safe 6 plus 1](#)
- [Non-medical masks in the workplace](#)
- [Canada's response and Health Canada information](#)
- [Council of Yukon First Nations COVID-19 info hub](#)