

January 24, 2024

Educator Update

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Celebrations

January 19th Professional Development Day

Several engaging and thought-provoking conversations took place during the January 19 Professional Development day. We've received great feedback on various sessions, notably the Structured Literacy session and Autism Part 2: Supporting Students with ASD. Other well-attended sessions covered strategies for supporting student mental health and wellness, resources for the sexual health curriculum, and insights into the *Indian Act*, among others. Our thanks to the session leaders and all participants for their contributions.

2024-2025 School Calendar and Welcome Week Information

2024-25 key dates for **Whitehorse schools operated by the Department of Education** have been posted on Yukon.ca

- Tuesday, August 27, 2024: First day of school for students
- Monday, December 23, 2024, to Friday, January 3, 2025: Winter break
- Monday, March 10, 2025, to Friday, March 21, 2025: Spring break
- Friday, June 13, 2025: Last day of school for students

Key dates for schools operated by the First Nation School Board or Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon may vary. Once all Yukon school calendars are finalized and approved, they will be released publicly.

Rural schools

Rural schools follow different school calendars than schools in Whitehorse. Each rural community in the Yukon has a unique set of needs that must be carefully considered when establishing school calendar dates. The first and last days of the school year may differ from school-to-school. Some schools take a 1-week rather than a 2-week spring break. Important dates for each school are identified in the school calendar synopsis.

UPDATE: Welcome Week and New Educator Orientation

Attendance at Welcome Week and New Educator Orientation is mandatory for staff working in schools operated by the Department of Education.

For staff working schools operated by the FNSB or CSFY, please contact your school board regarding the schedule of events for August 20-23, 2024.

Welcome Week and New Educator Orientation:

- Welcome Week will be August 20-23 inclusive.
 - New educators will attend orientation sessions on August 20 and 21.
 - All Yukon Education administrators will attend an administrator meeting on August 21.
 - All Yukon Education operated schools will have all staff attend 2 days of professional development and training on August 22 and 23.
- Whitehorse Schools operated by Yukon Education will observe a school council day on Monday August 26.
- Students will start classes on Tuesday August 27.

Resources

Resource to Support Holocaust Education

[The Foundation for Genocide Education](#) has collaborated with the Quebec Ministry of Education on a groundbreaking new online guide, [Studying Genocide](#). This guide is available for use by all teachers across Canada. We recommend the use of this guide as a primary resource, in particular the section on the [Holocaust](#).

They also offer live online [presentations](#) to high schools, featuring survivors of genocide or their descendants sharing their testimonial stories. They are also creating an archive of filmed presentations for teachers that can be downloaded for use in conjunction with studies on the Holocaust and other genocides.

Climate Change Education Support

Yukon University's Outreach Climatologist is available to support educators in delivering climate change education. The Outreach Climatologist works with educators on an individual basis to determine the format and frequency of support, which may include giving workshops, creating lesson plans, sharing resources, and organizing fieldtrips. Visit the website for more information:

<https://www.yukonu.ca/research/projects/climatologist>.

Contact Person: Dr. Ellorie McKnight (ellorie.mcknight@yukonu.ca), Outreach Climatologist, Yukon University

Connected North

Connected North is excited to welcome teachers back for the second half of the school year, with upcoming reports set to showcase the vibrant activities of Yukon Schools. We encourage all interested teachers to continue submitting requests, regardless of current credit balances. Requests short on credits are wish-listed, and we're pooling credits system-wide, supported by Yukon Government funding and additional grants from our charitable foundation. With ample credits still available across Yukon, we're proud to say no requests have been declined this year! Don't miss out on the many free Student and PD Events listed on the Connected North booking site. Teachers can join the Connected North network directly at <https://sessions.connectednorth.org> or contact their school lead: Jennifer Manitowabi (jenniferm@takingitglobal.org) for FNSB Schools and Brenda Sherry (bsherry@takingitglobal.org) for Yukon Education Schools..

Host an Author for Canadian Children's Book Week

We are excited to announce that we will have an **in-person tour**, as well as two virtual offerings, for this year's Canadian Children's Book Week, which takes place from April 28 to May 4.

Lorna Schultz Nicholson is an award-winning author who will be touring in the Yukon. Leona Prince and Sarah Raughley will also be offering virtual tours. You can read more about these authors here <https://bookcentre.ca/book-week/who-is-touring>. To sign up for hosting one of the authors, please fill out this form <https://bookcentre.ca/apply-to-host>.

The deadline to apply is Friday, February 2. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at tracey.hutton@yukon.ca or 867-667-3521

Professional Development Opportunities

Join British Columbia's assessment development teams

Are you looking for a unique opportunity to expand your learning? We are looking for some new people to join various development teams with the British Columbia Ministry of Education. Positions are available on the following teams:

- Literacy Graduation Assessments
- Foundational Skills Assessment Numeracy
- French Immersion Literacy assessments
- Français Langue Première

If you are interested, please fill out the application and email to Tanya.Lewis@yukon.ca by February 9, 2024. If you have questions or require more information, please reach out to Nikki.Krocker@yukon.ca for information on foundational skills assessments and Emily.Sheppard@yukon.ca or Shannon.Donald@yukon.ca for information on graduation assessments (in both English, immersion, or francophone).

Non-Violent Crisis Intervention training

A newly scheduled Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training session, taking place on March 4 and 5, is required training for teachers and educational assistants involved in or supporting students with safety and behavior plans. It also serves as a practical refresher for addressing complex and challenging behaviors in classroom and school environments. We encourage student teams to attend together, if possible.

Please discuss with your Principal and have them contact Alison.George@yukon.ca or Brenda.Jenner@yukon.ca to register.

Quick Links

- [School health and safety during COVID-19](#)
- [Mental health and wellness support](#)
- [Yukon Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education Recovery Plan](#)
- [Wellness Together Canada free resources and support](#)
- [Yukon information on COVID-19](#)
- [Practice the Safe 6](#)
- [Canada response and Health Canada information](#)
- [Council of Yukon First Nations COVID-19 info hub](#)
- [Yukon vaccination clinics and information about the vaccine](#)
- [First Nation School Board](#)