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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION UNDERWAY CANDIDATE NOMINATION PERIOD IS OPEN UNTIL THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2026 AT 12:00 PM (NOON)

The 2026 school council general elections for the 17 Yukon schools governed under the Department of Education starts today. In total there are 86 elected positions to fill.

Candidate nomination packages are available at applicable schools (i.e., those with a school council) from the Returning Officer appointed for that school, at Elections Yukon's office in Whitehorse, and online at ElectionsYukon.ca.

Completed nominations are accepted by Returning Officers until the submission deadline of **April 30 at 12:00 PM** (noon). A nomination package submitted after this deadline cannot be accepted.

Learn more about the key dates and information for this election, how voting will work and who is eligible to vote and run as a candidate, or get more background information on school council elections by visiting our website and appendix. Candidates are encouraged to submit their nomination forms early.

QUOTE

"Every two years, Elections Yukon oversees school council elections – it is a key mandate in support of school governance and the important community voice in the education of youth in the Yukon. Typically, there is a shortfall in the number of candidates to the available positions – I encourage eligible Yukoners, from 18 years old on, to consider being a candidate for a member of a school council and to exercise their democratic right to vote in this election. In-person voting is available on Saturday May 8th, and Monday May 11th at schools having a contested election. Check out our website for more information."

- H. Maxwell Harvey
Chief Electoral Officer

MEDIA CONTACT

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INFORMATION UPDATES

For information about school councils, visit Yukon.ca/school-councils.
Learn more and keep updated on the latest election news by visiting ElectionsYukon.ca.

Or connect with us through these social media platforms:



KEY INFORMATION FOR THE 2026 SCHOOL COUNCIL GENERAL ELECTIONS

KEY DATES

- **Monday, April 16:** Candidate nominations open
Completed nomination forms can be submitted to the returning officer appointed for the school.
- **Thursday, April 30 at 12 PM (noon):** Candidate nominations close
All nomination papers must be received by the returning officer appointed for the school.
Where there are more candidates than elected positions, a poll will be arranged. If not, the nominated candidates will be declared elected.
- **Saturday, May 9 from 11 AM to 4 PM:** Early voting
In-person voting is available at schools holding a vote.
- **Monday, May 11 from 3 PM to 8 PM:** Polling day
In-person voting is available at schools holding a vote.
When polls close the candidates with the most votes will be declared elected.

ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE OR BE A CANDIDATE IN A SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION

Yukoners can be nominated or vote in a school council election if they are a Canadian citizen, at least 18 years of age, and either:

- are the parent/guardian of a student who attends the school

AND/OR

- have been a resident in the school's attendance area for at least three (3) months.

School council elections at the three Whitehorse Catholic schools require residents to also be registered parishioners at Sacred Heart Cathedral parish or Our Lady of Victory parish. Unregistered Catholics can contact the Catholic Diocese of Whitehorse to discuss other options.

BECOMING A CANDIDATE IN A SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION

Candidates must submit a completed nomination form to the returning officer appointed for the school election. Returning officers will accept nomination forms between **Thursday, April 16 and Thursday, April 30 at noon.**

Returning officers will also be available at schools with councils between 10 AM and 12 PM (noon) on April 30 to accept any last-minute nominations. Prospective candidates should visit ElectionsYukon.ca to learn more and download nomination forms.

VOTING IN A SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION

Where there are more candidates than elected positions, a vote will be held. Schools holding an election will have in-person voting on:

- Saturday, May 9 from 11 AM to 4 PM
- Monday, May 11 from 3 PM to 8 PM

YUKON SCHOOLS WITH SCHOOL COUNCILS

Seventeen (17) Yukon schools have a council; each with between three and seven elected positions. Members are elected every two years, the last being in the spring of 2024. Members receive honoraria for attending regular meetings.

Yukon schools with a council include:

	Yukon Education Schools	# Elected Members
Community schools	Del Van Gorder School (Faro)	5
	J.V. Clark School (Mayo)	3
	Khàtinaxh Community School (Teslin)	3
	Robert Service School (Dawson)	6
	Tantalus School (Carmacks)	3
Catholic schools	Christ the King Elementary	5
	Holy Family Elementary	5
	St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Secondary	5
Whitehorse-area schools	École Selkirk Elementary School	5
	École Whitehorse Elementary	7
	Elijah Smith Elementary	3
	F.H. Collins Secondary	7
	Golden Horn Elementary	5
	Hidden Valley Elementary	5
	Jack Hulland Elementary	7
	Porter Creek Secondary	7
	Dámbü Tán Kets'ádañ Kù (Cliff Trail Elementary)	5

Schools under the authority of a school board have a separate election process which is held every three years. The next school board trustee election will be in the fall of 2028.

ROLE OF SCHOOL COUNCILS

The duties and powers of school councils are described in the *Education Act*, specifically:

- Reviewing and approving school growth plans
- Establishing school-based policies on attendance, discipline, and dispute resolution
- Participating in the hiring of school principals
- Making recommendations on how school budgets are spent
- Advising on other matters, such as:
 - Locally developed courses of study
 - School closures
 - Student transportation
 - Length of the school year
 - Staffing needs
 - School renovations and capital expenditures and
 - Recommending evaluation, discipline, demotion, or dismissal of teachers or the principal.

APPOINTED RETURNING OFFICERS FOR EACH SCHOOL

School Name	Returning Officer	Contact Email
Del Van Gorder School (Faro)	Valerie Fromme	dvg.election@gmail.com
J.V. Clark School (Mayo)	Geri Lee Buyck	jvc.election@gmail.com
Khàtinas.àxh Community School (Teslin)	Brenda Oziewicz	khatinas.axh.election@gmail.com
Robert Service School (Dawson)	Tim Rennie	robertservice.election@gmail.com
Tantalus School (Carmacks)	<i>To be determined</i>	tantaluscs.election@gmail.com
Christ the King Elementary	Giuseppe Fico	ckes.election@gmail.com
Holy Family Elementary	Myriam Lafrance	hfes.election@gmail.com
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Secondary	Dawn Power	stfrancis.election@gmail.com
École Selkirk Elementary	Dimas Mateo-Sotil	Selkirkes.election@gmail.com
École Whitehorse Elementary	Aparna Verma	ewes.election@gmail.com
Elijah Smith Elementary	Doris Bouvier	elijahsmith.election@gmail.com
F.H. Collins Secondary	Lake Pearson	fhc.election@gmail.com
Golden Horn Elementary	Patricia Kulachkosky	goldenhorn.election@gmail.com
Hidden Valley Elementary	Rachel Veinott-McKeough	hves.election@gmail.com
Jack Hulland Elementary	Jessica Rushant	jhes.election@gmail.com
Porter Creek Secondary	Cathrina Carlyle	pcss.election@gmail.com
Dámbü Tàn Kets'ádañ Kù (Cliff Trail Elementary)	Chris Bedford	clifftrail.election@gmail.com