



MEDIA ADVISORY

SCHOOL COUNCIL GENERAL ELECTION UNDERWAY CANDIDATE NOMINATION PERIOD OPENS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th, 2020

School councils provide a way for Yukon residents to get involved in the education of children. They are a major voice to promote high quality education, raise student achievement, and improve school performance.

The general election of members of a school council for the 26 school attendance areas in Yukon begins on Monday, September 14th with the Notice of Nominations.

There are three key dates for electors and candidates:

- **Monday, September 14: Notice of Nominations**

Nomination papers of candidates can be submitted to the returning officer of their school attendance area. Nomination forms are available online, from the returning officer, or from the school. The full list of returning officers will be available on the Elections Yukon website.

- **Thursday September 24 at noon: Close of Nominations.**

To be a candidate, nomination papers of candidates must be submitted by 12:00 noon. If the number of candidates for the members of a school council do not exceed the number to be elected, the returning officer declares the persons nominated to be elected by acclamation. If a polling day is required, electors may apply for mail-in ballots once nominations are closed.

- **Monday, October 5: Polling Day** (in attendance areas where voting is required).

The polling place will be the school. Voting hours are between 3:00 PM and 8:00 PM. Mail-in ballots must be received by the returning officer before the close of polls.

COVID-19 public health measures in accordance with the Department of Health and Department of Education guidelines will be in place during the election period.

Quote: Maxwell Harvey, Chief Electoral Officer: "School councils are key partners to good school governance. The previous general election in May 2018 elected 86 of the 127 council positions. Many school councils had unfilled positions. To further support candidate and elector participation, Elections Yukon continues to work closely with the Department of Education and other education stakeholders for election process renewal and expanded outreach."

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Elections Yukon is an independent non-partisan office of the Legislative Assembly responsible for the administration of territorial, school council and school board elections.



SCHOOL COUNCIL GENERAL ELECTION BACKGROUNDER

School Council General Election 2020

The general election scheduled for May 2020 was postponed due to COVID-19 precautions. After consultation with education stakeholders and the Department of Health, Elections Yukon recommended a revised date which was approved by the Minister of Education in early July. The COVID-19 response included public health measures, additional staff and signage, expanded use of mail-in ballots, and venue management.

School Council Mandate

School Councils in the Yukon are consultative institutions enshrined in the law under the authority of the *Education Act*, and provide a way for Yukon residents to get involved in the education of children. They review school plans and policies and provide advice to school management on everything from staffing needs to school programming to discipline policies.

School Council Members

Members are elected to represent the territory's 26 attendance areas, 3 of which also receive guidance from the Catholic Episcopal Corporation with respect to the residency of electors and candidates as per O.I.C. 1991 / 231 – Separate School Regulation.

Term of Office

General elections are held every two years in May. While the elections are held in May, the term of the council runs from the day before school start (normally mid-August) until the day before school start (normally mid-August) two years later.

Each School Council has between three to seven members. Members are elected to two-year terms and receive honoraria for attending regular meetings. Occasionally there will be by-elections or appointments to fill vacancies subsequent to the election; these positions also terminate at the end of the two-year term.

Candidates

A candidate is an individual seeking election as a member of a school council for a school attendance area. A candidate must be an eligible elector who is nominated by eligible electors. Candidates must be declared a candidate by the returning officer for the school attendance area.

School Councils Role

The duties and powers of school councils are described in sections of the *Education Act*, primarily Section 113. These include:

- reviewing and approving school growth plans;
- reviewing and developing school-based policies such as:
 - dispute resolution

- attendance
- discipline policies
- participating in hiring school principals;
- making recommendations on how school budgets are spent; and
- advising on matters such as:
 - length of the school years
 - staffing needs
 - school renovations
 - school programming
 - discipline policies
 - student transportation
 - proposing locally developed courses

Eligible Electors

To be a candidate or to vote in a Yukon school council election you must:

- be a Canadian citizen
- at least 18 years' old
- have lived in the attendance area for at least three months, or be a parent of a child attending the school

Three of the 26 school councils have been established on the basis of religion. As provided for in section 82(3) of the *Education Act*, only those electors who have been recognized by the Catholic Episcopal Corporation may vote for those members of a school council.

An elector can vote (or be a candidate) in the school attendance area in which they reside. They can also vote (or be a candidate) in the school attendance area where their child is a student.

LISTING OF YUKON SCHOOL COUNCILS

Community	School Attendance Area	# of Members
Beaver Creek	Nelnah Bessie John School	3
Carcross	Ghùch Tlà Community School	5
Carmacks	Tantalus School	3
Dawson City	Robert Service School	6
Destruction Bay	Kluane Lake School	5
Faro	Del Van Gorder School	5
Haines Junction	St. Elias Community School	3
Mayo	J.V. Clark School	3
Old Crow	Chief Zzeh Gittlit School	5
Pelly Crossing	Eliza Van Bibber School	3
Ross River	Ross River School	5
Teslin	Khàtinaxh Community School	3
Watson Lake	Watson Lake Schools	7
Whitehorse	Christ the King Elementary School*	5
Whitehorse	Elijah Smith Elementary School	3
Whitehorse	F.H. Collins Secondary School	7
Whitehorse	Golden Horn Elementary School	5
Whitehorse	Grey Mountain Primary School Council	5
Whitehorse	Hidden Valley School	5
Whitehorse	Holy Family Elementary School*	5
Whitehorse	Jack Hulland Elementary School	7
Whitehorse	Porter Creek Secondary School	7
Whitehorse	Selkirk Elementary School	5
Whitehorse	Takhini Elementary School	5
Whitehorse	Vanier Catholic Secondary School*	5
Whitehorse	Whitehorse Elementary School	7

* indicates a school established on the basis of religion.