

December 22, 2021

**MEDIA ADVISORY
ELECTIONS YUKON OUTLINES THE REFERENDUM PROCESS**

At the request of the Minister of Education, the Chief Electoral Officer has agreed to oversee the referendum and voting process on the First Nation School Board on the Minister's behalf to ensure it is fair, transparent and impartial.

At the close of the petition period, the Minister of Education has accepted resolutions or petitions in eight attendance areas, triggering a referendum vote. The schools are:

- Chief Zzeh Gittlit School (Old Crow)
- Grey Mountain Primary School (Whitehorse)
- J.V. Clark School (Mayo)
- Johnson Elementary School and Watson Lake Secondary School (Watson Lake)
- Nelnah Bessie John School (Beaver Creek)
- Ross River School (Ross River)
- St. Elias Community School (Haines Junction)
- Takhini Elementary School (Whitehorse)

The referendum voting period for those school will occur from Tuesday, January 11 to Thursday, January 27, 2022. There will be multiple options for eligible electors to receive and cast their ballot. Eligible electors may vote in person with their local Referendum Officer at set times and locations (these will vary by community), by appointment in the community, or in-person at Elections Yukon in Whitehorse.

Eligible electors may also request a ballot kit be mailed to them. This option is available to all electors including those who are away from the area during the referendum period. Applications for mail-out ballots will be open on ElectionsYukon.ca from January 5 to 17, 2022. Mail-out ballots can be returned by mail or hand-delivered to the local Referendum Officer, to Elections Yukon or at the drop box located at the Main Administration Building in Whitehorse.

To be qualified to vote in the referendum, electors must be Canadian citizens, at least 18 years of age and either have resided in the school attendance area where the referendum is occurring for at least three months or be a parent of a child attending the school where a referendum is occurring. To receive a ballot, electors must complete an application which includes a self-declaration of their eligibility.

The question on the referendum ballot is *Do you agree that this school should be operated by the Yukon First Nation School Board?* Yes No

A 'yes' vote means that the elector wants the school to be operated by the Yukon First Nation School Board. This change would take place at the start of the 2022/23 school year.

A 'no' vote means that the elector wants the school to continue to be operated by the Department of Education. School councils would remain in place.

For a school to transition from school council governance to the Yukon First Nation School Board, at least 50% +1 of the accepted votes cast in the referendum are required. If any referendum reaches the threshold, a territory-wide election will be held to elect trustees to the Yukon First Nation School Board.

Elections Yukon continues to actively recruit Election Officers to support the vote in select communities. Individuals interested in contributing to fair, transparent and impartial elections through flexible paid employment in their community should email info@electionsyukon.ca.

Key dates:

- **October 31, 2021** –last day school councils could submit resolutions to the Minister of Education.
- **December 13, 2021** – last day communities could submit petitions to the Minister of Education.
- **January 5, 2022** – early applications for mail-out ballots open.
- **January 7, 2022** – dates, times and locations of in-person voting will be posted on ElectionsYukon.ca.
- **January 11 to 27, 2022** – referendum voting period. Eligible electors will have multiple options to cast their vote.

For more information, contact:

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