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January 4, 2022

**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
**EARLY APPLICATIONS FOR MAIL-OUT REFERENDUM BALLOTS OPEN TOMORROW**

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.

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

<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>COMMUNITY</b>
Chief Zzeh Gittlit School	Old Crow
Grey Mountain Primary School	Whitehorse
J.V. Clark School	Mayo
Johnson Elementary School & Watson Lake Secondary	Watson Lake
Nelnah Bessie John School	Beaver Creek
Ross River School	Ross River
St. Elias Community School	Haines Junction
Takhini Elementary School	Whitehorse

Applications for mail-out referendum ballots open tomorrow (Wednesday, January 5, 2022) at 9:00am through [ElectionsYukon.ca](http://ElectionsYukon.ca). Mail-out ballots are available to all electors including those who are away from the area during the referendum period. Applications for mail-out ballots will remain open until January 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.

In-person voting will occur between Tuesday, January 11 and 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.

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.

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That is responsible for the administration of territorial, school council and school board elections.



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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.

**Key dates:**

- **January 5, 2022** – early applications for mail-out referendum 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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