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January 10, 2022

NEWS RELEASE

REFERENDUM VOTING PERIOD BEGINS TOMORROW (TUESDAY, JANUARY 11)

At the request of the Minister of Education, the Chief Electoral Officer will oversee the referendum and voting process on the First Nation School Board 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:

SCHOOL	COMMUNITY
Chief Zzeh Gittlit School	Old Crow
Grey Mountain Primary School	Whitehorse
J.V. Clark School	Mayo
Johnson Elementary School & Watson Lake Secondary	Watson Lake

SCHOOL	COMMUNITY
Nelnah Bessie John School	Beaver Creek
Ross River School	Ross River
St. Elias Community School	Haines Junction
Takhini Elementary School	Whitehorse

In-person voting opens tomorrow, Tuesday, January 11, 2022. Referendum voting will be open until Thursday, January 27, 2022. Eligible electors have more options than ever to cast their vote. The options to receive a referendum ballot include:

- In-person voting during set hours with the Referendum Officers in the community (dates, times and locations are available on ElectionsYukon.ca);
- In-person voting by appointment with the Referendum Officer in the community over the 17-day referendum period;
- Requesting to have a referendum ballot kit mailed (applications available online); or
- In-person voting at the Main Administration Building in Whitehorse, Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

COVID-19 protocols, including the Safe 6 + 1 are in place for all in-person voting. Masks will be required.

Applications for mail-out referendum ballots opened on January 5 and will remain open until Monday, January 17, 2022. All eligible electors can request a mail-out ballot through ElectionsYukon.ca. Mail-out ballots can be returned in-person to the Referendum Officer in the attendance area, hand-delivering to Elections Yukon, depositing it in the drop-box in Whitehorse outside of the Main Administration building or mailing it to Elections Yukon Headquarters.

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.

Key dates:

- **January 11 to 27, 2022** – referendum voting period. Eligible electors will have multiple options to cast their vote.
- **January 17, 2022** – applications for mail-out referendum ballots close.

For more information, contact:

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