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NEWS RELEASE

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION DATES ANNOUNCED

The Honourable Jeanie McLean, Minister of Education, has approved the dates to elect members to 17 school councils. The election period will run from April 15 to May 6, 2024.

Key dates in the election period

- **Monday, April 15:** Candidate nominations open
Completed nomination forms can be submitted to the returning officer appointed for the school.
- **Thursday, April 25 at 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 4 from 11 AM to 4 PM:** Early voting
In-person voting is available at schools holding a vote.
- **Monday, May 6 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.

Quote

School councils provide the opportunity for meaningful parental and public participation, both integral to supporting a high-quality education system. As Elections Yukon gears up to administer elections at seventeen schools across the territory on Monday, May 6, 2024, it's not just parents who are eligible; Canadian citizens who are at least 18 years old and live in the attendance area can also participate as voters or candidates. Upholding principles of inclusivity and accessibility, Elections Yukon is committed to ensuring a fair and transparent electoral process, enabling all eligible electors to participate and exercise their right to vote and be candidates in these elections.

- Maxwell Harvey, Chief Electoral Officer, Elections Yukon

Information updates

To learn about the nomination process and for important election updates, visit ElectionsYukon.ca or follow @ElectionsYukon on Facebook or X (formerly Twitter).

For more information, contact

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For information about school councils, visit yukon.ca/school-councils.

Attachments: Key information for the 2024 school council elections
Backgrounder on school council elections

KEY INFORMATION FOR THE 2024 SCHOOL COUNCIL GENERAL ELECTIONS

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:

- 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 **Monday, April 15, and 12 noon on Thursday, April 25.**

Returning officers will also be available at schools with councils between 10 AM and 12 noon on April 25 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 at the school on:

- Saturday, May 4 from 11 AM to 4 PM
- Monday, May 6 from 3 PM to 8 PM

BACKGROUND ON SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

School councils

School councils in the Yukon are consultative institutions whose authority derives from the *Education Act*. They provide a way for Yukoners to be involved in student education and a significant voice to promote high-quality education, raise student achievement, and improve school performance through community involvement.

Elected school council members

Each school council has between three and seven elected positions. Members are elected to an attendance area; they receive honoraria for attending regular meetings. Seventeen (17) schools have a council.

- Five (5) schools in Yukon communities have a school council; they are:

YUKON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	COMMUNITY	ELECTED MEMBERS
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 in the Yukon receive guidance from the Catholic Diocese of Whitehorse. The Yukon has three (3) Catholic schools. All are in Whitehorse and have a school council; they are:

WHITEHORSE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS	ELECTED MEMBERS
Christ the King Elementary School	5
Holy Family Elementary School	5
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Secondary School	5

- Nine (9) additional Whitehorse-area schools have a school council; they are:

WHITEHORSE-AREA SCHOOLS	ELECTED MEMBERS
École Selkirk Elementary School	5
École Whitehorse Elementary School	7
Elijah Smith Elementary School	3
F.H. Collins Secondary School	7
Golden Horn Elementary School	5
Hidden Valley School	5
Jack Hulland Elementary School	7
Porter Creek Secondary School	7
Whistle Bend Elementary School	5

Term of office

General elections for school councils are held every two years; the last being in the spring of 2022. The Minister of Education may appoint members to fill vacancies between elections.

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; and
- 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