



MEDIA ADVISORY

July 9, 2020

REVISED DATE ANNOUNCED FOR YUKON SCHOOL COUNCIL GENERAL ELECTION

The Minister of Education, the Honorable Tracy-Anne McPhee, has approved the revised date for the general election for members of school councils in the 26 attendance areas to be Monday, October 5, 2020.

This general election was originally planned for May 2020; however, it was postponed as part of the public health measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The revised dates are:

- **Monday, September 14:** Publication of the Notice of Nominations. Nomination papers of candidates can be submitted.
- **Thursday September 24:** Close of Nominations. To be a candidate, nomination papers of candidates must be submitted by 12:00 PM. If the number of nominations for 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. If a polling day is required, mail-in ballots are available for issue.
- **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.

The Chief Electoral Officer, Maxwell Harvey, is working in close collaboration with the Government of Yukon to ensure the appropriate COVID-19 measures and precautions are in place to protect public health during the election period.

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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 Elections

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, three 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

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 Council's Role

The duties and powers of school councils are described in 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; and
 - 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; and
 - 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; and
- be at least 18 years old; and,
- 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 Yukon 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.

LISTING OF YUKON SCHOOL COUNCILS

| Community | School Attendance Area | # of Members |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Beaver Creek | Nelna 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.