



November 7, 2021

Hon. Jeanie McLean  
Minister of Education  
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Yukon Legislative Assembly  
Box 2703  
Whitehorse, YT  
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Dear Ministers and Members,

I am writing on behalf of the parents listed below. We are all families of children attending Whitehorse-area schools including Whitehorse Elementary School, Selkirk Elementary School, Golden Horn Elementary School, Christ the King Elementary School, Holy Family Elementary School, École Emilie Tremblay, Hidden Valley Elementary School and Montessori Borealis Elementary.

Importantly, we are addressing this letter to all parties of the Legislature because we do not want this issue to be treated as partisan. Instead, we are asking all parties to work together to address a vitally important matter relating to the well-being of our children.

We have been watching with increasing alarm the rising number of COVID-19 exposure notices at Yukon's schools over the last number of weeks. As families with at least one child too young to be vaccinated, Friday's announcement by the Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health that there is community spread in Whitehorse has heightened our fears of continued growth in cases within our school system.

The health risks and interruptions to learning that result from these notices are both avoidable and unacceptable. Until vaccinations are approved for the remainder of our school aged population, we must be more proactive in protecting the health of our 11

years and younger students by using every tool available to keep classroom-based learning in place.

To that end, we are requesting the following:

1. Immediate implementation of rapid testing protocols at all Yukon schools where the epidemiological conditions suggest testing will help identify and limit COVID-19 infections. This request aligns with actions taken in other jurisdictions, including Alberta and Ontario, to manage COVID-19 caseloads in school populations. Further, we understand Yukon has a stock of rapid tests available for immediate deployment.
2. Change the Yukon Communicable Disease Control's directives to require, rather than recommend, self-isolation for any unvaccinated student who is a close contact for COVID-19. We understand there are limitations to enforcement of isolation now that CEMA has been withdrawn, but we trust that parties can work together to come up with a solution that establishes a consistent approach across all Yukon schools on this matter, rather than downloading the responsibility to teachers and administrative staff.

We are in the process of collecting signatures on a petition to be presented to the legislature on the above requests, but hope you will take action on this important matter in advance of our doing so.

Respectfully,



Fraser Pearce

Parent of Gr 2 and 7 students, École Whitehorse Elementary School

On behalf of:

Rea and Chad Knight, Parents of Gr. 1 and 3 students, EWES

Kara and Jim Price, Parents of Gr. 2 student, EWES

Kristenn Magnussen and Jonathon Kerr, Parents of Gr. 1 student, EWES

Sierra Van Der Meer, Parent of Gr. 1, École Selkirk Elementary School

Kirsten Madsen, Parent of Gr. 5 student, EWES

Grant Sullivan, Parent of Gr. 1 and 4 students, ESES

Panya Lipovsky and Seth Plunkett, Parents of Gr. 4 and 1 students, EWES  
 Michelle Rabeau, Parent of Gr. 2 student, EWES  
 Maria Hallock, Parent of Gr. 4 student, EWES  
 Liz Bryan, Parent of Gr. 2 and 5 students, ESES  
 Sheldon Cull and Paula Parsons-Cull, Parents of Gr. 2 student, EWES  
 Carrie Stewart, Parent of Gr. 2 and 5 students, EWES  
 Joelle Janes, Parent of Gr. 2 and 6 students, EWES  
 Lisa and Jayson Calder, Parents of Gr. 2 student, EWES  
 Shannon Powell, Parent of Gr. 6 and 7 students, EWES  
 Yoshie Kumagae, Parent of Gr. 1 students, Montessori Borealis Elementary  
 Anne Pinkerton, Parent of Gr. 3 student, MBE  
 Phillipa Burt and Michael Gignac, Parents of Gr. 1 and 5 students, Golden Horn  
 Elementary School  
 Melanie McFadyen, Parent of Gr. 7 student, EWES  
 Maggie Powter and Devin Bailey, Parents of Gr. 5 and 7 students, EWES  
 Chris Jatrebski, Parent of Gr. 2 student, ESES  
 Lisa Preto, Parent of Gr. 2 and 4 students, Christ the King Elementary  
 Jenyfer Neumann, Parent of Gr. 2 student, ESES  
 Christine Aikens, Parent of Gr. 5 students, GHES  
 Janine Aberson and Ryan Kinney, Parents of Gr. 7 and 4 students, EWES  
 Deah Sutton, Parent of Gr. 5 students, Holy Family Elementary School  
 Roberta Hartman, Parent of Gr. 5 student, GHES  
 Joanne Leung and Jeff Spiers, Parents of Gr. 2 student, EWES  
 Emily Woodruffe, Parent of Gr. 6 student, GHES  
 Geneviève Camire and Derek Peters, parents of K student, École Emilie Tremblay  
 Michelle Christensen and Graham Van Tighem, Parents of Gr. 3 and 6 students, GHES  
 Jordan Shaw and Yejin Choi, Parents of Gr. 5 student, EWES  
 Chera Hunchuk, Parent of Gr. 4 and 6 students, GHES  
 Jeanine O'Connell, Parent of K student, EWES  
 Johanna Rockenstein, Parent of a Gr. 1 student, ESES  
 Cai Krikorian and Corinne Gurtler, Parents of Gr. 2 and 7 students, ESES  
 Noah Chaikel, Parent of Gr. 5 student, EET  
 Jackie Zinger and Aaron Donohue, Parents of Gr. 3 students, ESES  
 Kim and Keith Welch, Parents of Gr. 3 and 1 students, EWES  
 Brook Land-Murphy, Parent of K and Gr. 1 students, EWES  
 Julien Revel, Parents of K student, EET  
 Helen Eddy and Ryan Gould, Parents of Gr. 2 and 5 students, EWES  
 Michael White, Parent of Gr. 2 student, EWES  
 Katharine Sandiford and Terry Creamer, Parents of Gr. 2 and 4 students, GHES  
 Julie DesBrisay, Parent of Gr. 2 student, ESES

Joel Macht, Parent of Gr. 4 and 6 students, EWES  
Tim and Kirten Hogan, Parents of Gr. 2 (GHES) and 5 (EWES) students  
Thane Phillips, Parent of Gr. 1 and 4 students, EWES  
Olwyn Bruce, Parent of Gr. 5 and 7 students, EWES  
Kristy Kennedy, Parent of Gr. 3 and 5 students, CKES  
Clea Roberts, Parent of Gr. 5 student, Hidden Valley Elementary School  
Chrystal Mantyka-Pringle and Mathew Pringle, Parents of K and Gr. 3 students, ESES  
Jen Laliberte, Parent of Gr. 3 student, ESES  
Jessica and Steven Boyd, Parents of Gr. 1 and 3 students, GHES  
Jen Edwards, Parent of Gr. 5 and 2 student, HVSS  
Shari Macintosh, Parent of Gr. 5 and 7 students, CKES

Families with High-School aged students who also support this request:  
Angela Drainville, Parent of Gr. 10 and 12 students, Porter Creek Secondary School  
Deanna McLeod, Parent of Gr. 12 student, PCSS

Cc. Dr. Catherine Elliot, Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Nicole Morgan, Deputy Minister of Education  
Stephen Samis, Deputy Minister of Health  
Sharon Macbourey, Principal EWES  
Tamara Boiteau, Principal ESES  
Trine Dennis, Principal GHES  
Maria Gray, Principal HFES  
Manon Carrière, Directrice de l'École Emile Tremblay  
Ted Hupé, President, Yukon Teachers Association  
Thane Phillips, Chair, EWES School Council  
Melanie Davignon, Chair, ESES School Council