



March 31, 2022

Dear Ms. King,

I am writing further to our recent meetings and conversations regarding the ongoing investigations at Jack Hulland Elementary School. When you contacted my office about the investigations on March 18th, I scheduled a meeting that same day to discuss the matter. As I said then, I appreciate you updating me on your review of the situation at Jack Hulland Elementary School and sharing your concerns about the ongoing investigations by the RCMP and Family and Children Services. We agree that children have the right to learn in a safe environment and that their perspectives need to be included in the investigations.

In our Friday, March 18th meeting you shared specific concerns that students at Jack Hulland Elementary School are not receiving adequate supports while these investigations are underway, and that the RCMP have not yet followed up with some of the families that you have spoken with as part of your review. I was concerned by your remarks and committed to you that I would follow up immediately with the senior team that is leading the Government of Yukon's response to this matter. As you know, that led to a meeting for you on Monday, March 21st with the Deputy Ministers of Education, Justice, Health and Social Services, and the Executive Council Office to discuss your concerns and share information.

To be clear, we have taken an active and coordinated approach to this matter since it was first brought to our attention. We responded immediately to inform the school about the investigation into the use of holds and restraints at the school and have provided regular updates to the school community. We launched an interagency working group to ensure this matter is appropriately responded to in a comprehensive and coordinated matter. We are continuing to fully cooperate in the RCMP and Family and Children Services investigation and have also engaged a contractor to conduct a full review of all Workplace Risk Assessments at the school. Department officials and school administration have been working on a case-by-case basis with school staff and families directly while regularly checking in with the RCMP to ensure they have what is required to advance the investigation. Officials from the Department of Education continue to meet regularly with you to share updates and information we have as the RCMP investigation progresses.

The March 21st meeting helped the Deputy Ministers ensure they are providing clear expectations and directions to the interdepartmental team that is leading the government's response at the school. I was also relieved when you told me that you found it to be a positive and productive meeting. You have made it clear to our government that you have concerns about families that need additional supports as well as families that have not been followed up with by the RCMP. We take these concerns extremely seriously. That is why, based on the March 21st meeting, we scheduled an interagency meeting on April 1st with you and representatives from the Department of Education, Family and Children Services, Victim Services, and the RCMP.

In light of these ongoing meetings and conversations, I was disappointed to see a press release issued by your office on March 30th alleging inadequate action by our government. As you know, the RCMP and Family and Children Services investigations are ongoing and we have been working closely with you and the officials involved to ensure all the necessary information is available to complete these independent

investigations and provide supports to schools. It is incumbent on all officials responding to this matter to ensure we do not do anything that could jeopardize the integrity of these ongoing investigations.

In addition, I have also asked you to share your view and information about additional supports that are required for families at Jack Hulland Elementary School so that they can be provided in a timely manner. My understanding is that you will be sharing this information at the meeting on April 1st.

I want to reiterate that we are committed to working together with you in your role as the Child and Youth Advocate so we can share information that will ensure we create a safe and caring school environment that is supportive of students and families at school. We acknowledge the stress parents and school staff are already under due to the ongoing investigations into how student's behavior has been managed at the school. We know the seriousness of this issue and committed to taking the right steps to address it and support students and families affected. The safety and wellbeing of students remains at the centre of our response to this matter.

I also want to re-assure you that, as previously noted, I will continue to make myself available to you to discuss concerns and share information as these matters proceed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J McLean". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Jeanie McLean
Minister of Education