



Minister's office (CM-2)  
PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

March 28, 2023

Kate White, MLA  
Yukon Legislative Assembly  
PO Box 2703  
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 0N6



Dear MLA White:

**Re: Protection for Students**

---

I am writing in response to recent discussions in the legislature and in the media regarding an individual who experienced sexual violence at school. In statements to media, you are quoted as saying "there [were] at least three of us in that assembly who got that initial email... and I was the only person to respond."

I understand that you were likely unaware, but I responded to the survivor in question on February 8<sup>th</sup>. You were not copied on this email, and I am sure you can appreciate that it would be inappropriate for me to discuss an individual's personal situation with a third party.

On topics as sensitive as sexual violence at school, the insinuation that top officials at the Department of Education would ignore a survivor of school-based sexual violence are damaging, and will likely prevent future survivors from coming forward. These statements undermine the system of support that we have in place for survivors and make it more difficult for us to learn about these cases when they occur. Given my previous experience working with people who have experienced sexual violence, it was also hurtful to hear that you believe that now that I am an elected official, I would not continue my life's work to fight for them.

As representatives from progressive parties, we have a responsibility to create an environment where facts reign supreme. I hope that next time you consider calling into question my willingness to support survivors, you will reach out to me first so we can ensure we are creating an environment where young people feel as though they will be supported if they come forward to share their stories.

Regards,

Jeanie McLean  
Minister of Education