

**From:** Amanda.Daub on behalf of Nicole.Morgan  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 5:08 PM  
**Subject:** Nicole's notes - May 10, 2019

# Nicole's notes

## Living in Yukon, thriving in life



We talk a lot about engaging students and parents in education, but just as important is engaging adult and professional learning with staff, teachers, and administrators. Engagement matters to everyone. It is a key factor not only in successful learning environments, but also in effective teams and workplaces. High employee engagement reduces staff turnover, improves productivity, and leads to more happiness at home. The Government of Yukon [Employee Engagement survey](#) gives us a chance to check our own report card as a department.

Engagement is also an important part of how we ensure we are meeting the needs of students, and how governments ensure they are meeting the needs of their citizens. This week we celebrate the first Canadian Association of Principals (CAP) National Conference to be held north of 60° – with a theme of engaging students through authentic learning and First Nations ways of knowing and doing. We also present a current public engagement on new Yukon vaping laws in which youth are specifically being asked to participate.

This week in Education:

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## Results are in from the 2018 Employee Engagement Survey



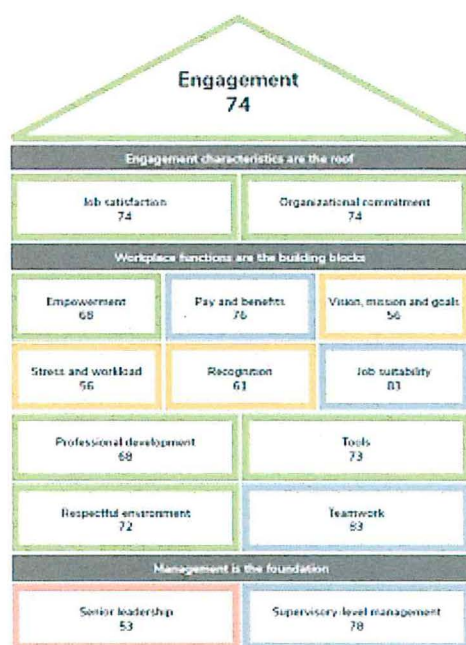
The results are in from the most recent [Employee Engagement Survey](#) conducted in 2018 through the Yukon Bureau of Statistics. The Government of Yukon surveys its employees every two years, and it is an opportunity for employees to share ideas, suggestions and concerns about their work, their job satisfaction and the overall organization.

This was the first year school-based staff were surveyed separate from the Department of Education main building staff. Here are the highlights, with links to both final reports.

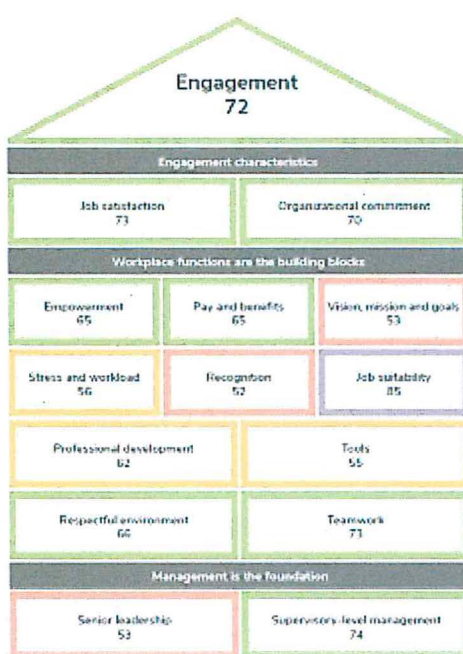
- 515 school-based staff participated in the survey (response rate 55%) with an overall “Engagement grade” of 72
- 115 main building staff participated (response rate of 82%) with an overall “Engagement grade” of 74
- Supervisory level management, job suitability (i.e. work is meaningful and fits skills/interests) and teamwork continue to be among our strengths.
- Senior leadership, increased departmental vision and stress/workload were identified as key areas for improvement.

The feedback from this survey and subsequent conversations with staff over the past year are informing our actions to strengthen our internal and external relationships, to get organized around effectiveness, and to frame our work as a learning organization.

We appreciate the feedback and continue to take action to improve where necessary. We are all working to create a positive, inclusive and healthy culture of work and learning. Thanks to all our staff for their daily efforts to support the success of Yukon learners, including each other.



[2018 Education building results report](#)



[2018 School-based staff results report](#)

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## Yukon hosts the Canadian Association of Principals National Conference





*215 Principals from across Canada came to Whitehorse April 30-May 3*



*Yukon graduate Morgan Wienberg spoke eloquently on the tools she learned at high school that help her in her charity work.*

A huge congratulations and thank you goes out to the 12-person Yukon organizing committee of the 37<sup>th</sup> annual Canadian Association of Principals National Conference, held last week for the first time north of 60°, at the High Country Inn Convention Centre in Whitehorse. 51 Yukon administrators attended from across the territory.

The conference theme this year was authentic learning - exploring real world issues in unconventional ways. The 16 speakers were charged with making people think outside of the box. The discussions included educational leadership, democracy education and intergenerational collaboration in schools. A key component of the learning was sharing Yukon First Nations ways of knowing and how this is directly applied to on-the-land programming, as well as “decolonizing the classroom” as a way to engage all learners.

The conference ran from Tuesday, April 30 to Friday, May 3. It featured Yukon students dancing, singing and in bands, as well as local musicians who are highly engaged in education, such as Steve Slade and Remy Rodden, who got the entire audience participating.



Former Yukoner [Ivan Coyote](#) was a keynote speaker with a powerful message of hope and resilience. Another Yukon graduate, [Morgan Wienberg](#), spoke of her child protection work in Haiti.

Non-Yukon presenters included: [Gabrielle Scrimshaw](#), CEO of Indvest, an international organization that creates social and economic impacts for Indigenous peoples; [Dr. John Malloy](#), Director of Education at the Toronto District School Board, who spoke about the student voice leading decisions; Social Entrepreneur [Ilona Dougherty](#); and [John Wiens](#), Dean Emeritus of Education at the University of Manitoba, who spoke on education for democracy and First Nations governance of education. Thank you to Ted Hupé and Jim Snider for organizing the excellent line-up of Yukon and national speakers.

Approximately 75 attendees opted to come early and do a full day field trip to Carcross before the conference. They experienced an impactful cultural education program, hosted by Carcross/Tagish First Nation.

A huge thank you goes to Ted Hupé and Lina Radziunas from Holy Family Elementary, for co-chairing the Yukon organizing committee over the three-year planning process.

The intention of the Yukon conference was to focus on student engagement in a way that incorporated learning from the land and adopting traditional First Nations values into the education system. We were able to showcase our leadership in these areas to the rest of Canada. This will no doubt be a conference everyone will remember.



*Deputy Minister Nicole Morgan and organizing committee co-chair, Ted Hupé*

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## Vaping information van visits Yukon schools

A big-yellow-taxi-like van has been spotted parked outside of Yukon high schools this week. The van is part of the Government of Canada's [Consider the Consequences Vaping Tour](#), an educational initiative travelling across the country to talk to youth about the [health risks of vaping](#). The highly engaging staff move students through an interactive display, where teens can test their knowledge around tobacco, nicotine and vaping. The Yukon tour reached all students and grades at Vanier Catholic Secondary, FH Collins Secondary, Porter Creek Secondary, and St. Elias Community School.



[Anyone who missed the tour can try the online activities](#), or contact Adria Collins at the Government of Yukon [Health Promotion Unit](#) to come to your school, classroom or community group and present on vaping. Lesson plans and support materials are also available to any Yukon school. Federal [micro-funding](#) can be applied for to support your own creative vaping awareness projects.



*[This interactive vaping education](#) tour spoke to students across Yukon from May 3-May 9*

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## ***Smoke-Free Places Act public engagement seeks youth input***

With the rise of vaping amongst youth, and the strong known and unknown health consequences for youth using vaping products, the Government of Yukon is working to update the Smoke-Free Places Act.

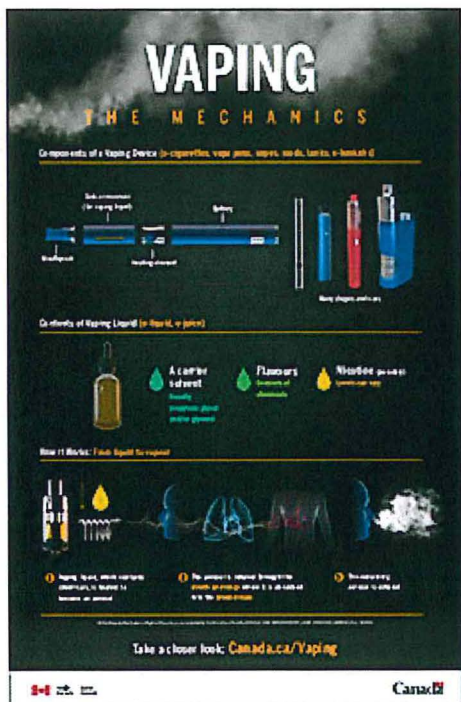
The Government of Yukon is strongly interested in hearing from youth, as well as all Yukoners, through a [short online public engagement survey](#) on the following subjects:

1. Where vapour product usage should be restricted;
2. How vapour products should be sold;
3. Whether or not the government should consider prohibiting the sale of certain vapour product flavourings; and
4. What the minimum legal age of access for tobacco and vapour products should be.

The public engagement process and stronger legislation will result in:

- Increased understanding of the risks associated with nicotine dependency and vapour product usage;
- Increased understanding of the impact of second-hand vapour and smoke in public places;
- Discouraging vapour product use among adolescents, prohibiting access for minors.

Please encourage students and young adults to complete the short online survey, which closes May 31, 2019.



Posters and handouts for parents and schools are available [online](#) and [hard copy](#).

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## Ted's Talks coming soon

Acclaimed author and physical education specialist [Ted Temertzoglou](#) returns to Yukon at the end of May for professional development days and classroom presentations.

Ted's work focuses on how to integrate physical literacy skills into physical education classrooms. Balance, posture, squatting, running, skipping, jumping, throwing, and catching are essential physical literacy skills. They help students form foundational movement patterns so that they can be confident being active later in life.

Ted also looks at how to use technology and other resources to teach the health curriculum (sexual health, healthy relationships and more). He has designed his own textbook/online teacher resources for health and physical literacy education.

In the Yukon sessions, Ted will show teachers how to integrate physical literacy into their classroom as well as how to teach the health component of the curriculum. Teachers can be expected to leave with some fresh ideas on how to meet these competencies that contribute to lifelong learning.

[To register for the workshops or request a classroom presentation](#), please contact Sarah Taylor at FH Collins Secondary or Christian at the Yukon Teachers' Association.





*Ted Temertzoglou will be back by popular demand May 30-June 3*

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## Opportunities & Deadlines



**Friday, May 31, 2019:** Help us celebrate the contributions Yukoners make to adult literacy by [nominating them for the prestigious Council of the Federation Literacy Award](#), to be presented on International Literacy Day, September 8.

**May 31, 2019:** [Smoke-Free Places Act public engagement](#). Any Yukoner aged 13 years and up is encouraged to take this voluntary short online survey to help regulate vapour products.

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**Have a wonderful weekend,**



**Nicole Morgan**

Deputy Minister

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I respectfully acknowledge that I work within the Traditional Territories of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.