



Minister's office (CM-7)
PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

August 30, 2021

Patti McLeod, MLA Watson Lake
Yukon Legislative Assembly
PO Box 2703
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6



Dear Patti McLeod:

Re: School Staffing in Watson Lake

Thank you for your letter dated July 21, 2021, outlining your concerns regarding staffing in Yukon rural schools and Johnson Elementary School, specifically.

The Department of Education recognizes the importance of recruiting quality teachers in rural Yukon communities and are committed to continuing to work with local governments, community partners and all stakeholders to build capacity for rural Yukon teachers. We continue to promote all teaching opportunities to attract the best educators across Canada and work to ensure all Yukon rural teachers are relocated (if needed), housing is provided (if needed), and employees are prepared to teach prior to the start of the school year.

In the case of Johnson Elementary, the principal has worked over the summer to ensure all vacant teacher positions are filled for the start of the upcoming school year. Currently, two positions have offers extended and one remaining competition will remain open until filled.

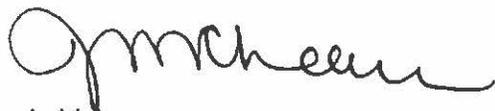
Teaching in rural Yukon is attractive to educators from across Canada, opening up the door to an opportunity of a lifetime. Many Yukon teachers do put down roots in rural Yukon communities and have long meaningful careers, with close connection to school and community. Each teacher competition position posted for Johnson Elementary this school year had quality applicants, and we have no reason to believe that this will change.

Staffing rural Yukon schools with quality educators is a priority for the Department of Education. We continue to put measures in place to ensure teachers have what's needed to thrive in rural Yukon such as access to housing options, competitive benefits and wages, and

ongoing professional learning opportunities. Each Yukon teaching position is promoted through ApplytoEducation.com, which reaches qualified teachers Canada wide.

Again, I thank you for your letter and the opportunity to confirm our support of the recruitment and retention of teachers in Yukon's rural schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J McLean". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "M".

Jeanie McLean
Minister of Education