



180 Valleyview Drive
Whitehorse, Yukon
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October 31, 2022

Jeanie McLean, Minister of Education
Nils Clarke, Minister of Highways and Public Works
Yukon Legislative Assembly
Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 2C6

Dear Ministers McLean and Clarke,

I am writing to express my disappointment and concern with the recent announcement of the construction of a new French Immersion Whitehorse Elementary School (WES) in Takhini. This was done with no consultation with parents or the community and no one is talking about a replacement elementary school – regardless of the immersion program – in the downtown core.

While I am not a downtown resident, both of my children graduated from WES and the idea that Whitehorse will NOT have an elementary school in the downtown area is absurd. Our city is growing with a shift to more urban housing, densification, and walkable communities. What message does this send if we don't prioritize education in its planning and development.

Your departments need to assure the families and people of downtown – as well as the larger Whitehorse community – that with the construction of a new French Immersion elementary school in Takhini, you have plans for an official catchment elementary school downtown and its construction will be a priority.

Building a vibrant community starts with our kids and a school is the heart of any community. Whitehorse Elementary has been playing that role for over 70 years. I hope your departments show it the respect that it deserves and finds a way to carry on that legacy.

Sincerely,



Kelly Milner

Cc: Ms. Emily Tredger, Third Party House Leader
Whitehorse Elementary School Council