

TRISH PADDON

Yellowknife Catholic Schools
2026 Trustee Candidate Profile



Biography:

Trish Paddon is an indigenous woman of Tlicho descent, born and raised in Yellowknife, NT, where she was educated through the Yellowknife Catholic school system. Together with her spouse, Brandon, they lead a blended family and are proud parents of seven children. Having raised six children who have grown up within Yellowknife Catholic Schools, her family has experienced firsthand the exceptional education, character building, and community spirit that YCS provides. Over the decades, the guidance, encouragement, and unwavering support extended to each of their children has left them profoundly grateful. To Trish, YCS is far more than an educational institution—it is part of family. Her deep personal connection to the school community fuels her passion to serve as a YCS Trustee. Trish is committed to preserving the strong faith-based values, academic excellence, and nurturing environment that have supported her family, while actively advocating for the evolving needs of all students, educators, and families across Yellowknife. Trish is a dedicated advocate that is passionate about helping others. In her current role she is a manager working with families of missing and murdered indigenous people by providing critical support in their healing journeys.

Question 1: Why are you running for trustee?

As a long-time resident, parent, and community advocate, serving as a Yellowknife Catholic Schools (YCS) trustee is deeply personal. With children spanning elementary through high school, I have a direct stake in ensuring our schools foster academic excellence, inclusive support, and strong faith-based values. My extensive experience in community outreach, program administration, and trauma-informed approaches has equipped me into advocating for safe, supportive environments where every child and family feels heard. I see this role as a meaningful opportunity to bridge school, home, and community—ensuring YCS remains a compassionate, resilient, and thriving educational system for all students.

Question 2: What is the biggest challenge facing Yellowknife Catholic Schools, and how would you address it?

The biggest challenge facing Yellowknife Catholic Schools is maintaining stable funding for inclusive education and mental health supports amid shifting federal and territorial allocations. Reduced resources directly strain our front-line staff and student services. To address this, I will advocate alongside northern boards for predictable, multi-year territorial funding rather than temporary grants. Within YCS, I will prioritize classroom support roles using an equity- and trauma-informed lens so every budget decision protects student well-being. Finally, I will deepen partnerships with Indigenous governments and local organizations to co-design programs, share resources, and ensure a safe, compassionate, and thriving learning environment for all children.

Question 3: How will you support both student success and Catholic education?

Supporting both student success and Catholic education means nurturing the whole child—academically, spiritually, and emotionally. I will advocate for strong, inclusive academic programs that meet diverse learning needs while embedding Catholic values of compassion, community, and integrity across our schools. By applying a trauma-informed lens, I will work to ensure our classrooms remain safe, nurturing environments where faith and learning go hand in hand. Through open communication and collaboration among families, educators, parish communities, and Indigenous partners, I am committed to building a compassionate educational foundation that helps every student grow into a confident, resilient, and faithful individual.

Question 4: What experience or perspective makes you the best candidate for the role?

Born and raised in Yellowknife, my personal journey as a mother in a blended family and my professional background in Indigenous affairs shape my dedicated, trauma-informed approach. My work in program management and community outreach centers on creating safe, supportive spaces, building genuine trust, and honoring Indigenous knowledge and perspectives. I understand that true student success requires holistic care—grounded in cultural safety, equity, and compassion. As a YCS trustee, I will bridge home, school, and community with deep empathy, ensuring our Catholic values actively support, uplift, and empower every child, family, and staff member across our district.