

# RYAN HEWLETT

Yellowknife Catholic Schools  
2026 Trustee Candidate Profile



## Biography:

Ryan Hewlett is a husband, father of two boys and long-time Northern community member who is running for trustee because he believes deeply in the importance of strong schools, strong relationships and a sense of belonging for every child. Ryan has spent more than 15 years in leadership and management roles, leading complex organizations, teams and programs across the Northwest Territories and British Columbia. His career has centred on building healthy organizations, supporting people, managing resources responsibly and leading meaningful change. He is known for being a thoughtful and attentive leader who listens carefully, trusts people to do their jobs, and works to create environments where people feel respected, supported and empowered to do their best. As a parent, Ryan has also experienced firsthand that children learn and experience the world in very different ways. These experiences have strengthened his belief that inclusion means more than simply having a place for every child—it means ensuring that every student is understood, valued and given the opportunity to succeed. Ryan grew up attending church and Christian schools and understands the lasting influence that faith, education, friendships and community can have on a young person's life. He is grateful for the strong sense of community and care he sees within Yellowknife Catholic Schools and hopes to contribute to its continued growth while helping prepare students for a changing world.

## Question 1: Why are you running for trustee?

I am running for trustee because I believe deeply in the importance of education and in the community that surrounds our schools. As a parent, I have seen how much children benefit when they feel known, valued and connected to the people around them. I have also learned that every child is different, and that listening to families and understanding individual needs is essential to helping students succeed. Throughout my career, I have led organizations through periods of significant change. My approach has always been to listen first, understand what people need, build trust and then work together toward practical solutions. I would bring that same approach to the Board. I care deeply about Catholic education and the sense of faith,

belonging and community that YCS provides. I want to help protect those strengths while ensuring our schools continue to adapt to the changing needs of students, families and our community.

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

I believe one of the significant challenges facing our schools is adapting to an increasingly complex and rapidly changing educational environment while ensuring that every student has the support they need to succeed. Children today are growing up in a world shaped by technology, artificial intelligence, changing economic circumstances and increasing diversity in learning needs. At the same time, schools must continue to provide strong academic foundations, meaningful relationships, well-being and a strong sense of community. I would approach this by listening carefully to students, families, teachers and staff and using evidence to understand where the greatest needs are. I would also support thoughtful innovation, professional development and partnerships that strengthen what is already working. I believe adaptation does not mean losing our identity. It means finding new ways to live our values and prepare our children for the world they will inherit.

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

I believe student success and Catholic education are deeply connected. Education is not only about academic achievement; it is also about helping young people develop character, compassion, confidence, curiosity and a sense of responsibility to others. I grew up attending church and Christian schools, and I experienced firsthand the lasting influence that faith, friendships, teachers and community can have on a young person's life. Those experiences shaped me and remain important to me today. I am proud of the sense of belonging and care that I see within Yellowknife Catholic Schools. Our children experience a community where faith is part of their daily lives and where many staff members know and care deeply about their students. As a trustee, I would support strong academic outcomes while also advocating for inclusive learning environments where children with different abilities, learning styles and circumstances are understood and supported. Every child should have the opportunity to feel that they belong and that they can succeed.

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

I bring a combination of professional leadership experience, experience working in the North, and the perspective of a parent who understands how important schools are to families and communities. Throughout my career, I have led complex organizations, multidisciplinary teams and significant operational budgets. I have experience with strategic planning, financial

management, conflict resolution, change management, policy, quality improvement and working with boards and senior leadership. One of the most important lessons I have learned as a leader is that people do their best work when they are listened to, trusted and supported. I have seen this transform organizations and workplace cultures. As a parent, I also understand that children do not all experience school in the same way. Their strengths, needs and circumstances can be very different. I would bring a thoughtful, research-informed and collaborative approach to the Board, with a willingness to listen, ask questions, consider different perspectives and make decisions with the long-term interests of students and the YCS community in mind.