

MELANIE WILLIAMS

Yellowknife Catholic Schools
2026 Trustee Candidate Profile



Biography:

Melanie, originally from Newfoundland, completed her Degree in Chemical Engineering in 2004. After graduating she accepted a position that offered extensive field work in the Arctic region. While working across the Arctic, Melanie felt a connection to the North and came to realize that this was where she was supposed to be. A job opportunity presented itself and Melanie jumped at the chance to move to Yellowknife and plant her roots. Melanie loves the outdoors and enjoys showing her children what the North has to offer. Melanie's children both attend Weledeh.

Question 1: Why are you running for trustee?

I am running for Trustee because I believe Catholic education plays a vital role in helping students grow academically, spiritually, and personally. Our schools are not only places of learning but also communities that nurture faith, character, and service to others.

As a Trustee, I want to help ensure that every student has access to a safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environment where they can reach their full potential. I am committed to listening to parents, students, staff, and community members and working collaboratively to make thoughtful decisions that reflect our Catholic values. I see this role as an opportunity to give back to our community and help strengthen Catholic education for current and future generations.

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

One of the biggest challenges facing Yellowknife Catholic Schools is meeting the diverse and evolving needs of students while ensuring they continue to receive a high-quality Catholic education. Students today require strong academic support, access to mental health and wellness resources, and opportunities to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

I would address this challenge by supporting evidence-based decision-making, advocating for resources where they are needed most, and maintaining open communication with families, educators, and community partners. I believe collaboration is essential to identifying priorities and finding practical solutions. As a trustee, I would work to ensure our schools remain welcoming, responsive, and focused on student well-being while staying grounded in the values and mission of Catholic education.

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

Student success and Catholic education go hand in hand. I believe students thrive when they are challenged academically, supported emotionally, and guided by strong values. As a trustee, I will support initiatives that promote excellence in learning, student well-being, and opportunities for every student to succeed.

At the same time, I will advocate for preserving and strengthening the Catholic identity of our schools through faith formation, service, respect for others, and community engagement. Catholic education provides students with a moral foundation that helps them become compassionate, responsible citizens. My goal is to support an environment where students achieve their academic goals while growing in faith, character, and a commitment to serving others.

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

I bring a strong commitment to community service, collaboration, and thoughtful leadership. I understand the importance of listening to different perspectives, asking questions, and making decisions that put students first. I believe effective trustees are approachable, accountable, and focused on the long-term success of both students and schools.

My perspective is shaped by my connection to the community and my belief in the value of Catholic education. I recognize the importance of balancing fiscal responsibility, educational excellence, and faith-based values. I am committed to working respectfully with fellow trustees, school leaders, families, and staff to support positive outcomes for students. I would bring dedication, integrity, and a genuine desire to help Yellowknife Catholic Schools continue to thrive.