



Recommending Synchronization of Trustee and Municipal Elections

Dear Parents:

In October 2018, a by-law to increase the term of office for Yellowknife City Council from three to four years was approved by voters during the municipal election. Before this change, municipal and school board elections were held simultaneously, which allowed Yellowknife Education District No. 1 (YK1) and Yellowknife Catholic Schools (YCS) to save tens of thousands of dollars on election enumeration, promotion and coordination costs.

Over the past two years, both YK1 and YCS have lobbied the GNWT's Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) to have the territory's Education Act amended so that Trustee election cycles (three-year terms) can once again be synchronized with the City of Yellowknife's elections. As it stands, the next Trustee election is scheduled for the fall of 2021 and the next municipal election is scheduled for the fall of 2022.

On Thursday, July 16, 2020, following a series of meetings with ECE, YK1 and YCS Trustees agreed to hold an election in the fall of 2021 for a one-year term. This election would allow for the synchronization of the election cycles for Trustees and the City of Yellowknife beginning in 2022.

Both school boards will also make a formal recommendation to ECE Minister R.J. Simpson for all future Trustee elections to remain synchronized with Yellowknife municipal elections. YK1 and YCS will do this in the form of board motions during their next public meetings, scheduled for **August 11, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.** and **August 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.** respectively.

Sincerely,

Yellowknife Education District No. 1
Yellowknife Catholic Schools



Timeline of Events

- **September 19, 2018:** YCS Board Motion - Aligning Board & Municipal Elections
- **October 15, 2018:** Municipal Election - Four-Year Council Terms Approved
- **October 2018 - January 2019:** YK1 PAC Discussions - Trustee Term Lengths
- **December 13, 2018 & November 26, 2019:** YK1 Meetings with Yellowknife MLAs
- **January 16, 2019:** YCS Notice of Motion & Notice to Parents - Lobby ECE for Legislative Change
- **January 23, 2019:** YK1 Press Release - Request to Extend Trustee Terms
- **February 12, 2019:** YK1 Board Motion - Four-Year Trustee Terms
- **February 20, 2019:** YCS Board Motion Passes (Lobby ECE for Legislative Change)
- **March 11, 2019:** Joint Letter to Minister - Education Act Amendment
- **March - April 2019:** YCS PAC Discussions - Trustee Term Lengths
- **June 28, 2019:** Joint Board of Trustees Meeting
- **Spring 2019 & February 3, 2020:** YCS Meetings with Yellowknife MLAs
- **January - March 2020:** YCS PAC Discussions - Trustee Term Lengths
- **March 10, 2020:** YK1 Notice of Motion - Trustee Term Lengths
- **March 20, 2020:** Joint Press Release - Trustee Term Issue
- **May 22 & June 30, 2020:** Joint Meetings with Minister of Education
- **July 16, 2020:** Joint Meeting - Synchronization of Elections
- **July 31, 2020:** Joint Public Notice - Recommending Synchronization ~~for~~of Elections
- **August 11, 2020:** YK1 Board Meeting - Recommending Synchronization ~~for~~of Elections
- **August 12, 2020:** YCS Board Meeting - Recommending Synchronization ~~for~~of Elections