

November 10, 2021

MEDIA ADVISORY

REFERENDUM VOTE FOR A YUKON FIRST NATION SCHOOL BOARD TO HELD IN JANUARY 2022

Elections Yukon will administer a referendum vote in January 2022 for those school attendance areas where a resolution was passed by school council or a petition to be part of a school board was accepted by the Minister of Education. If one or more referendum results support that school being part of a Yukon First Nations School Board (YFNSB), a school board will be established.

To date, the Minister of Education has accepted resolutions from five school councils. This will trigger a referendum vote for each of those school attendance areas on whether the school should join the First Nations School Board for the 2022/23 school year:

- **Chief Zzech Gittlit School (Old Crow)**
- **Grey Mountain Primary School (Whitehorse)**
- **Johnson Elementary School and Watson Lake Secondary School (Watson Lake)**
- **Ross River School (Ross River)**
- **St. Elias Community School (Haines Junction)**

Additional schools may be added. Communities without a school council resolution may still petition the Minister of Education to hold a referendum. This requires a petition signed by 20% of eligible electors in the attendance area. They must be received by the Minister of Education by **Monday, December 13, 2021 at noon**. Any community members considering petitioning should contact the Lori Choquette, [School Council Liaison](mailto:Lori.Choquette@yukon.ca) at the Department of Education (867-667-8226).

For a school to transition from a school council to the YFNSB, the referendum vote requires at least 50% +1 of the votes cast. If any school's referendum reaches this threshold, a territory-wide election will be held to elect five trustees to the board in March 2022.

Key dates:

- **October 30, 2021:** last day school councils could submit resolutions to the Minister of Education.
- **December 13, 2021:** last day the Minister will accept petitions. Petitions require the signatures of 20% of eligible voters in the attendance area. Petition kits are available by emailing Lori.Choquette@yukon.ca
- **January 5, 2022:** early application for mail-out referendum ballots opens.
- **January 11 to 27, 2022:** referendum voting period. Eligible electors will have multiple options to cast their vote.
- **February 28-March 28, 2022:** if one or more referendum votes support the school being part of the YFNSB, a school board election will be held.

“From an electoral perspective, the establishment of a school board follows a three-step process; the resolution or petition approval process to determine which schools will have a referendum vote, the referendum vote in each of those school attendance areas to determine if the school is to be part of a school board, and, if one or more schools is part of a school board, the election of trustees.”

Maxwell Harvey Chief Electoral Officer

Elections Yukon is actively recruiting Referendum Officers to support the vote in select communities. Individuals interested in contributing to a fair, transparent and impartial referendum vote or with other school elections, through paid employment in their community should email info@electionsyukon.ca.

For more information, contact:

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