



YUKON FIRST NATIONS Chiefs Committee on Education

c/o Council of Yukon First Nations
2166–2nd Avenue
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 4P1

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 12, 2022

YUKON FIRST NATIONS CHIEFS URGE FOR ACTION ON EDUCATION TO PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Whitehorse – The Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE) is presenting to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts in the Yukon Legislative Assembly today, Wednesday, January 12 (from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm) to respond to the Department of Education’s alarming lack of progress at fulfilling the recommendations in the *Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Yukon – Kindergarten Through Grade 12 Education in Yukon – Department of Education*.

The Auditor General’s Report confirms long-standing concerns of the CCOE, parents, students and First Nations communities. However, the history of failed agreements, and the current failing of the Department to meaningfully collaborate, gives Yukon First Nations little confidence that the report is going to result in any meaningful changes. As the issues underlying the report are complex, they require significant collective work to remediate. The CCOE believes that central to all work to address the report is the formation of genuine partnership between Yukon First Nations and the Department of Education.

The Department submitted their *Response Report – Audit 2019 Recommendations* to the Standing Committee of Public Accounts on September 29, 2021. The CCOE believes this report falsely leads the reader to believe that the Department is working in meaningful partnership with Yukon First Nations at addressing the Recommendations, when in reality, the Department continues to unilaterally control and diminish efforts from Yukon First Nations to contribute to solutions.

“We raised our concerns with the Department of Education in 2020 and continue to do so, and observe that the central issue remains unchanged: that collaboration and transparency based on a respectful government-to-government relationship have not been met.”

- Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation **Chief Dana Tizya-Tramm**, Chair of Chiefs Committee on Education

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