



## Yellowknife Catholic Schools

5124 49<sup>th</sup> Street • Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P4  
Office: (867) 766-7400 • Fax: (867) 766-7401



## Yellowknife Education District No. 1

5420 Franklin Avenue • Box 788, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N6  
Office: (867) 766-5050 • Fax: (867) 873-5051 • e-mail: yk1@yk1.nt.ca

### **CORRECTED (Oct.28, 2014) JOINT MEDIA RELEASE**

**- For Immediate Release -**

#### **YK School Chairs disappointed with Cabinet's response to MLA Motions**

On June 5, 2014, MLAs passed a motion to Cabinet requesting additional funding for the rollout of Junior Kindergarten (JK) in the NWT. JK has begun in small NWT communities this year and will be introduced in Yellowknife in 2016.

*"...the Legislative Assembly strongly recommends that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment identify and seek new funding to support the implementation of junior Kindergarten instead of reducing funding to any education districts;"*

MLAs recommended that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) identify and seek new funding to support the implementation of JK instead of reducing funding to any school district.

In their response, tabled in the Legislative Assembly on October 16, Cabinet continued to deny further funding and asserts:

- The GNWT already provides \$150 million a year to eight Education Authorities which they contend is \$17.5 million above the legislated funding level in 2013-14,
- Education Authorities have sufficient flexibility within their budgets to allow them to re-profile funds without negative impacts on K-12 programming.

**YK1 and YCS Chairs' response:** The funding reductions for each of our districts are substantial and will have a real impact upon each classroom in Yellowknife.

YCS and YK1 Boards have met with both Yellowknife MLAs and government over the course of the past year but have been unable to persuade the government to change its position on these cuts.

YK1 and YCS Chairs believe in the value of JK in preparing children to be successful in school and fully support the implementation of the program. However, they do not think it should be done at the expense of K-12 students. The funding reductions for Yellowknife K-12 programs for NWT JK implementation will be significant and ongoing.

**FUNDING REDUCTIONS FOR JK ROLLOUT  
SHOWING 3 YEAR ACCUMULATED FUNDING LOSS FOR YELLOWKNIFE**

*Based on conservative enrolment estimates*

	YK1 Yearly	YK1 Accumulated	YCS Yearly	YCS Accumulated	YELLOWKNIFE FUNDING REDUCTION
<b>2014/2015</b>	\$372,000	\$372,000	\$277,000	\$277,000	\$649,000
<b>2015/2016</b>	\$274,000	\$646,000	\$525,000	\$802,000	\$1,448,000
<b>2016/2017</b>	\$100,000	\$746,000	\$435,969	\$1,237,969	\$1,983,969
<b>Accumulated funding reduction</b>		<b>\$746,000</b>		<b>\$1,237,969</b>	<b>\$1,983,969</b>

*These figures represent bottom line figures after all other government funding additions are calculated. The funding reductions implemented in the first three years for the rollout of JK in the NWT will be ongoing for subsequent years.*

The financial impact of JK rollout is still of negative significance to our two boards. The financial impact to both Yellowknife boards is \$1,983,969. Both YK1 and YCS boards have been working to minimize cuts as they realize the importance of quality programming for student success. In the coming months, both YK1 and YCS will be reviewing how to absorb the cost of the funding reductions from the rollout of JK in the NWT while minimizing the impact on current programming.

As always, we welcome input from our stakeholders. Please contact:

**John Stephenson**

john.stephenson@yk1.nt.ca

YK1 Chair

or

**Simon Taylor**

staylor@ycs.nt.ca

YCS Chair