

From: Erin.MacDonald
Sent: August 4, 2021 9:54 AM
To: Matthew.Cameron; Renee.Francoeur
CC: cabinet-com
Subject: Media Response - CBC Hidden Valley
Attachments: DRAFT_MR_CBC_HVES_August4.doc

Good morning,

Just attaching the follow up email from Jackie Hong at CBC. I am not sure if there is anything further we can say at this time.

Cheers,



Erin MacDonald
Director, Community Relations and Engagement
Education
Office: 867-667-5701 Cell: 867-332-7008 | Yukon.ca

I respectfully acknowledge that I work within the traditional territory of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

From: Matthew.Cameron <Matthew.Cameron@yukon.ca>
Sent: August 4, 2021 8:47 AM
To: Erin.MacDonald <Erin.MacDonald@yukon.ca>; Renee.Francoeur <Renee.Francoeur@yukon.ca>
Cc: cabinet-com <cabinet-com@yukon.ca>
Subject: RE: approved media response

Thanks Erin!

Matthew Cameron
Cabinet Communications
867-332-0615

From: Erin.MacDonald <Erin.MacDonald@yukon.ca>
Sent: August 4, 2021 8:43 AM
To: Renee.Francoeur <Renee.Francoeur@yukon.ca>
Cc: cabinet-com <cabinet-com@yukon.ca>
Subject: RE: approved media response

Good morning,

Just confirming that I have sent this response to all three reporters listed below.

Cheers,



Erin MacDonald
Director, Community Relations and Engagement
Education
Office: 867-667-5701 Cell: 867-332-7008 | Yukon.ca

I respectfully acknowledge that I work within the traditional territory of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

From: Renee.Francoeur <Renee.Francoeur@yukon.ca>

Sent: August 3, 2021 5:19 PM

To: Erin.MacDonald <Erin.MacDonald@yukon.ca>

Cc: cabinet-com <cabinet-com@yukon.ca>

Subject: approved media response

Hi Erin:

Below is the approved response for the Hidden Valley media inquiries:

As this matter is now before the courts, we are not in a position to comment further at this time.

Where there is concern that a child or youth is being victimized, we urge families to reach out to the RCMP, the school, or the Government of Yukon's Victim Services Branch (1-800-661-0408, ext: 8500) who can offer specialized support through Project Lynx to support children and youth victims of crime and their families.

Please send this response to Tim at the Whitehorse Star (tim@whitehorsestar.com), Haley Ritchie at Yukon News (haley.ritchie@yukon-news.com) and Jackie Hong at CBC, as these are the 3 media outlets that have requested comment.

Thank you,

RF



Renée Francoeur (She/Her)
Communications Advisor
Cabinet Office | Government of Yukon
Box 2703 Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6
C 867-334-9194 | Yukon.ca

I respectfully acknowledge that I work within the traditional territory of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

Media Response

Time/Date	August 4, 2021 9:45 a.m.
News org, name of reporter & phone number/contact	Jackie Hong CBC Jackie.hong@cbc.ca
Topic	Hidden Valley sexual abuse
Questions	See below
News deadline	
Story to appear	TBD
Others contacted by the reporter	
Recommended spokesperson	Written response from EDU department
Time/Date interview completed	

Question:

This is follow-up correspondence based on our initial response to her questions.

This did not answer any of my questions. I am not asking for comment on the lawsuit.

The matter of if and when the department or school ever notified parents of the situation is not before the courts.

The ending of the employment of the EA is not before the courts.

You also did not provide any comment or acknowledgement of the systemic review launched by the child and youth advocate, as we had discussed on the phone yesterday. That matter is, again, not before the courts.

Again, I ask — did the department at any point notify parents about the criminal charges against or eventual convict of the EA? When did the EA cease being an employ of Hidden Valley?

The Yukon child and youth advocate has launched a systemic review of safety and supports at Hidden Valley. She has also made some immediate recommendations; such as have a social worker assigned to the school. Will the department be cooperating with the review, and will it act on the advocate's immediate recommendations?

Recommended Response:

We have no further comment at this time.

From: ecoinfo

Sent: August 4, 2021 10:23 AM

Subject: Media monitoring August 4, 2021 a.m.

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Wednesday, August 4, 2021

CBC interviews, 6 to 8:30 a.m.

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Local news

- [New report says Indigenous and racialized women face abuse at mining camps in the Yukon and northern BC \(CBC 6:30 a.m.\)](#)
- [RCMP arrested a man from Burnaby for trafficking cocaine in Whitehorse \(CHON 7:30 a.m.\)](#)
- [UPDATE: New report says Indigenous and racialized women face abuse at mining camps in the Yukon and northern BC \(CBC 7:30 a.m.\)](#)
- [Report documents 'degrading' treatment of Indigenous and racialized women at Yukon and B.C. mine \(CBC online\)](#)

Territorial news

- [Yukon lifts pandemic restrictions today \(CBC 6:30 a.m.\)](#)
- [Emergency officials issue an evacuation alert because of wildfires in the Dawson City area \(CBC 6:30 a.m.\)](#)
- [A student at F.H. Collins Secondary School in Whitehorse files a defamation lawsuit \(CBC 6:30 a.m.\)](#)
- [Seven new cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed by Yukon health officials \(CKRW 7 a.m.\)](#)
- [The use of masks is still strongly encouraged in public spaces by both the government and the City of Whitehorse \(CKRW 7 a.m.\)](#)
- [MLA Brad Cathers says the Yukon government has kept parents in the dark after a former educational assistant was convicted of sexual interference with a child \(CKRW 7 a.m.\)](#)
- [Yukon's Emergency Measures Organisation has issued an evacuation alert for several areas in the Dawson fire district \(CKRW 7 a.m.\)](#)
- [Masks are no longer mandatory in the territory but establishments can still ask patrons to wear them \(CHON 7:30 a.m.\)](#)
- [Yukon Wildland Fire Management is using Forward Rate of Growth Sensors, also known as "fire frogs" to monitor fires \(CHON 7:30 a.m.\)](#)
- [UPDATE: Yukon lifts pandemic restrictions today \(CBC 7:30 a.m.\)](#)
- [UPDATE: Emergency officials issue an evacuation alert because of wildfires in the Dawson City area \(CBC 7:30 a.m.\)](#)
- [Yukon's child and youth advocate Annette King launches safety review of Hidden Valley Elementary School \(CBC 7:30 a.m.\)](#)
- [REPEAT: Yukon's Emergency Measures Organisation has issued an evacuation alert for several areas in the Dawson fire district \(CKRW 8 a.m.\)](#)
- [REPEAT: Seven new cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed by Yukon health officials \(CKRW 8 a.m.\)](#)
- [REPEAT: The use of masks is still strongly encouraged in public spaces by both the government and the City of Whitehorse \(CKRW 8 a.m.\)](#)
- [Mask mandate, self-isolation after domestic travel, ends today in Yukon \(CBC online\)](#)
- [Whitehorse student accused of sexual assault on Facebook files defamation lawsuit \(CBC online\)](#)

National news

- [Experts say the number of COVID-19 cases caused by the Delta variant is doubling every seven to 10 days in BC \(CKRW 7 a.m.\)](#)
- [Canada's Chief Electoral Officer is warning that Canadians may have to wait a few days to learn the final results of a federal election \(CKRW 7 a.m.\)](#)
- [A look at COVID-19 reopening plans across the country \(Toronto Star\)](#)

International news

- [The extradition case of Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou is entering the final phase \(CKRW 8 a.m.\)](#)
- [There were more than four million new COVID-19 cases reported globally last week \(CKRW 8 a.m.\)](#)

Tuesday, August 3, 2021

CBC interviews, 4 to 6 p.m.

4:07 M. Rajhans, Tech Columnist, CBC, "Rajhans covers the use of QR codes"

4:18 J. Osler, Reporter, CBC, "Osler interviews people on the street about watching the Olympics"

4:25 "CBC Olympics update"

4:40 J. Duchesne, Fire Information Officer, Yukon Wildland Fire Management, "Duchesne talks about evacuation alerts"

4:45 D. Phillips, Marsh Lake resident, "Phillips talks about witnessing extreme winds"

4:49 B. Fiddler, Artistic Director, Guild Hall, "Fiddler promotes the 'Round Back concert series"

5:07 M. Jorgenson, Filmmaker, "Jorgenson talks about the Mad Trapper Albert Johnson"

5:19 S. Flemming, Soccer Coach, "Flemming talks about his work coaching in Yukon"

5:25 "CBC Olympics update"

5:40 J. Tetro, Microbiologist, "Tetro talks about trials of COVID-19 vaccines for children"

5:49 J. Sharkey, Reporter, CBC, "Sharkey reports on Little Free Diverse Libraries"

5:54 C. Mah, Research Associate, Smithsonian Institute, "Mah talks about discovering a yellow sponge and pink seastar that resembled Spongebob Squarepants and Patrick"

Local news

Monday's thunderstorm severely hit Caribou RV Park with extreme winds (CBC 5:30 p.m.)

Monday night's thunderstorm in southern Yukon could have caused some campers serious injury if it weren't for some quick action by Steve Berger. He owns the Caribou RV Park on the Alaska Highway south of Whitehorse. Berger says the rainstorm was preceded by high wind that posed a danger to some of his tent dwellers. "And then I saw one of my big trees just getting rooted out. So it didn't even break. It was really like whipped out of the soil with full roots. Then I knew this was really, really serious." Berger says he corralled the tenters into a building in the RV park and they watched the storm roll by. He says the storm lasted about 10 minutes. Berger says he's happy several trees were cut down on the property last week. He says that could have made the situation even worse.

Raven Recycling is inviting Yukoners to send in photos of abandoned cars and trucks for a photo contest (CBC 5:30 p.m.)

There's a photo contest on, and it's to raise awareness about a sneaky environmental issue. Yukoners are invited to send in photos of abandoned cars and trucks. Raven Recycling is running the contest with the goal of reminding people not to dump their vehicles in the woods when they're done with them. They say old cars pose a serious environmental threat over time. Megan McLeod speaks for Raven Recycling. "They definitely pose an environmental issue like leaching toxic fluids into our environment, such as oil, gas, refrigerants. Even after a vehicle was removed, there'll still be those toxins in the soil that'll be causing damage to the soil and to our wilderness." McLeod says Raven offers a vehicle recycling service that costs \$325.

Hiking mishap claims man's life (Whitehorse Star)

A well-known Yukon resident died from a fall last Thursday while hiking in the Carcross area. [full story](#).

City is advising mask use (Whitehorse Star)

Things could look a little different at City of Whitehorse facilities tomorrow. [full story](#).

Storm cuts power to thousands of residents (Whitehorse Star)

Monday evening's lightning and thunderstorm played havoc with the electrical grid, causing several power outages across the territory. [full story](#).

The loon makes a grand return to McLean Lake (Whitehorse Star)

A fabulistic music-driven evening evoking our humanity, and stirring our imaginations. [full story](#).

Major avenue being repaved (Whitehorse Star)

Work began Monday to improve the surface of Fourth Avenue. [full story](#).

YukonU prepares for return to campus this fall (Whitehorse Star)

Yukon University students can expect many of their fall semester classes at Ayamdigut campus in Whitehorse to be in-person next month, and masks will not be mandatory. [full story](#).

Territorial news

An evacuation alert has been issued for people close to a wildfire burning near Dawson City (CBC 5:30 p.m.)

An evacuation alert has been issued for people in an area near a wildfire burning in the Dawson City area. Fire Information Officer Julia Duchesne says the fire in the area has picked up in the last 24 hours. The Coal Creek fire is about 6,000 hectares in size. That's roughly equivalent to 12,000 football fields. Duchesne says the evacuation alert is for people to prepare in case the situation gets worse. "Now, sitting about seven kilometres northeast of Henderson Corner and about 5.5 kilometres away from the North Klondike Highway. So the alert has been issued for Henderson Corner, Rock Creek, the Dawson Airport and some properties along the highway." Duchesne says anyone in those areas needs to be prepared to leave on short notice. She says the fire is Wildland Fire Management's top priority right now. Duchesne says an air tanker group and seven fire crews are in Dawson to fight the fire. She says the Coal Creek fire flared up as rain in the southern Yukon has helped control fires there. That freed up resources to fight the fire in Dawson.

Preparations are being made in case people are evacuated from their homes due to fires near Dawson City (CBC 5:30 p.m.)

In Dawson City, preparations are being made in case people are evacuated from their homes. Mayor Wayne Potoroka says local fire crews and Yukon Protective Services are responding to the fire. He says if there's an evacuation order, residents will have a place to go. "No one is going to be without somewhere to sleep if an evacuation order is in fact, issued. It's not clear if that's actually going to occur yet. No one's going to be left out. But if you right now got that alert, I would definitely be thinking about contacting family and friends to make sure that you have somewhere to go." Potoroka says in a worst case scenario, the town would offer its recreation centre as a temporary shelter. He asked that people in the vicinity of the fire be ready to leave if necessary and Potoroka says people in town are ready to help.

Most of the Yukon government's COVID-19 restrictions will be lifted tomorrow (CBC 5:30 p.m.)

Most of the Yukon government's COVID-19 restrictions will be lifted tomorrow, Yukoners will be able to visit stores and restaurants without wearing a mask or staying physically distanced. Chris Irvin is Mayor of Watson Lake and he owns the local Tags grocery store. He says he understands if local business owners decide to follow the government's decision and remove their restrictions but he says he'll continue to ask his employees to keep wearing masks at work. "It's tough for retail that have had a couple tough years to, you know, enforce that kind of a thing because you don't want to deter people from being in your retail locations. So we just use the 'if you feel comfortable with the mask please wear one' and we also encourage our staff." Irvin says everyone in Watson Lake is doing their best to keep one another safe, and he's encouraging people in the community to get their COVID-19

vaccinations. The Yukon government is reporting this afternoon seven new cases of COVID-19 in the territory. Six of those cases are in Whitehorse. One is in an unidentified rural community. There are currently 61 active COVID-19 cases.

Evacuation alert issued for areas around Dawson due to wildfires (Yukon News)

The Yukon Emergency Measures Organization has issued an evacuation alert for an area northeast of Dawson City due to an approaching wildfire. [full story](#).

Whitehorse school under scrutiny after conviction of educational assistant (CBC online)

Yukon's Child and Youth Advocate is doing a "systemic review" of safety at a Whitehorse school after a former educational assistant was convicted for sexual interference against a special needs student. [full story](#).

Wildfire prompts evacuation alert near Dawson City, Yukon (CBC online)

An evacuation alert has been issued for some properties east of Dawson City, Yukon — including the local airport — because of a nearby wildfire. [full story](#).

7 new cases of COVID-19 in Yukon (CBC online)

Yukon is reporting seven new cases of COVID-19, confirmed between noon Monday and noon Tuesday. [full story](#).

Assessment of property 'hard decision': Mostyn (Whitehorse Star)

Community Services Minister Richard Mostyn doesn't deny he told the owner of a recreational property near Marsh Lake that her home might have to be sacrificed for the greater good. [full story](#).

Seventy fires burning around the territory (Whitehorse Star)

Following Monday evening's thunderstorms, 70 fires are burning across the Yukon today. [full story](#).

COVID claims person in their 40s (Whitehorse Star)

The lingering COVID-19 outbreak in the Yukon has claimed the life of a sixth person since June 1. [full story](#).

Storm had minimal impact on flood control (Whitehorse Star)

Monday evening's fierce rainstorms were not as damaging to flood-control efforts as they might have been. [full story](#).

National news

Cambridge Bay elders' gathering place vandalized (Yukon News)

A gathering place for Cambridge Bay's elders was trashed on Tuesday when vandals ripped doors off their hinges, threw eggs on the walls and splattered paint on leather couches, other furniture and the floor. [full story](#).

Wednesday, August 4, 2021

CBC interviews, 6 to 8:30 a.m.

6:15 V. Esses, Western University, "Canada reopens immigration process after long COVID delays"
6:20 P. DeMont, CBC Business Reporter, "CBC Business Report"
6:25 S. Regehr, CBC Sports Reporter, "CBC Olympic Report"
6:40 S. Bull, CBC Sports Reporter, "Behind the Rings: Paralympics"
6:50 S. Marwaha, University of Toronto, "Canada considers giving third dose booster shot to immune compromised citizens to protect against COVID"
7:15 J. Duchesne, Yukon Wildland Fire, "Yukon government issues an evacuation notice for some Dawson City residents"
7:25 S. Regehr, CBC Sports Reporter, "CBC Olympic Report"
7:40 P. Mills, CBC Sports Reporter, "CBC Sports Report"
7:45 T. MacPhee, Yukon Minister of Health, "Yukon government lifts COVID-19 restrictions across the territory"
8:15 J. Burk, Environment Canada, "Most species of birds in Canada are protected under the Migratory Bird Act"
8:25 S. Regehr, CBC Sports Reporter, "CBC Olympic Report"

CHON-FM interviews, 6 to 9 a.m.

8:05 K. White, Leader of the Yukon NDP, "White talks about easing of COVID restrictions and more"
8:43 "Techtrends segment about Google's new smartphones"

Local news

New report says Indigenous and racialized women face abuse at mining camps in the Yukon and northern BC (CBC 6:30 a.m.)

And finally, a new report says Indigenous and racialized women face abuse at mining camps in the Yukon and northern BC. The report was commissioned by the Liard Aboriginal Women Society. It says women tend to be given menial jobs and earn less than their male counterparts. Ann Maje Raider is executive director of the Liard Aboriginal Women Society. She says the report highlights that change is long overdue. "What we're wanting to do is use this report and to develop policies and reporting mechanisms within the mines that doesn't risk, or jeopardise the jobs of women, so they feel safe. Maje Raider says an ombudsman position should be created to oversee problems impacting women at mines. She says First Nation women should be involved in policymaking. The report also says onsite women's groups should be established. It says they could provide recourse for women who may be in dangerous situations.

RCMP arrested a man from Burnaby for trafficking cocaine in Whitehorse (CHON 7:30 a.m.)

Yukon RCMP say that on July 29th they arrested 25-year-old Nathali George of Burnaby, British Columbia, in a hotel parking lot in Whitehorse for trafficking cocaine. A search of his vehicle resulted in the seizure of two small packages of what is believed to be cocaine packaged for sale on the street, \$200 and two cell phones. The vehicle was also seized. Police also searched his hotel room and found several packages of various sizes containing what is believed to be crack and powder cocaine in both bulk and resell quantities. The RCMP also found over \$10,000, two more cell phones, a digital scale and packaging materials. George is charged with trafficking schedule one and possesses proceeds of crime over \$5,000.

UPDATE: New report says Indigenous and racialized women face abuse at mining camps in the Yukon and northern BC (CBC 7:30 a.m.)

A new report says Indigenous and racialized women often face abuse at mines in the Yukon and northern BC. The report was released by the Liard Aboriginal Women Society and says there are long running systemic problems that need to be addressed. Julien Gignac reports. A third of the 22 women included in the report say they faced harassment, discrimination and violence at mines. The report says compounding the problem is that some women don't have a way to file grievances. Ann Maje Raider is the executive director of the Liard Aboriginal Women Society. She says the report sheds light on long standing problems. "They said they wanted change and they don't want to see other women coming behind them to suffer the same things as they have." The report says women are often tasked with working menial, low paying jobs for long uncompensated hours. Carla Boss interviewed some of the women. She says First Nation women should be involved in policymaking. Boss says that could introduce more cultural awareness at mines. "The women would feel safer if they had a couple of Elders or somebody up there." The report says. Onsite women's groups should be created. It says that will provide a safety net for women in dangerous situations.

Report documents 'degrading' treatment of Indigenous and racialized women at Yukon and B.C. mine (CBC online)

She had a ritual, one in which involved loading and reloading a shotgun in front of a group of men. [full story](#).

Territorial news

Yukon lifts pandemic restrictions today (CBC 6:30 a.m.)

Today is the day that many pandemic restrictions lift in the Yukon. Gone are rules requiring masks and indoor public spaces, as well as capacity limits for restaurants and self-isolation requirements for travellers. That leaves each Yukon community with the option of bringing in its own rules. Though, as we've been hearing this week, some leaders say there's been a scramble to get that in place. Chris McIntyre has more. Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Chief Steve Smith says there should be more time before restrictions are lifted. Smith says it's difficult to plan the next steps right now. "You know, there's cases within the community on a weekly basis. It's something that is just going to be challenging, moving in the future. And to say we're going to go one way or the other with such a fluid situation would be, I think, a little bit too presumptive." In Carmacks, Mayor Lee Bodie says he agrees with the government's decision, but he notes it's important that certain rules remain in place. "You know, it's a good thing that some things are being lifted. But again, because of the six cases themselves, I would think that the logical thing to do would be for customer relations people to still be wearing masks if you're talking to a lot of people." Here in Whitehorse, masks won't be mandatory. Plexiglass and floor decals will remain for a while. And the city is encouraging staff working in city facilities and transit users to continue to wear masks. Also starting today, businesses, public and private transit and recreation centres can all decide for themselves whether or not they will ask people to wear masks. So, you should check on your way in before assuming that you don't need one. Masks are also still required at places like doctors offices, dentists and in airports. The territory is reporting seven new cases of COVID-19 as of yesterday afternoon.

Emergency officials issue an evacuation alert because of wildfires in the Dawson City area (CBC 6:30 a.m.)

Emergency officials have issued an evacuation alert because of wildfires in the Dawson City area. The alert applies to homes on the North Klondike Highway between Hunker Creek Road and Henderson Corner. It also includes the Dawson City Airport, which remains open for now. The alert means people should be ready to leave their homes on short notice. The Coal Creek fire has grown significantly to about 6,000 hectares. It's located seven kilometres from Henderson Corner, west of the Dempster Highway. The Brewery Creek fire is 18 kilometres north of the North Klondike Highway,

east of Dawson City. Dawson Mayor Wayne Potoroka says local fire crews and Yukon protection services are responding. He says if there's an evacuation order, residents will have a place to go. "No one is going to be without somewhere to sleep if an evacuation order is in fact issued. And it's not clear if that's actually going to occur yet. No one's going to be left out. But you right now got that alert. I would definitely be thinking about contacting family and friends to make sure that you have somewhere to go." Potoroka says in a worst case scenario, the town would offer its recreation centre as a temporary shelter. He asks people in the vicinity of the fire to be ready to leave if necessary.

A student at F.H. Collins Secondary School in Whitehorse files a defamation lawsuit (CBC 6:30 a.m.)

A student at F.H. Collins Secondary School in Whitehorse has filed a defamation lawsuit. A student identified only by his initials filed a statement of claim to the Yukon Supreme Court last month. He alleges a Facebook post written in May that was written by a Whitehorse resident ruined his life. The post falsely claimed the student had sexually assaulted multiple girls at the school. The lawsuit says the student received death threats and had to stop attending classes for his own safety. The claims in the lawsuit have not been tested in court.

Seven new cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed by Yukon health officials (CKRW 7 a.m.)

Seven new cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed by Yukon health officials. Six of the cases are in Whitehorse and one is based in a rural community. The active case count in the territory is now at 61. There have been a total of 548 cases of COVID-19 confirmed since June 1st.

The use of masks is still strongly encouraged in public spaces by both the government and the City of Whitehorse (CKRW 7 a.m.)

While the Yukon government's mandate on wearing masks in indoor public spaces has been lifted as of today, the use of masks is still strongly encouraged in public spaces by both the government and the City of Whitehorse. City officials are encouraging residents to wear a mask while inside any of the city's facilities or while riding transit. Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Brendan Hanley is also encouraging mask use particularly when people are in crowded close quarters where it is difficult to physically distance. Facilities such as retail and grocery stores, as well as bars and restaurants, have the right to request that all clients wear masks when inside their space.

MLA Brad Cathers says the Yukon government has kept parents in the dark after a former educational assistant was convicted of sexual interference with a child (CKRW 7 a.m.)

Lake Laberge MLA Brad Cathers is calling for better communication and transparency from the Yukon government in light of a serious crime having taken place at Hidden Valley Elementary School. Brad Cathers says the Yukon government, as well as the Department of Education, have kept parents in the dark after a former educational assistant was convicted of sexual interference with a child at the school. He is calling for supports to be made available as soon as possible. "Counselling and support is made available without further delay to parents, students and staff who may need it. As well as calling for answers and better communication from the government." Cathers says parents have had questions regarding their children's safety, questions that have been left unanswered.

Yukon's Emergency Measures Organisation has issued an evacuation alert for several areas in the Dawson fire district (CKRW 7 a.m.)

Yukon's Emergency Measures Organisation has issued an evacuation alert for several areas in the Dawson fire district. Properties along the North Klondike Highway from km 680 to Hunker Creek Road, the Dawson Airport, Henderson Corner and Rock Creek are all under evacuation alert. Residents and visitors in the affected area must prepare to be ready to evacuate on short notice. This alert is due to the Coal Creek fire that is approximately 5.5 kilometres northeast of the North Klondike Highway. The fire spread seven kilometres to the southwest. Similar winds and burning conditions are forecast for today. An evacuation order may be issued should the fire shift in a way that presents additional hazards and risks to residents of the affected areas.

Masks are no longer mandatory in the territory but establishments can still ask patrons to wear them (CHON 7:30 a.m.)

As of today, masks are no longer mandatory in the territory. Establishments can still ask patrons to don a face covering, though one place you won't have to wear a mask is Yukon University in Whitehorse. This September, many of the University's classes will return to in-person learning for the first time in 16 months. The school's interim President and Vice Chancellor, Dr. Maggie Matear, says they're confident that with vaccination rates high and the green light from Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Brendan Hanley, they can safely bring students back to the classroom. "Faculty have started to return gradually over the last couple of months, and just the energy of having more people in the institution has been fabulous. And we know that when the students come, it's going to increase the vibrancy of our institution, it is going to bring in that extra energy, you know, and having students around is inspiring. Young people who are enthusiastic about their futures and working with us to make that happen, it's always very inspiring for us. So we're looking forward to it." Matear says that when school starts, students should stay home if they're feeling sick or symptomatic.

Yukon Wildland Fire Management is using Forward Rate of Growth Sensors, also known as "fire frogs" to monitor fires (CHON 7:30 a.m.)

Wildland Fire Management has some fancy new equipment and they are a Yukon invention called "fire frogs." But they don't ribbit or eat flies. Wildland Fire Management Communications Officer Julia Duchesne explains. "Fire frogs are little devices that actually get dropped from a helicopter onto the front lines of a fire. And they take a reading to tell us what's happening on the ground with the fire and help us understand how a fire is moving." The name is an acronym for Forward Rate of Growth Sensors, and the readings they take are temperature and barometric pressure. The devices are the result of collaboration between Yukon Wildland Fire Management and Yukon's Advanced Sensor Research. They help to better understand how wildfires behave, which keeps communities safe. The little plastic boxes with big orange parachutes get dropped two at a time, one at the front of the fire where it's too dangerous to send people and another where the fire is expected to move. Another device communicates with the frogs via radio waves to get real time data. "We research fires that are set for research purposes. There's a bit of a gap between that and our understanding of what actually happens with a free-burning wildfire. So the frog is really helping us address that gap by getting data on real fires in real time." The frogs were successfully deployed for the first time on Sunday on the blaze currently burning in Ta'tla Mun and they're already teaching fire scientists new things. "We actually learnt something pretty cool. You'd expect that the fire frog would read sort of increasing temperatures, that the temperatures would go up and up as the fire got closer. But actually, right before the frog burned and stopped submitting readings, the temperature dropped a little bit. So that's a cool thing that helped us learn about fires. Our hypothesis is that as the fire burns, it pulls in cooler air from in front of it." Duchesne says the Yukon is the only place with fire frogs, but they would like to see the greater firefighting community put them to use. The frogs are already a useful tool, but they could become even more handy. Duchesne says they hope to tweak them in the future to read humidity and composition of gases in the air.

UPDATE: Yukon lifts pandemic restrictions today (CBC 7:30 a.m.)

A number of pandemic restrictions have now been lifted in the Yukon. That includes rules requiring masks in indoor public spaces, as well as capacity limits for restaurants and self-isolation requirements for travellers. Communities are able to make their own decisions about rules going forward, though some leaders have said the change came too fast for them to get their own in place. In Dawson City Mayor Wayne Potoroka says the people in town are excited to get more of their freedom back. But he says the town can't rush to lift every restriction just yet. "From the municipal perspective, there's still some things that need to be worked out regarding our facilities, just to make sure that we know what the guidelines are, or how to safely conduct recreation programs as an example. I think it's safe to say, though, that there's going to be some wrinkles that need to be worked

out." Potoroka says it's also up to individual business owners to decide on what regulations they apply. So, you should check on your way into businesses before assuming that you don't need a mask inside. Masks are also still required at places like doctors offices, dentists and in airports.

UPDATE: Emergency officials issue an evacuation alert because of wildfires in the Dawson City area (CBC 7:30 a.m.)

Meanwhile, there are other concerns on the minds of some Dawson City residents. That's after an evacuation alert was issued for some properties due to a growing wildfire. The alert applies to homes on the North Klondike Highway between Hunker Creek Road and Kilometre 680. It also includes the Dawson City Airport, which remains open for now, as well as Henderson Corner and Rock Creek. Dawson City itself, though, is not threatened, officials say. There is some good news this morning, however. Fire Information Officer Julia Duchesne spoke with Yukon Morning just a few minutes ago. She says that the fire grew less quickly than expected yesterday. "It showed pretty low fire behaviour on the south flank, which is one that's closest to the highway into Rock Creek and Henderson Corner. And it had been growing pretty actively to the east, which is towards the Dempster Highway. But then in the evening, we received some rain that we hadn't expected." Despite that slower growth, the evacuation alert does remain in place. But Duchesne did say current conditions bode well. She also underlines that people under the alert should be ready to leave at a moment's notice, but for now, they can stay in their homes. There are about 70 fires in total still burning in the Yukon.

Yukon's child and youth advocate Annette King launches safety review of Hidden Valley Elementary School (CBC 7:30 a.m.)

And finally, Yukon's child and youth advocate Annette King has launched a systemic review of safety and supports at Hidden Valley Elementary School. It comes after a CBC story last month that revealed an educational assistant at the school had sexually abused a student in 2019. King says she's heard concerns from parents. She says the review is about ensuring children, educators and parents get the support that they need. "Our intention for this review is not to catch somebody that did something wrong or blame anybody. It's to take charge and show that the professionals can do this to support the families. We really just want the children to feel safe to go to school. And in order to do that, the families need to feel supported." King says she expects the review will be completed by January. In the meantime, she has made immediate recommendations for education officials to act on. They include assigning a full-time social worker and clinical counsellor to Hidden Valley Elementary.

REPEAT: Yukon's Emergency Measures Organisation has issued an evacuation alert for several areas in the Dawson fire district (CKRW 8 a.m.)

Yukon's Emergency Measures Organisation has issued an evacuation alert for several areas in the Dawson fire district. Properties along the North Klondike Highway from km 680 to Hunker Creek Road, the Dawson Airport, Henderson Corner and Rock Creek are all under evacuation alert. Residents and visitors in the affected area must prepare to be ready to evacuate on short notice. This alert is due to the Coal Creek fire that is approximately 5.5 kilometres northeast of the North Klondike Highway. The fire spread seven kilometres to the southwest. Similar winds and burning conditions are forecast for today. An evacuation order may be issued should the fire shift in a way that presents additional hazards and risks to residents of the affected areas.

REPEAT: Seven new cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed by Yukon health officials (CKRW 8 a.m.)

Seven new cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed by Yukon health officials. Six of the cases are in Whitehorse and one is based in a rural community. The active case count in the territory is now at 61. There have been a total of 548 cases of COVID-19 confirmed since June 1st.

REPEAT: The use of masks is still strongly encouraged in public spaces by both the government and the City of Whitehorse (CKRW 8 a.m.)

While the Yukon government's mandate on wearing masks in indoor public spaces has been lifted as of today, the use of masks is still strongly encouraged in public spaces by both the government and the City of Whitehorse. City officials are encouraging residents to wear a mask while inside any of the city's facilities or while riding transit. Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Brendan Hanley is also encouraging mask use particularly when people are in crowded close quarters where it is difficult to physically distance. Facilities such as retail and grocery stores, as well as bars and restaurants, have the right to request that all clients wear masks when inside their space.

UPDATE: MLA Brad Cathers says the Yukon government has kept parents in the dark after a former educational assistant was convicted of sexual interference with a child (CKRW 8 a.m.)

The MLA for Lake Laberge is calling for better communication and transparency from the Yukon government in light of a serious crime having taken place at Hidden Valley Elementary School. Brad Cathers says his constituents are demanding answers about the lack of communication from the Yukon government and the Department of Education after a former educational assistant was convicted of sexual interference with a child at the school. "Parents are still telling me that they've not been contacted by the Minister of Education or the department about this serious matter. So the real heart of the situation is that people trust their children will be safe at school. They also expect that if that safety is compromised, the government will immediately inform them of what happened." Cathers is calling for Education Minister Jeanie McLean to tell parents about when the department was first made aware of the incident and what actions were initially taken.

Mask mandate, self-isolation after domestic travel, ends today in Yukon (CBC online)

Yukoners will no longer need to wear masks in public spaces or self-isolate in the territory after domestic travel, and the changes are being met with mixed reviews. [full story](#).

Whitehorse student accused of sexual assault on Facebook files defamation lawsuit (CBC online)

A Whitehorse youth falsely accused on Facebook of sexually assaulting fellow students at F.H. Collins Secondary School has filed a defamation lawsuit against the author of the post. [full story](#).

National news

Experts say the number of COVID-19 cases caused by the Delta variant is doubling every seven to 10 days in BC (CKRW 7 a.m.)

Experts say the number of COVID-19 cases caused by the Delta variant is doubling every seven to 10 days in British Columbia. Paul Tupper, a mathematics professor at Simon Fraser University, says the Delta variant is a large part of the reason for the increase in COVID-19 cases in the province. "And so that means three people getting infected on average, we've got four or five people getting infected on average, and that's bad news. So we're going to see that in the Delta. The delta is the variant that is going to take off relative to other ones. And that means we can't get away with doing the same amount of restrictions that we were before without case numbers growing rapidly." He says it makes sense to have some COVID-19 restrictions in place until more people get vaccinated.

Canada's Chief Electoral Officer is warning that Canadians may have to wait a few days to learn the final results of a federal election (CKRW 7 a.m.)

Canada's Chief Electoral Officer is warning that Canadians may have to wait a few days to learn the final results of a federal election held during COVID-19 pandemic. Stéphane Perrault says election officials won't begin counting an expected large volume of mail-in ballots until the day after the election. "The length of time it will take to count the ballots is part of the process as designed. It's not an accident. It's not a sign of things going wrong but in fact, it's part of the process, as we've designed it, in these very unique circumstances of the pandemic." Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is widely

expected to pull the plug on his minority Liberal government later this month for an election in mid to late September.

Nunavut has released a pandemic transition plan (CHON 7:30 a.m.)

Looking at the COVID situation with our neighbours to the north, yesterday Nunavut released *Nunavut's Path Forward: Living With COVID-19*. It's a document supporting the territory as it transitions from a pandemic response to a long-term response to adapt to COVID-19 as a vaccine-preventable disease. Nunavut's Chief Public Health Officer says people living in the territory are no longer required to wear masks, but they are still strongly encouraged. The mask mandate was dropped late last week after being in place for about eight weeks. Dr. Michael Patterson says indoor public gatherings such as in community halls, are now allowed to have 75 percent capacity. Restaurants, bars, theatres and places of worship can open to 75 percent capacity, and there are no limits on outdoor gatherings. There are currently no active infections in Nunavut.

A look at COVID-19 reopening plans across the country (Toronto Star)

As COVID-19 vaccination rates increase and case numbers drop across the country, the provinces and territories have begun releasing the reopening plans for businesses, events and recreational facilities. [full story](#).

International news

The extradition case of Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou is entering the final phase (CKRW 8 a.m.)

The extradition case of Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou is entering the final phase in BC's Supreme Court. The U.S. wants Meng on allegations she misled HSBC about Huawei's relationship with another company, putting the bank at risk of violating American sanctions against Iran. China responded to Meng's arrest at Vancouver Airport in December of 2018 by detaining Canadians Michael Spavor and Michael Kovrig.

There were more than four million new COVID-19 cases reported globally last week (CKRW 8 a.m.)

There were more than four million new COVID-19 cases reported globally last week, driven mostly by spikes in the Middle East and Asia. That's according to the World Health Organisation's latest weekly report. Reporter Mia Chang says the statement did not single out the Delta variant as being behind the regional surges. "Certainly they have said that they expect it to be the dominant variant worldwide. It didn't specifically say if those new cases are driven by the variants, but they've said previously that it's much more transmissible than previous variants. So I don't think it'd be surprising if the breakdown did show that." After nearly a month of rising cases, the European region reported a nine percent drop in COVID-19 infections.

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