

FOR RELEASE
August 30, 2016

New regulation regarding admissions to French First Language schools passed

Joint news release

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon has passed a new regulation under the Education Act that allows the minister of Education to give the Yukon Francophone School Board (Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon) delegated control over admissions for École Émilie-Tremblay, Académie Parhélie and the future Francophone high school.

"This new regulation represents our commitment to work with the Yukon Francophone School Board for the delivery of French first language education in Yukon," Minister of Education Doug Graham said. "We look forward to continuing our work together to address outstanding issues and support Yukon's French first language students."

The *French as a First Language Instruction Regulation* removes the requirement for the minister to approve applications to French First Language schools by French language rights holders under Section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

The minister has also delegated his responsibility for admission of non-rights holders to the Yukon Francophone School Board. Non-rights holders include:

- students from families of non-Canadian citizens who are Francophone;
- children with grandparents who were rights holders and had French as a first language;
- immigrants who wish to learn French as a first language; and
- Canadian citizens who speak French and who choose to integrate into the French community.

The new regulation recognizes that the minister maintains the authority and responsibility to ensure that the linguistic and cultural integrity of French first language education by allowing the minister to evaluate admissions processes.

"We are very pleased that the minister has delegated authority to the School Board for admissions," Yukon Francophone School Board trustee Edith Campbell said. "This is a major step forward to resolving our differences."

The regulation officially recognizes practices that have been in place for a number of years and admissions processes will not change. It does not affect admissions to French second language programs, such as French Immersion, in Yukon schools.

The regulation moves forward outstanding issues from the 2011 court case between the Yukon Francophone School Board and the Government of Yukon. The joint settlement committee continues to work to reach agreement on unresolved issues and both parties are optimistic that all issues can be resolved without returning to court.

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News Release #16-304



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