



FOR RELEASE

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Yukon Teachers' Association and the Yukon government ratify new collective agreement

WHITEHORSE—The Government of the Yukon and the Yukon Teachers' Association (YTA) have ratified a new collective agreement.

"The negotiations were collegial and collaborative and I'd like to acknowledge the constructive and positive efforts of our officials in helping to reach this new agreement," Minister for the Public Service Commission Currie Dixon said. "The agreement includes several new provisions and updates that will be of mutual benefit to our government and our employees and the overall Yukon education system."

The new agreement sets out yearly salary increases totalling five per cent over three years – 1.5 per cent in 2015, 1.5 per cent in 2016 and two per cent in 2017. The three-year term is from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2018.

"We felt the employer heard, identified with and was responsive to the concerns raised on behalf of Yukon educators," YTA acting president Carol Sherlock said.

The new collective agreement includes several provisions to improve student behaviour and student academic achievement through the development of a positive, safe and responsible school culture and an early intervention and literacy development project.

"It was great to see a strong working relationship between the Department of Education and the Yukon Teachers' Association throughout the negotiations," Minister of Education Doug Graham said. "We look forward to continuing this positive relationship as it will ultimately benefit students, teachers and the community."

The collective agreement covers approximately 840 teachers, education assistants, remedial tutors and native language instructors throughout Yukon.

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See backgrounder below for highlights.

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Backgrounder

Among its terms, the new YTA collective agreement calls for:

- an increase to the salary steps for Aboriginal language teachers;
- increases in allowances for principals and vice principals;
- creation of a school management responsibility allowance, provided to all principals and vice principals with two lieu days per school year, or unused days paid out at the end of the school year;
- in addition to maternity leave, 15 weeks of parental leave for birth mothers;
- respectful workplace provision and training plan;
- nominal increases to professional development; and
- the creation of a health and safety allowance for employees who serve as safety representatives on health and safety committees.

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