



**Department of Education
PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6**

January 12, 2026

Annette King
Child and Youth Advocate
Yukon Child and Youth Advocate Office

Dear Annette King,

RE: Update on the I am not okay, It's not okay review of the Yukon government's response to the use of restraints and isolation spaces at Jack Hulland Elementary School

Ensuring that every student feels safe, and is safe, while in the care of their school is a responsibility we take seriously. You are most likely aware that the class action lawsuit against the Government of Yukon was settled in November 2025, and this is an important milestone for moving forward. Your review has helped guide our efforts and I am pleased to respond to each of your recommendations in this letter.

Recommendation 1: Provide a coordinated case management approach to promote access to supports following incidents [of abuse].

Status: Underway

Estimated completion date: Spring 2026

We have prepared draft updates to the Student Protection Policy and procedures based on the Ombudsman's recommendations following a review of the Safer Schools Action Plan. These drafts are in reviews and are expected to be finalized before the end of the school year. In the meantime, we have strengthened access to supports for all students.

Recommendation 2: Create a clear and organized process to document incidents [in which non-violence crisis intervention techniques are used]

Status: Ongoing

We are developing a new Workplace Risk Assessment (WRA) policy to support timely and accurate reporting. This policy will include clear guidelines on the use of Nonviolent Crisis Intervention (NCI) techniques and will make reporting mandatory for all schools, across all three school authorities.

To support implementation, NCI training is offered monthly throughout the school year, with additional sessions available upon request from schools. In fall 2025, a formal communication was sent to all three school authorities outlining the expectations for mandatory WRA reporting and the availability of NCI training. This information was subsequently shared with all school administrators and staff.

Consistent and timely reporting enables the Student Support Services, specifically the Positive Behaviour and Intervention Support (PBIS) Coach, to proactively assist schools. This early intervention helps address emerging concerns and supports schools in preventing situations from escalating.

The department is committed to creating safe, supportive learning environments by providing ongoing training and enforcing clear reporting protocols.

Recommendation 3: Remove sources of potential harm until investigations are complete and the situation is deemed safe.

Status: Complete and ongoing

We continue to follow the bargained administrative leave article in the Collective Agreement between the Yukon Government and the Yukon Association of Education Professionals. This includes a regular review of the circumstances that led to utilization of this provision to make informed decisions should circumstances or facts change during an investigative process. When required, we work to ensure students experiencing trauma have support.

Recommendation 4: Improve post-incident communication with the school community

Status: Complete and ongoing

The Student Protection Policy and procedures have been implemented, and updates are expected to be released before the end of this school year. As described in Recommendation #2, we are broadening our safeguarding work with long-term measures to prevent any similar situations from recurring.

Recommendation 5: Improve school transitions

Status: Underway

Transition planning in students' educational journeys is a key action item under our Pathway to Inclusive Education. This initiative reflects the department's commitment to ensuring that all students are supported through critical transitions, whether between grades, schools, or into post-secondary education, training, or employment.

By embedding transition planning into our long-term strategy, we aim to foster inclusive, student-centered pathways that promote success and wellbeing throughout each stage of learning.

The Pathway to Inclusive Education work is subject to consultation with the Yukon Association for Education Professionals.

In addition, the Integrated Outcome Strategy for Yukon Learners includes a provision for students “to be able to transition through their educational experience successfully.” The strategy’s implementation plan is expected to be released this winter.

Recommendation 6: Strengthen school safety policies and procedures

Status: Ongoing

Oversight through Central Administration is being strengthened with improved training, reporting, and tracking practices. As described in our response to recommendation #2, the Department of Education is developing a new Workplace Risk Assessment Policy and implementation supports.

The department has strengthened its processes for tracking and reviewing Workplace Risk Assessments (WRA). All WRAs are systematically reviewed and recorded in a centralized database to ensure consistency and accountability.

The department is currently working to standardize the classification of WRAs, transitioning from qualitative descriptions to a structured data framework. This shift will enhance our ability to identify trends, inform decision-making, and proactively address emerging issues across the education system.

The department continues to implement the Ready-to-Learn initiative, with 22 schools currently participating across the territory. Efforts are underway to establish permanent resources to sustain and expand supports for schools as they adopt this innovative approach to teaching and learning. As part of this commitment, the department continues to provide in-depth training for educators in the Neurosequential Model in Education, enhancing their understanding of brain-based approaches to student development and wellbeing.

Recommendation 7: Provide continued access to supports, recognizing the lifelong impacts suffered by the students and their families related to the incidents at JHES.

Status: Ongoing

In acknowledgement of the need for ongoing supports, the Jack Hulland Class Action settlement includes a \$250,000 Special Counselling Fund to reimburse class members or their families for the costs of counselling and related treatment that are not eligible for payment or reimbursement from any other government program or private insurance plan.

In addition, the department has developed A Yukon Guide to Supporting Mental Wellness in Schools. This evergreen document outlines the range of supports available to all students, delivered through curriculum, targeted training, and initiatives such as Ready-to-Learn. This work is ongoing and reflects the department's commitment to fostering inclusive, supportive learning environments.

School Wellness Specialists, who are trained in trauma-informed practices, play a key role in supporting students, school staff, and families. Their expertise helps foster safe, nurturing environments where all learners can thrive. We currently have a dedicated team of School Wellness Specialists across all three school authorities. The department will continue to build capacity in this area, ensuring that trauma-informed strategies remain a foundational element of our work.

Our Ready-to-Learn initiative is grounded in a trauma-informed lens, guiding how staff support students and families across Yukon schools. This approach emphasizes understanding and responding to the impact of trauma on student learning and behaviour and remains central to the department's commitment to inclusive education and student wellbeing.

Department of Education staff continue to work closely with your office to support students and address emerging issues. Regular meetings between teams ensure that responses and interventions are timely, coordinated, and aligned with student needs. This ongoing collaboration strengthens our collective ability to provide comprehensive support and reinforces our shared commitment to student wellbeing.

To guide future efforts, we will continue to use OurSCHOOL survey data and evidence-based best practices to inform decision-making and measure impact. Collaboration with youth organizations remains a priority, ensuring that student voice is central to the development and implementation of mental wellness supports.

Recommendation 8: Provide an initial response and follow-up to the recommendations by December 1, 2025.

Status: Complete

A ministerial statement was issued on May 1, 2025, and this letter is the final follow-up that we committed to.

We are grateful for your office's numerous reviews of consequential issues here at the Department of Education. Your recommendations among those reviews are consistent with each other as well as with other feedback our office receives. I hope you can see improvements as a result of our combined efforts.

Again, nothing is more important than the wellbeing, safety, and protection of students while in the care of any Yukon school. We are committed to continue to work with you to address outstanding advocacy issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "MC".

Mary Cameron
Deputy Minister

C:

- Matt King, Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services
- Mark Radke, Deputy Minister, Justice
- Kelvin Leary, Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office
- Meagan Lang, Public Service Commissioner