



**Department of Education
Department of Health and Social Services
PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6**

January 13, 2026

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

Dear Annette King,

RE: Update on recommendations in the Close to Home report on supports for students with complex needs

This letter is an update on our work toward meeting your recommendations in your systemic advocacy review: Close to Home. We noted in our initial response that we share your concerns, as the growing needs for students and families have highlighted gaps in the system. Your report provides important insights as we work to address these gaps, and we are pleased to provide updates as follows:

Recommendation 1: Assemble a multi-departmental complex case committee

Status: Ongoing

Our departments initially agreed to this recommendation in our March 31, 2025, letter, and promptly began implementing it. As we progressed, we identified an even stronger approach: schedule meetings based on student needs rather than following a fixed timetable. This flexible model empowers us to respond quickly to individual circumstances and deliver support when it matters most. In some cases, this means meetings may occur more frequently to ensure students receive the assistance they need.

Recommendation 2: Establish Yukon-based therapeutic resources

Status: Ongoing

The Department of Education and the Department of Health and Social Services have collaborated to develop a vision for therapeutic program in Yukon schools. A concept paper has been drafted, and both departments have developed options and will determine next steps.

In the meantime, both departments are working together to ensure that children with complex needs are supported through existing programs, and we are developing options to strengthen supports. The Department of Education is working on expanding shared resource programs to support students with complex medical needs and the growing need to offer additional programming in our schools.

The Department of Health and Social Services is working with the Department of Education to support medically complex children on a case-by-case basis, providing inclusive and flexible support tailored to each student's needs. For example, Health and Social Services provides specialized training tailored to each student's needs and to support teacher in the classroom. Department of Education supplies specialized equipment, such as standing frames and custom walkers, based on individual student requirements.

Recommendation 3: Develop policies and programs for parental support

Status: Ongoing

The Department of Education is enhancing resources to empower parents in supporting their children and navigating the education system with confidence. We have developed a school-based team booklet, shared it with schools, and made it easily accessible on Yukon.ca.

In addition, the Department of Education now has a staff person who coordinates supports for students with Type 1 diabetes. They work closely with the Healthy Living Branch at Health and Social Services. A Type 1 Diabetes Health Care plan has also been developed. This care plan helps parents share their child's specific needs related to Type 1 Diabetes with the school.

The Department of Education and the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) are updating key policies and procedures, including the Administration of Medication to Student Policy and Anaphylaxis Policy. At the same time, the Department of Health and Social Services is reviewing the Individualized Supervisory Care and In Home Care funding policies to identify existing gaps, overcome operational challenges and potential areas for improvement. Together, these efforts ensure more effective support for students and families.

Recommendation 4: Provide additional training for educators

Status: Ongoing

A draft training plan program was developed in collaboration with the Joint Management Committee in May 2025. The Yukon Association of Education Professionals (YAEP) has asked that the department consult prior to implementation. The Department will engage in consultation with the YAEP to ensure alignment and shared understanding.

Additionally, the department continues to support Yukon University in the development of educational assistant (EA) micro-credentialing courses. Specialized EA training opportunities also remain available through the department.

The revision of job descriptions for Learning Assistance Teachers (LATs) has been completed and shared across all three school authorities. The updated qualifications ensure that educators entering the LAT role possess specialized training in special education and are required to be certified in Level B assessments. To support this transition, the department offered Level B assessment training to all LATs across the three school authorities in September and October 2025. In addition, the department offers weekly LAT learning circle sessions on a variety of topics.

Ongoing training opportunities continue to be provided for educational assistants, teachers on call, classroom teachers, and learning assistance teachers through a variety of formats. These include in-service professional development days, conferences, bi-weekly LAT learning circles, and on-the-job training.

In winter 2026, the department will launch a pilot training initiative focused on supporting students with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). This specialized training will be offered to a cohort of 12 EAs across all three school authorities. The pilot aims to build capacity in understanding and responding to the unique needs of students with ADHD. Pending evaluation of the pilot's outcomes, the department may expand this training opportunity to all staff in the future, reinforcing our commitment to inclusive education and student wellbeing.

Recommendation 5: Yukon government response

Status: Complete

As requested, we provided an initial response by March 31, 2025, and this letter is your requested follow-up. As always, we will continue to work with you to address outstanding systemic issues.

Sincerely,



Mary Cameron
Deputy Minister, Education



Matt King
Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services