

FOR RELEASE  
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## **Government of Canada to invest up to \$7.5 million for Francophone high school community spaces**

*Joint news release*

Member of Parliament for Yukon Larry Bagnell and Government of Yukon Minister of Education Tracy-Anne McPhee today announced that the Government of Canada will invest up to \$7.5 million over the next two years for Francophone community spaces at the new French First Language high school in Whitehorse.

This project is part of the campus model for the Riverdale Education Reserve, where communities and cultures can meet, share and learn at various facilities. The new school's community spaces and gymnasium will provide a place for events and gatherings.

The Government of Yukon and the Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon are working collaboratively to plan the school and community spaces.

### **Quotes**

"Today's announcement demonstrates one thing: the Franco-Yukonnais community is dynamic and growing rapidly. These community spaces will provide French-speaking families, and the greater Yukon community, with places to come together and participate in performances, activities and programming that celebrate the French language and Franco-Yukonnais culture. This project is yet another example of the importance that our government places on our official languages, which are at the heart of who we are as Canadians."

*–Minister of Canadian Heritage and Minister responsible for Official Languages Mélanie Joly*

"I am very excited for this project. The Francophone community is an important pillar of Yukon, and the new French First Language high school will ensure that we are able to properly accommodate the next generation of Francophone students. It will also ensure that our students receive the education they need in order to excel."

*–Member of Parliament for Yukon Larry Bagnell*

"All communities, including the Francophone community, play an important role in Yukon. The new school and community spaces will provide a place for learning, local events, activities and engagement with the territory's Francophone community. We look forward to continuing to work with Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon on planning the new school and community spaces."

*–Minister of Education Tracy-Anne McPhee*

### **Quick facts**

- The funding for the community spaces is supported through Canadian Heritage's Minority Language Education Program, which aims to improve the supply of programs and activities to provide education in the language of official-language minority communities.
- The last project funded through this program in Yukon was the construction of École Émilie-Tremblay in 1996.
- Timelines for the design and construction of the new school and community spaces are still under discussion at the joint settlement committees between Government of Yukon and Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon.
- Kobayashi + Zedda Architects has completed a preliminary design for the project and is leading a team of consultants to oversee the final design and construction of the school and community spaces.

### **Contact:**

Susan Moorhead Mooney  
Office of Hon. Larry Bagnell P.C., M.P.  
867-668-6565  
larry.bagnell.c1@parl.gc.ca

Sunny Patch  
Cabinet Communications  
867-393-7478  
sunny.patch@gov.yk.ca

Kyle Nightingale  
Communications, Education  
867-336-0653  
kyle.nightingale@gov.yk.ca

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