



FOR RELEASE
November 28, 2012

Yukon teachers have a new collective agreement with the Yukon government

WHITEHORSE—The Yukon Teachers' Association and the Government of Yukon have ratified a new collective agreement. The three-year agreement is effective from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2015.

The new agreement sets out salary increases of 5.75 per cent over three years (2 per cent in 2012, 1.75 per cent in 2013 and 2 per cent in 2014).

"The negotiations were very productive," Education Minister Scott Kent said. "We are pleased to have a new agreement in place that contains several measures aimed at supporting our educators and improving student achievement in Yukon schools."

The agreement covers bargaining unit employees employed under the *Education Act*, including certified teachers, principals and vice-principals, educational assistants, remedial tutors and Aboriginal language teachers.

-30-

See backgrounder below.

Contact:

Elaine Schiman
Cabinet Communications
867-633-7961
elaine.schiman@gov.yk.ca

Sarah Crane
Communications, Public Service Commission
867-667-8902
sarah.crane@gov.yk.ca

Backgrounder

The new collective agreement includes several provisions to facilitate student success, while balancing teacher concerns and prudent fiscal management.

Highlights of the new agreement include:

- Salary increases of 5.75 per cent over three years (2 per cent in 2012, 1.75 per cent in 2013, and 2 per cent in 2014).
- An increase to the salary ranges of some educational assistants.
- Built-in flexibility to allow the legislature to make any necessary changes to the length of the school year. This includes a provision for increasing teacher pay on a pro-rated basis should the school year be increased.
- A letter of understanding provides for the creation of a Classroom Diversity Committee, which will review, monitor and assess how extra support for students is managed and delivered in classrooms and schools. The committee will provide an annual report to the Minister of Education.

- Maximum class sizes have been reduced for several grade levels. For kindergarten classes the maximum is now 18, reduced from 20. For Grades 1-3, the maximum class size is 22, reduced from 23. And for Grades 4-7, the maximum is 25, reduced from 26.
- A one-time increase of \$48,000 to the Professional Development Fund.
- An increase of \$200 to the Yukon Bonus received by YTA members.
- A travel bonus for employees in Old Crow.
- Parental leave for adoptive parents has been increased and is now equal to the parental leave available to birth parents.
- Changes to special leave eligibility – added leave for a number of medical and life events.
- Compassionate leave without pay provided for up to eight weeks to care for a critically ill member of the immediate family.
- Another letter of understanding commits Yukon government to developing a new assessment and maintenance process for staff housing.

Read the new collective agreement.

News Release #12-232



Stay up to date with the latest Yukon government news by subscribing to our RSS feed here: <http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/rss.html>. Or follow us on Twitter @yukongov.