

From: Jackie Hong
Sent: August 2, 2021 11:25 AM
To: Erin.MacDonald
Subject: CBC Yukon request for comment - Hidden Valley sexual abuse

*** External email: Do not click on links or attachments except from trusted senders. ***

Hello Erin,

I've received a few messages from parents with children at Hidden Valley Elementary following the story I did about the lawsuit over sexual abuse at the school.

The parents say they're concerned that they were not notified by the education department about the criminal charges against the educational assistant or his eventual plea/conviction.

Can you confirm if the school or department ever sent any communications to parents at Hidden Valley about the sexual abuse a student experienced at the hands of an education assistant? As well, has the school provided any supports to parents and/or students in regards to the situation (ex. counselling)?

As well, I see that the EA is no longer with Hidden Valley and following his criminal conviction is barred from working with children - can you confirm when his employment with Hidden Valley ended?

My deadline is Wednesday at noon.

Please let me know if you require more information.

Thank you.

Jackie Hong
Reporter, CBC Yukon
(867) 334-6576
@xjackiehong

From: Erin.MacDonald
Sent: August 2, 2021 11:37 AM
To: Ryan.Sikkes; Richard.Provan; Megan.Foreman; Nicole.Morgan
Subject: Media Response - CBC Hidden Valley
Attachments: DRAFT_MR_CBC_HVES_August1.doc

CBC has just reached out for comment on Hidden Valley. I have attached my recommend response above – please let me know if you have any suggested edits.



Erin MacDonald
Director, Community Relations and Engagement
Education
Office: 867-667-5701 Cell: 867-332-7008 | Yukon.ca

I respectfully acknowledge that I work within the traditional territory of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

Media Response

Time/Date	August 1, 2021
News org, name of reporter & phone number/contact	Jackie Hong CBC Jackie.hong@cbc.ca
Topic	Hidden Valley sexual abuse
Questions	See below
News deadline	Wednesday at noon
Story to appear	TBD
Others contacted by the reporter	
Recommended spokesperson	Written response from EDU department
Time/Date interview completed	

Question:

I've received a few messages from parents with children at Hidden Valley Elementary following the story I did about the lawsuit over sexual abuse at the school.

The parents say they're concerned that they were not notified by the education department about the criminal charges against the educational assistant or his eventual plea/conviction.

1. Can you confirm if the school or department ever sent any communications to parents at Hidden Valley about the sexual abuse a student experienced at the hands of an education assistant? As well, has the school provided any supports to parents and/or students in regards to the situation (ex. counselling)?
2. I see that the EA is no longer with Hidden Valley and following his criminal conviction is barred from working with children - can you confirm when his employment with Hidden Valley ended?

Recommended Response:

In any situation where there is concern that a child or youth is being victimized, we urge families to reach out to the RCMP, the school, or the Government of Yukon's Victim Services Branch (1-800-661-0408,

ext: 8500) who can offer specialized support through Project Lynx to support children and youth victims of crime and their families.

As this matter is now before the courts, we are not in a position to comment further.

From: Nicole.Morgan
Sent: August 2, 2021 2:30 PM
To: Erin.MacDonald; Ryan.Sikkes; Richard.Provan; Megan.Foreman
Subject: Re: Media Response - CBC Hidden Valley

Hi Erin,

I suggest we use the same messaging here as well (see below):

- As this matter is now before the courts, we are not in a position to comment further **at this time.**
- Any parent or guardian who has reason to believe their child has interacted with this former employee in a concerning manner **should contact RCMP directly** to share this information.
- In any situation where there is concern that a child or youth is being victimized, we urge families to reach out to the RCMP, the school, or the Government of Yukon's Victim Services Branch (1-800-661-0408, ext: 8500) who can offer specialized support through Project Lynx to support children and youth victims of crime and their families

Also I suggest running by Cab Comms these phrases from the Message Box/ Issue Alert language:

- The Department of Education and staff are required to report suspected violence, abuse or assault to the appropriate authorities. In this instance, when school administration became aware of the allegations, they contacted the RCMP.
- Furthermore, as soon as the school was aware of the allegations the individual no longer worked with students or in schools.

Cheers,
Nicole



Nicole Morgan
Deputy Minister
Department of Education | Deputy Minister's Office
T 867-667-5126 | F 867-393-6254 | Yukon.ca

I respectfully acknowledge that I work within the traditional territories of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

From: "Erin.MacDonald" <Erin.MacDonald@yukon.ca>
Date: Monday, August 2, 2021 at 11:36 AM
To: "Ryan.Sikkes" <Ryan.Sikkes@yukon.ca>, "Richard.Provan" <Richard.Provan@yukon.ca>, "Megan.Foreman" <Megan.Foreman@yukon.ca>, "Nicole.Morgan" <Nicole.Morgan@yukon.ca>
Subject: Media Response - CBC Hidden Valley

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Erin MacDonald

Director, Community Relations and Engagement

Education

Office: 867-667-5701 Cell: 867-332-7008 | Yukon.ca

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From: Jackie Hong
Sent: August 3, 2021 10:15 AM
To: Erin.MacDonald
Subject: Re: CBC Yukon request for comment - Hidden Valley sexual abuse

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Hello Erin,

Just wondering if you got my request yesterday, and if I can expect something by tomorrow?

Thanks.

On Mon, Aug 2, 2021 at 11:24 AM Jackie Hong <jackie.hong@cbc.ca> wrote:

Hello Erin,

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Thank you.

Jackie Hong
Reporter, CBC Yukon
(867) 334-6576
[@xjackiehong](https://twitter.com/xjackiehong)

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Jackie Hong
Reporter, CBC Yukon
(867) 334-6576
[@xjackiehong](https://twitter.com/xjackiehong)

From: Erin.MacDonald
Sent: August 3, 2021 10:30 AM
To: Matthew.Cameron
Subject: Media Request - CBC Hidden Valley
Attachments: DRAFT_MR_CBC_HVES_August1.doc

Hi Matthew,

I have attached the media response we discussed yesterday. As mentioned, I have highlighted my recommended response, but also included further messaging recommended from our team. I am seeking your input to determine if we should share anything further given that we are not directly addressing the questions asked.

Cheers,



Erin MacDonald
Director, Community Relations and Engagement
Education
Office: 867-667-5701 Cell: 867-332-7008 | Yukon.ca

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Media Response

Time/Date	August 1, 2021
News org, name of reporter & phone number/contact	Jackie Hong CBC Jackie.hong@cbc.ca
Topic	Hidden Valley sexual abuse
Questions	See below
News deadline	Wednesday at noon
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Question:

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Recommended Response:

As this matter is now before the courts, we are not in a position to comment further at this time.

The Department of Education and staff are required to report suspected violence, abuse or assault to the appropriate authorities. In this instance, when school administration became aware of the allegations, they contacted the RCMP.

Furthermore, as soon as the school was aware of the allegations the individual no longer worked with students or in schools.

Any parent or guardian who has reason to believe their child has interacted with this former employee in a concerning manner should contact RCMP directly to share this information.

In any situation where there is concern that a child or youth is being victimized, we urge families to reach out to the RCMP, the school, or the Government of Yukon's Victim Services Branch (1-800-661-0408, ext: 8500) who can offer specialized support through Project Lynx to support children and youth victims of crime and their families.

From: Erin.MacDonald
Sent: August 3, 2021 11:22 AM
To: Renee.Francoeur; Dario.Paola
CC: Matthew.Cameron
Subject: RE: NEWS RELEASE: YCAO launches review of safety and supports at Hidden Valley Elementary

Thanks, Renee!

Annette just called me to give me a heads up. As soon as I hung up, Jackie Hong from CBC followed up to ask if we had a comment about the YCAO review and would like to add that question to her original media request.

Cheers,



Erin MacDonald
Director, Community Relations and Engagement
Education
Office: 867-667-5701 Cell: 867-332-7008 | Yukon.ca

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From: Renee.Francoeur <Renee.Francoeur@yukon.ca>
Sent: August 3, 2021 11:20 AM
To: Dario.Paola <Dario.Paola@yukon.ca>; Erin.MacDonald <Erin.MacDonald@yukon.ca>
Cc: Matthew.Cameron <Matthew.Cameron@yukon.ca>
Subject: FW: NEWS RELEASE: YCAO launches review of safety and supports at Hidden Valley Elementary

Hello all:

Just a FYI... attaching a news release from this morning from the Child and Youth Advocate.

RF



Renée Francoeur (She/Her)
Communications Advisor
Cabinet Office | Government of Yukon
Box 2703 Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6
C 867-334-9194 | Yukon.ca

I respectfully acknowledge that I work within the traditional territory of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

From: Letters at Whitehorse Star <letters@whitehorsestar.com>
Sent: August 3, 2021 10:48 AM

To: Renee.Francoeur <Renee.Francoeur@yukon.ca>

Subject: Fwd: NEWS RELEASE: YCAO launches review of safety and supports at Hidden Valley Elementary

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Hi:

Here's a letter from the Child Advocate's Office re the Hidden Valley Elementary school situation.

The release notes the government has yet to make a formal response.

I'd say the minister should likely say something about the incident.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <Christopher.Tse@ycao.ca>

Date: Tue, Aug 3, 2021 at 10:30 AM

Subject: NEWS RELEASE: YCAO launches review of safety and supports at Hidden Valley Elementary

To: <LA-Media-HouseDocuments@yukon.ca>

Cc: <Annette.King@ycao.ca>, <Rachel.Veinott-McKeough@ycao.ca>

Good morning,

Please find attached a news release from the Yukon Child and Youth Advocate Office (YCAO) regarding the launch of a review on safety and supports at Hidden Valley Elementary following the conviction of a former Educational Assistant at the school.

Any questions or interview requests for the Advocate, Annette King, can be directed to Christopher Tse, the Systemic Advocacy Analyst at the YCAO (christopher.tse@ycao.ca or 867-456-5575).

Thanks for your attention,

Christopher Tse (he/him)

Systemic Advocacy Analyst



Yukon Child & Youth Advocate Office

2070 – 2nd Ave. Unit 19, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 1B1

Ph: 867-456-5575 Fax: 867-456-5574

www.ycao.ca Email: christopher.tse@ycao.ca

Youth have a voice!

From: Renee.Francoeur
Sent: August 3, 2021 5:19 PM
To: Erin.MacDonald
CC: cabinet-com
Subject: approved media response

Hi Erin:

Below is the approved response for the Hidden Valley media inquiries:

As this matter is now before the courts, we are not in a position to comment further at this time.

Where there is concern that a child or youth is being victimized, we urge families to reach out to the RCMP, the school, or the Government of Yukon's Victim Services Branch (1-800-661-0408, ext: 8500) who can offer specialized support through Project Lynx to support children and youth victims of crime and their families.

Please send this response to Tim at the Whitehorse Star (tim@whitehorsestar.com), Haley Ritchie at Yukon News (haley.ritchie@yukon-news.com) and Jackie Hong at CBC, as these are the 3 media outlets that have requested comment.

Thank you,

RF



Renée Francoeur (She/Her)
Communications Advisor
Cabinet Office | Government of Yukon
Box 2703 Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6
C 867-334-9194 | Yukon.ca

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From: Erin.MacDonald
Sent: August 3, 2021 6:49 PM
To: Renee.Francoeur
Subject: RE: approved media response

Thanks Renee!



Erin MacDonald
Director, Community Relations and Engagement
Education
C 867-332-7008 | Yukon.ca

I respectfully acknowledge that I work within the traditional territory of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

From: Renee.Francoeur <Renee.Francoeur@yukon.ca>
Sent: August 3, 2021 5:19 PM
To: Erin.MacDonald <Erin.MacDonald@yukon.ca>
Cc: cabinet-com <cabinet-com@yukon.ca>
Subject: approved media response

Hi Erin:

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Please send this response to Tim at the Whitehorse Star (tim@whitehorsestar.com), Haley Ritchie at Yukon News (haley.ritchie@yukon-news.com) and Jackie Hong at CBC, as these are the 3 media outlets that have requested comment.

Thank you,

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