



Junior Kindergarten Busing for Yellowknife School Boards

June 26, 2017

To the parents and stakeholders of Yellowknife schools,

Yellowknife District No. 1 (YK1), Yellowknife Catholic Schools (YCS) and Commission scolaire francophone (CSFTNO) share a common priority to offer safe and effective busing to students in Yellowknife.

At this time, the three boards have come to a joint decision that busing for Junior Kindergarten students in 2017-2018 cannot be implemented in a way that fully addresses safety issues and busing costs. While it is a priority to offer equitable access to Yellowknife schools, our boards' mandate to ensure student safety remains our highest priority.


YK1, YCS and CSFTNO will continue to work in partnership with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to find a solution to ensure the safety of our students and feasibility of implementation in this matter. Going forward, a committee will be formed and a common outline of JK busing costs will be sent to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment for his consideration.

We appreciate your understanding going forward, and we hope that in partnership with the Minister we can reach our combined goal of offering accessibility to the many excellent programs within our schools.

If there are any questions, comments or concerns, please contact your respective Superintendent. YK1: Metro Huculak; YCS: Claudia Parker; CSFTNO: Yvonne Careen.

Sincerely,


John Stephenson
Chairperson, YK1


Miles Welsh
Chairperson, YCS


Simon Cloutier
Président, CSFTNO



Junior Kindergarten Busing Fact Sheet

Yellowknife District No. 1 (YK1), Yellowknife Catholic Schools (YCS) and Commission Scolaire Francophone (CSFTNO) have come to a joint decision that significant safety concerns and costs prohibit a successful implementation of busing for Junior Kindergarten students in the 2017-2018 school year. While it is a priority to offer equitable access to Yellowknife schools, our boards' mandate to ensure student safety remains our highest priority.

In making a determination about JK busing implementation, the boards have considered three options, including:

Option One

- Adding three additional buses (12 existing, 15 total) and bus monitors to ensure the safety of JK students on each existing bus, costing approximately \$608,000 less funding from ECE (\$22,000), less bus pass credit (\$15,000), for a total shortfall of \$571,000.

Option Two

- Adding five specialty buses for JK and Kindergarten students (in addition to 11 existing regular buses), costing approximately \$290,000 less funding from ECE (\$22,000), less bus pass credit (\$15,000), for a total shortfall of \$253,000. This option can also potentially lead to longer ridership for JK and Kindergarten students and they will be separated from their siblings that maybe riding on the regular school buses (grades 1 to 8).

Option Three

- No JK busing will be provided until a safe, feasible busing option can be offered to all riders.

Together, YK1, YCS and CSFTNO continue to look for solutions to this matter. A committee will be formed and a common outline of JK busing costs will be sent to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment for his consideration.