

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ceremony brings Old Crow community together to usher in a new era for Yukon First Nation education

Old Crow – The community of Old Crow is coming together on November 2 in a ceremony to mark a new era of education for their school under the First Nation School Board.

Since the community voted to join the new school board last February, Chief Zzeh Gittlit School is now moving to a child-centred model of public-school education, incorporating local First Nations ways into all aspects of learning and school life.

Organized by the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, the First Nation School Board and Yukon First Nation Education Directorate, everyone is welcome to attend this important gathering and are encouraged to wear their traditional regalia.

There will be two events: a mid-day ceremony and lunch at the school from 10:30 am – 1:00 pm as well as an evening celebration with dinner and live fiddle music at the Community Hall starting at 5 pm.

Quotes

"Almost half a century has passed since Together Today For Our Children Tomorrow affirmed the need for Yukon First Nations to regain control over the education our children. Today we celebrate a historic step toward this goal. The new First Nation School Board will play a key role in restoring indigenous ways of educating young people that were intentionally broken by Canada's residential school system. We want to give our children the education they need to thrive today, so that they may become strong, healthy, and balanced members of our communities. As they learn, they will be looking to the future, while following in the footsteps of their elders and ancestors before them."

—Vuntut Gwitchin Government Chief Dana Tizya-Tramm

"It is a great honour to be supporting our school teams, our students and our families in this transition. As changes in the schools will be implemented gradually, we are asking people to focus this year on strengthening their relationship to the community and relationship to the land. This ceremony allows just that, while bringing people together in a Yukon First Nations way."

—Melissa Flynn, Interim Executive Director of the First Nation School Board

Backgrounder

The First Nation School Board (FNSB) was established in February 2022, through a series of school-attendance area referenda, enabling Yukon First Nations to assume shared authority with Government of Yukon in the delivery of public-school education in the territory. Board-run schools will continue to follow the BC Curriculum, but will tailor the programming, lesson delivery and assessment methodology to reflect Yukon First Nations ways of knowing, being and doing.

These schools are for all Yukon students and aim to promote reconciliation by enhancing a Yukon First Nations model that puts the student first, through a strengths-based, community-centered approach.

Equally, all teachers are welcome at these schools and are supported by the Board to adapt their strengths and thrive within the new pedagogy. We aim to authentically work with the community to make student-centered decisions for the up-coming year, utilizing Community Committees and Parent Advisory Committees, that will be established shortly after the board trustees are elected in November.

For more information, please visit: www.fnsb.ca

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