



# You're Invited!

On Friday, August 30, Minister McLean and Hähkè Darren Taylor will sign a Letter of Agreement on Education in Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory  
**3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. at Robert Service School**

## **An historic moment for education in Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory**

We are excited for the upcoming signing event where Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government and the Government of Yukon will sign a Letter of Agreement on education. This agreement marks our joint commitment to carry out co-governance of education in Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory.

**What is the Letter of Agreement?** This Letter of Agreement is a formal commitment between the Government of Yukon (YG) and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government (TH). It's a joint commitment to carry out co-governance to build a stronger, more inclusive education system that reflects the values and culture of the people who live in Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory.

**Why is this important?** For too long, education systems across Canada have not fully supported Indigenous students. Some of the messages, built into these systems, often quietly tell Indigenous children they don't belong. In the TH Traditional Territory, we share the commitment that education should be different – it should reflect and be founded on the lands that we're on. It should speak to the values of the people who live in the TH Traditional Territory.

In 2013, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Government of Yukon agreed through section 17.7 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Self Government Agreement (SGA) to negotiate the sharing and division of responsibility for the design, delivery and administration of education in TH Traditional Territory.

Now, 11 years on, we are strengthening our relationship with this Letter of Agreement.

Our co-governing relationship is demonstrated daily in our shared operational and programming decisions and responsibilities at Robert Service School. We also actively work with our early and adult learning partners to ensure TH ways of knowing, doing, and being are part of lifelong learning on TH Traditional Territory. These efforts, alongside many others, are guided by the Education Oversight Committee as we work toward an integrated education system on TH Traditional Territory that respects and reflects the knowledge and ways of our community members.

**How will this change education?** The Letter of Agreement sets out commitments for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Government of Yukon on shared education priorities. Together we will:

- Improve education outcomes for all students.
- Ensure education programs fully integrate TH culture, history, and language.
- Share decision making, responsibility and budget to set mutual goals.
- Create a truly collaborative approach to education.

### **A little background**

- In 1973, a delegation of Yukon Chiefs delivered to Canada the document Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow, highlighting the importance of making changes to the education system in the Yukon, and beginning the negotiation process for the Yukon First Nation Final Agreements and Self-Government Agreements.
- Education has always been a priority for TH and was a priority in negotiating the TH Final Agreement and Self-Government Agreement.
- In July 1998, TH, YG and Canada signed the TH Final Agreement and Self Government Agreement. These agreements confirmed their joint wish to "encourage and protect the cultural distinctiveness and social well-being of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in" and promote "opportunities for the well-being of (TH) Citizens equal to those of other Canadians" and to provide "essential public services of reasonable quality to all (TH) Citizens".
- Section 17.7 of the SGA provides that in relation to Education, TH and Yukon shall negotiate the division and sharing of responsibility for the design, delivery and administration of programs delivered within the TH Traditional Territory.
- In 2013, Yukon and TH signed a 17.7 Agreement to begin sharing responsibility for education in the TH Traditional Territory.
- The 2013 17.7 Agreement has not achieved the results envisioned by the Parties.
- An Education Oversight Committee was made through the 2013 Agreement (see the point above). It has equal representation from Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. The committee creates and works from a plan that identifies joint priorities; it is updated each year.

### **What happens next?**



We hope you will join us in celebrating this important signing event on August 30th. The signing of this Letter of Agreement is just the beginning.



TH and YG are starting work to revise section 17.7 agreement of the TH SGA, with a particular focus on enhancing and expanding the delivery of Hän language, culture, and heritage education programs in the TH Traditional Territory.



We will continue to move forward together, building an education system that works for everyone.

**We hope you will join us as we mark this important accomplishment.  
The Hän Singers start at 4pm, followed by speeches and the signing ceremony.  
*Snacks and cupcakes will be served.***