



Minister's office (CM-3)  
PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

June 2, 2020

Dear Parents/guardians

**Re: Yukon Graduate Day**

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This 2019-20 school year has not gone the way any of us would have expected. As you approach the end of the school year, I know how much students, parents, families and school communities are missing our usual and long awaited graduation ceremonies.

This year, Yukon graduates face a difficult and challenging end to the school year. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted graduation celebrations and Yukon schools are determining when they can safely hold formal cap and gown celebrations. Until then, students, parents, families, principals, teachers, graduation committees, Yukon First Nations and Yukon University have found other ways to recognize graduates while following health and safety measures and making sure to protect the health and safety of all Yukoners. Thank you all for the community spirit and joy you are spreading. While these celebrations of triumph have lifted the spirits of students and families, I understand it is still disappointing to not be able to gather to celebrate these learning milestones.

We want to find a way to celebrate and honour all graduating students during this unique time, so we are proclaiming June 10, 2020, as "Yukon Graduate Day". This will be a day for all Yukoners to celebrate the accomplishments of Yukon students graduating from key milestones in their lives, whether completing their elementary school years, high school years, or post-secondary studies and training. 'Yukon Graduate Day' is one small way we can come together in support and recognize the incredible resiliency, perseverance, and optimism that Yukon students and graduates have shown during this difficult and challenging time.

To recognize Yukon Graduate Day, we want to highlight some of the ways Yukon school communities and Yukon First Nations are honouring their graduates while following the Yukon Chief Medical Officer of Health's recommendations and directives. I encourage you to share photos and/or videos of your events with the Department of Education at [edu-communications@gov.yk.ca](mailto:edu-communications@gov.yk.ca) so we can show Yukoners how Yukon school communities are safely recognizing their graduates' accomplishments. Please ensure that any students featured in the photos or videos you share have the consent of the student and/or parent to share publicly.

As we honour Yukon graduating students everyday and especially on June 10, I look forward to seeing and hearing all the creative ways Yukon school communities and Yukon First Nations will be celebrating the accomplishments of our class of 2020!

Sincerely,



Tracy-Anne McPhee  
Minister of Education