

Yukon First Nation Education Advisory Committee

Jurisdiction: Yukon

Contact: Tina Jules

Level: K – 12

Theme: Government or Board Policies

Description of Practice:

This committee provides technical advice, guidance, support and recommendations, to the Department of Education's Public Schools Branch in relation to Yukon First Nations education in the K-12 system. Membership is comprised of a representative from each participating YFN, of including an Elder and a youth representative. Representatives from the Department of Education First Nation Programs and Partnership unit and the Education Technician for the Yukon Chiefs Committee on Education participate as ex-officio members. This committee provides a regular forum for First Nations to have input on Yukon's education system and enables the Department of Education to align its efforts in First Nation education with the goals and aspirations of Yukon First Nation communities.

Background:

The committee was established in December of 2005 and was an evolution of the Yukon First Nation Curriculum Advisory Committee. The evolution of the committee from 'curriculum advisory' to 'education advisory' allows the committee to advise on a broader scope of issues. The advisory capacity of the committee was previously limited as a curriculum advisory committee.

Development:

There was a demonstrated need in the area of developing curriculum materials on First Nation topics to have the direct input of Yukon First Nations. That need was broadened in scope to address the wider realm of First Nations education in general within a K-12 scope.

Evidence:

This committee has been in effect since December 2005. This committee has established working groups to work more intensively on curriculum projects such as a grade 5 unit on traditional governance; a grade 12 course on law and lands and a primary reader series. The working groups help to ensure balance of perspectives amongst the 14 Yukon First Nation communities and 8 language groups. The First Nation Programs & Partnerships staff present to Yukon First Nation communities at the local level on initiatives, programs and graduation requirements to provide information, receive feedback and maintain respectful and productive working relationships.

Adaptability:

Suggestions for adapting the practice in other jurisdictions:

Key lessons learned: First Nation communities must be informed and involved in all areas in relation to First Nation education so as to maintain good working relationships and to provide a foundation for effective partnerships in education.

Cautions for interested jurisdictions: This committee does not have legislated authority. First Nation communities sometimes do not have the capacity to thoroughly respond to all areas in education due to a number of reasons such as low population figures.

Further information:

The Terms of Reference for this committee are attached to this document.

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