



February 22, 2019

Dear Parents of École William McDonald Middle School students,

At Yellowknife Education District No. 1 (YK1), we want to ensure our students are well taken care of and supported in safe school environments. We are diligent in maintaining our schools and work closely with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) on upgrades and renovations.

As with many schools across the Northwest Territories, École William McDonald Middle School has older infrastructure which requires repair. We are currently working with ECE on a plan to repair the roof, which has degraded over the past years. The work will be done during the summer of 2019. As a result of this degradation, and the large volume of rainfall in the past year, we have unfortunately discovered mould in some areas. When this was discovered, ECE commissioned an assessment and the contents of that draft report have been shared with us. We are working to confirm the scope of the contamination as well as recommended containment and remediation steps.

The safety of our students and staff is paramount to us, which is why we're addressing this issue immediately. We are in contact with the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission and are hiring contractors to contain the mould per standard industrial hygiene practices until we can fully remediate the areas. Air testing will be done frequently to ensure the areas pose no hazard to students, staff and visitors to the school.

We will be working closely with the contractors hired for all aspects of the work, the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission and the Government of the Northwest Territories to come up with a safe work plan for everyone involved. Our maintenance staff have been trained in current industry practices for dealing with hazardous materials.

We have been advised that the containment work can likely occur over a weekend, while the remediation work will take approximately two weeks. Both phases of the plan will occur as soon as possible, and we will ensure work is scheduled at a time when the school is vacant. We will provide more information on scheduling once we know dates with greater certainty.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at YK1.

Sincerely,

Metro Huculak
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cc: John Stephenson
Chair, YK1