



Deputy Minister's office (E-1)
PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

October 30, 2020

Dear parents/guardians:

RE: Supporting students and staff after recent COVID-19-related death

Today, we learned of the tragic passing of a Watson Lake community member due to COVID-19. Our schools and communities across Yukon are so closely connected, and this loss is deeply felt by all Yukoners. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the family, friends and all community members in Watson Lake and across Yukon who have been impacted by the news of this passing.

Please know that you are not alone in your grief. Support services are being mobilized at Johnson Elementary School and Watson Lake Secondary School. Supports are also available to students at all Yukon schools and communities. We encourage any students and/or families who are grieving to talk to your teacher, school counsellor or school administration who can direct you to the support you may need. Support is also available through Mental Wellness and Substance Use services, which can be contacted at 1-866-456-3838.

The Chief Medical Officer of Health has confirmed the risk to the residents of Watson Lake and other Yukoners remains low, but we must all maintain our efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In our schools, students and staff must continue to be vigilant in following their operational plans and the health and safety guidelines set by Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health. Health and safety committees and representatives at each school will continue to monitor and ensure these routines are being followed and to address any concerns that may be raised.

We know the coming days and weeks will be challenging. Supports will remain available in our schools and students will continue to be supported in their learning and their wellbeing. We will continue to follow the direction of Yukon Communicable Disease Control and the Chief Medical Officer of Health to ensure all necessary measures are in place to protect the health and safety of students, staff and the community.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to keep each other safe. It is more important than ever to follow the [safe six](#), including physical distancing, washing our hands and most importantly, following the [traffic light checker](#) and staying home when sick. We all have a responsibility to work together to keep our communities safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nicole Morgan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nicole Morgan
Deputy Minister of Education