



August 22, 2023

Dear Yellowknife and Area Schools Families;

In an effort to keep you updated on the ongoing situation surrounding the Evacuation Order, we are reaching out to Inform you that the Yellowknife and Area school districts are working together collaboratively, with the support of ECE to monitor the situation closely.

At the time of this writing, we have no further answers as to a safe date of return and thus cannot predict a school start date with certainty. We are taking our lead from NT Emergency Measures Organization, the City of Yellowknife, and the Fire NWT managing the numerous fires across the NT.

Although there has been some questions around virtual learning, we want to assure you that this not being considered for Yellowknife and Area schools. Like most of you, our staff left quickly, taking only necessary items, and are now residing in accommodations that are not conducive to providing instruction. We believe that many of you are in the same situation and not in a place to manage or organize instruction for your child(ren).

Please see the most recent comment from ECE in regards to this:

At this time, it is unclear how long it will be before residents can return to their homes. Staff with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) are meeting regularly with education body superintendents to discuss this ongoing and fluid situation. Reducing disruptions on students' learning will be a priority going forward, but at this time online learning is not being pursued.

Our school year will begin at a time when any student who has returned to Yellowknife can engage in person with their school, teacher and other staff. We will continue to strive to get updated information out to you every few days, even if there is not much new to share.

Please know our primary concern is for your safety, well being and state of physical and mental health. This is a challenging situation but we are confident that it is being managed by expert people and we will get through this together.

Our best to all of you.

The Yellowknife and Area Schools