



August 16th 2020

Parents & Guardians,

Welcome back from summer holidays. Despite our new COVID context we are all looking forward to seeing everyone returning for the upcoming 2020-21 school year. This school year will look and feel different. Staff and students will come together to make it work. Parents and guardians will play a vital role in assisting with screening and ongoing communication.

All nine school reopening plans have been approved by the OCPHO. Schools have received individual approval letters directly. We encourage you to communicate with your local school staff and administrative teams.

We recognize that many of you rightfully are fearful for what this upcoming school year might bring. We have done everything possible to mitigate risks based on the direct advice of the OCPHO. School reopening plans were created with collaboration between BDDEC, ECE and the OCPHO. We'd like to recognize the efforts of our administrative teams who worked over their summer holidays to ensure plans were finalized.

All school reopening plans are flexible and fluid. If necessary, our schools are prepared to shift to a blended learning environment. When students return to schools across the Beaufort Delta region a focus on hand washing, general hygiene and wellness will be a priority for teaching.

Some classrooms and instructional time may look different, with:

- Increased spacing between desks and other furniture
- Physical distancing for Grades 7-9 (One meter)
- Physical distancing for Grade 10-12 (Two meters)
- Possibly more time spent learning outside
- Staggered transitions
- Face shields for teachers and other school staff
- Changes to school schedules and hours of instruction

We thank you for entrusting in us the safety and well-being of your children. We look forward to a continued partnership between school staff and parents/guardians in order to provide the safest learning environment possible.

If you have any questions you may contact me at frankg@bdec.nt.ca 867-620-0895 or Assistant Superintendent Devin Roberts at droboterts@bdec.nt.ca 867-678-5304.

Mahsi Quana Quyanaq Quyanainni

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