

Yellowknife Catholic Schools

Box 1830, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P4 • Phone: (867) 766-7400 • Fax: (867) 766-7401 • www.ycs.nt.ca

PRESS RELEASE **2015-04-24**

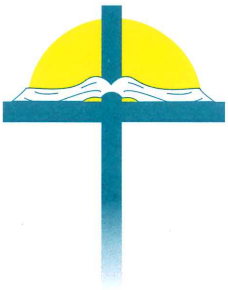
YELLOWKNIFE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS APOLOGIZES FOR EMPLOYEE'S POSTS REGARDING HUNTING

On April 23, 2015, Yellowknife Catholic Schools issued the attached letters of apology to Bill Erasmus, Dene National Chief and Regional Chief and Laura Duncan, Tlicho Executive Officer.

The school board's apology comes after a school district employee made inappropriate comments about hunting on Facebook.

"The comments, which in no way reflect Yellowknife Catholic's beliefs and values, were hurtful to our Aboriginal community," said Superintendent Claudia Parker.

"We value our relationship with our Aboriginal families and students. We wanted to go on the record with a public apology and an invitation to continuing a conversation about how we can rebuild trust"



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April 21, 2015

Bill Erasmus
Dene National Chief and Regional Chief
Assembly of First Nations, NWT
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2P7

Dear Mr. Erasmus:

As you are aware, a staff member of Yellowknife Catholic Schools recently made inappropriate and unacceptable posts on Facebook. Thank you for meeting with us and providing counsel and guidance on this matter.

On behalf of Yellowknife Catholic Schools I am writing to formally apologize to you, the Dene Nation and the Dene community for this staff member's conduct. This individual's statements in no way reflect the values and beliefs of Yellowknife Catholic Schools.

Our school district has taken this incident very seriously. Yellowknife Catholic Schools serves many Aboriginal students and families. We expect our staff to respect the culture, customs and beliefs of all our students and of all people. Guided by our expectations of employee behavior, we have responded to this incident by taking immediate, appropriate action.

Yellowknife Catholic Schools seeks to sustain a healthy and positive relationship with the Aboriginal community. I commit to continuing to meet with you and the Dene community to rebuild trust based on mutual respect and understanding.

In closing, I look forward to ongoing dialogue as we work together in support of all students.

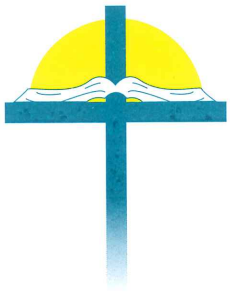
Sincerely,

Simon Taylor, Board Chair

Where Learning Lights the Spirit

Où l'apprentissage reflète l'Esprit

Yedàì Nezìì T'à Hoghàgoetq



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April 21, 2015

Laura Duncan
Tlicho Executive Officer
Box 412
Behchoko, NT XOE OYO

Dear Ms. Duncan:

As you are aware, a staff member of Yellowknife Catholic Schools recently made inappropriate and unacceptable posts on Facebook.

On behalf of Yellowknife Catholic Schools I am writing to formally apologize to the Tlicho community for this staff member's conduct. This individual's statements in no way reflect the values and beliefs of Yellowknife Catholic Schools.

Our school district has taken this incident very seriously. Yellowknife Catholic Schools serves many Aboriginal students and families. We expect our staff to respect the culture, customs and beliefs of all our students and of all people. Guided by our expectations of employee behavior, we have responded to this incident by taking immediate, appropriate action.

Yellowknife Catholic Schools seeks to sustain a healthy and positive relationship with the Aboriginal community. I commit to continue rebuilding trust based on mutual respect and understanding.

In closing, I look forward to ongoing dialogue as we work together in support of all students.

Sincerely,

Simon Taylor, Board Chair

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