

YELLOWKNIFE EDUCATION FACILITIES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- A February 27, 2007 letter advised Education District One (YK1) of the requirement to provide additional space for Yellowknife Catholic School District (YCS) students and of plans to fund both districts based on the relative classroom requirement of each district.
- The change in funding is intended to encourage YK1 to lease the use of one school to YCS for the duration of the Ecole St. Joseph School project.
- The formula framework would need to be amended to implement the change. Based on the utilities and maintenance budget for J. H. Sissons School it is estimated about \$300,000 per year would be reallocated between the two districts.
- Currently YK1 has in excess of 843 available spaces by Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) standards, based on a 100% occupancy or capacity rate. At 25 students per classroom, this equates to 33 vacant classrooms. By comparison, YCS has 55 available seats based on 100% capacity rates.
- ECE recommends that schools not operate above an 85% capacity rate. When the 85% rate is used, YK1 has 414 available seats.
- By keeping all schools open, YK1 is choosing to incur extra costs (e.g., Principals, Vice-Principals, school secretaries, teacher-librarians, and other specialist teachers). This money could be invested in programming.
- Currently the school utilization rates are 70.5% at YK1 and 96.6% at YCS (Attachment). The leasing of one school would result in approximately an 80% facility utilization rate for both districts.
- There are 562 students enrolled at Ecole St. Joseph School (ESJS). About 100 of these students are currently at NJM (not factored into attached utilization rates).
- Based on the preliminary schedule, provided by PW&S, no ESJS students are expected to be displaced during the upcoming 2007-08 school year (other than the students now at NJM). During the following school years there are plans to renovate about 50% of the school during each phase.
- There is a critical need to accommodate the displaced students as sections of ESJS come under reconstruction and classes are removed from service during the next three school years.