

**LEGISLATIVE RETURN**



**SUBMITTED BY: Hon. Tracy-Anne McPhee**

1. On April 20, 2017, Geraldine Van Bibber, Member for Porter Creek North

asked the following oral question at page(s) \_\_\_\_\_ of *Hansard*

submitted the following written question – WQ No. 4

gave notice of the following motion for the production of papers – MPP No. \_\_\_\_\_

RE: \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

2. This legislative return relates to a matter outstanding from discussion related to:

\_\_\_\_\_

on \_\_\_\_\_ at page(s) \_\_\_\_\_ of *Hansard*.

The response is as follows:

Attached is the letter provided in response to the same written question submitted by the Member for Porter Creek North on January 12, 2017.

May 1, 2017  
Date

[Signature]  
Signature



Office of the Minister  
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

February 20, 2017

Geraldine Van Bibber  
Member for Porter Creek North  
Yukon Legislative Assembly  
Box 2703  
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

Dear Ms. Van Bibber:

**Re: Response to Written Question No. 14**

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Thank you for your Written Question No. 14 dated January 12, 2017 regarding the education system in Yukon.

**Continued investment in student outcomes and learning models**

The Government of Yukon's strategic priority for education is to ensure Yukon's education system – at the elementary, secondary and post-secondary levels – achieves solid outcomes that meet Yukon's social, economic and community goals. We will make meaningful, effective investments in learning models and school programs and initiatives that demonstrate benefits to student learning, that support their success and improve their learning outcomes.

**Yukon's curriculum**

A major part of the work to support improved learning outcomes for all Yukon students is the planned changes to school curriculum for Kindergarten to Grade 12.

On January 23, 2017, The Government of Yukon committed to implementing a Yukon version of the revised B.C. curriculum. Yukon school curriculum will use the B.C. curriculum, with Yukon-specific content and Yukon First Nations' ways of knowing and doing, included, in all grades. The Department of Education is currently working with Yukon educators, Yukon First Nations and other partners to identify existing resources and develop sample units and examples for Kindergarten-Grade 9 that combine subject areas and embed Yukon content and Yukon First Nations' ways of knowing and doing, as we prepare to introduce these changes in the next school year.

Yukon schools will introduce these changes for Kindergarten to Grade 9 in the 2017/18 school year and for Grades 10-12 in 2018/19. We anticipate that implementation will take four years. More information is available on the Department of Education's website at: <http://www.education.gov.yk.ca/curriculum.html> or on the B.C. Ministry of Education's curriculum website here: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum>.



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### **Fundamental reading, writing and math skills**

Reading, writing and math are essential skills for learning and for students to succeed in life beyond school. The revised curriculum is competency-based, meaning that there is a focus on students developing skills in all areas. Literacy and numeracy, along with communication, thinking and personal-social awareness, are the foundational, key skills that are integrated into all grades and subject areas.

There are currently system-wide check-ins to assess how Yukon students are doing on the development of reading, writing and math skills. Students in Grades 4 and 7 write the Yukon Foundation Skills Assessments, which show whether they are meeting the expectations for their grade levels in these skills. These assessments will continue with the new curriculum.

The new curriculum will still require individual course exams and assessments as well as two required exams in high school, one for literacy and one for numeracy. The literacy exam will assess students on their ability to read, write, understand meaning, express themselves, critically analyze information and connect and create ideas. The numeracy exam will assess students on their ability to interpret information and apply math and logic to solve problems. The results will show a student's skill level and proficiency in these areas.

### **Coding and financial literacy**

Coding and financial literacy are both included in the revised B.C. curriculum, especially in Applied Design, Skills and Technologies (ADST) and in Mathematics.

#### *Coding*

Coding is one of many digital skills students need to learn for today's economy and society. Technology offers a variety of learning opportunities and ways to communicate, so digital literacy is an important area of students' overall communication skills and competencies.

In the revised curriculum, coding is part of the ADST program of studies. For example, Grade 6 students learn about computational thinking and programming languages that are used in computer coding. Grade 9 students learn robotics coding and electric circuits to program robots.

#### *Financial literacy*

Financial literacy is integrated into all grades. For example, Grade 1 students learn about coins and may role play exchange and transactions through trading games, while Grade 7 students learn about calculating sales taxes, discounts, and product pricing and Grade 12 students learn about budgeting, banking and interest rates.

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All of our work in education is focused on improving outcomes for students, so that they become successful citizens of Yukon communities and the world. We continue to work collaboratively with partners in education, including parents, educators, the Yukon Teachers' Association, Yukon First Nations governments and the First Nations Education Commission, School Councils and associations, the Yukon Francophone School Board, and Yukon College, to ensure our students are able to realize their aspirations and contribute to a healthy future for Yukon.

Thank you for your questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracy-Anne McPhee', written in a cursive style.

Tracy-Anne McPhee  
Minister of Education