



# DEHCHO DIVISIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

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## COVID-19 Update Superintendent's Message

March 26, 2020

Good Morning:

I wanted to extend my warmest wishes to all of you during these difficult times. Your health and safety are of paramount importance at moments like these. As such, I want to share with you a quote from the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Honorable R.J. Simpson on March 24.

*“The COVID-19 situation in the Northwest Territories has evolved substantially since the initial closure of schools on March 16. As new public health advisories and orders are put in place including the declaration of a public health emergency and the cancellation of all gatherings, we must continue to make difficult decisions to protect the health and safety of our residents. I am grateful to the NWT Education Leaders for their dedication and commitment to ensuring the well-being of our students, staff and communities in deciding to close schools for the remainder of the school year.”*

Given this recommendation from the Minister, we consulted with Dehcho Division Educational Council (DDEC) Trustees and Chairs on March 25 and unanimously passed a motion to close schools for the remainder of the school year. This decision is a measure intended to better ensure the health and safety of all our Dehcho residents moving forward.

Having made this decision, we are now better positioned to turn our attention towards a continuance of learning plan that will best meet the needs of all our students including those who are scheduled to graduate. Rest assured, that we are currently working on this plan in conjunction with the Department of Education, Culture, and Employment (ECE). We should be able to provide more clarity around this plan by next week.

Warmest Regards to You All,

Philippe Brulot (DDEC Superintendent of Schools)