

YELLOWKNIFE EDUCATION DISTRICT NO. 1
 OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES



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3042

EDUCATING FOR LIFE.

June 13, 2005

Hon. Michael Miltenberger
 Minister of Health & Social Services

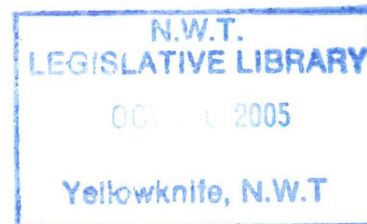
Contents of letter re: Territorial Treatment Centre relocation

The Board of Directors and staff of Yellowknife Education District #1 wish to express serious concerns about the proposed relocation of the Territorial Treatment Centre to Hay River. We anticipate a negative impact on our community, our schools and on the broader territorial region which the centre serves.

Yellowknife is a magnet community. It is the transportation hub serving the rest of the territory. Most families of the children who are enrolled at the TTC can travel here directly or with only one connecting flight. This contact with families is pivotal to success on leaving the centre.

With the TTC in Yellowknife, children who require the intensive intervention of a residential program, can also access the team of health professionals who are available in our community. These children often require the support of a pediatrician, a Speech Language Pathologist, an Occupational Therapist and/or a child Psychiatrist who are available here.

An important feature of the TTC's program is the successful reintegration of children from the TTC into the school community. Yellowknife has the largest number of schools of any community in the NWT. Communication among the Yellowknife schools, the TTC and the parents makes for a smooth transition from the TTC to the home and to the school community. It would be much more difficult for this communication to occur if the TTC is located in another community.



As a magnet community and the largest community in the Northwest Territories, many families who require support and services gravitate here. Yellowknife has a disproportionate number of children in the schools with severe special needs. Behaviour challenges are no exception. The proximity of the facility has been a deciding factor when families have had to make the difficult decision that their child's behaviour is out of control and they are considering a residential treatment program.

The question should not be about moving the centre. At any time there is a waiting list for treatment. The Territory could easily support two centres.

Please give serious consideration to the support services that these challenging children require. Does any other community offer the health, recreation and educational services Yellowknife can provide?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Reanna Erasmus".

Reanna Erasmus
Chairperson
Yellowknife Education District No. 1

c. Yellowknife MLAs