



JK ENGAGEMENT

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND EMPLOYMENT (ECE) ENGAGED WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS ON HOW TO IMPLEMENT JK THROUGHOUT THE NWT.

- ECE engaged with key stakeholders from May to December 2016 to build on strengths, needs and to support communities with a territorial implementation plan. These follow up engagements looked at how to implement JK in each community and ensure that the development of a JK implementation plan reflected community contexts.

HISTORY

- The original implementation plan for Junior Kindergarten called for a phased-in approach beginning with 29 small communities in 2014-15, regional centres (Inuvik, Hay River, and Fort Smith) in 2015-16, and Yellowknife in 2016-17. This plan was halted to allow time for an independent review of the program.
- At the direction of the Premier, ECE commissioned an independent review of the NWT Junior Kindergarten (JK Review) program that was presented to the 18th Legislative Assembly in January 2016. One recommendation of the review was to engage with stakeholders on how best to implement JK considering communities' needs. In response, Minister Moses committed that the next steps for JK would include increased stakeholder engagement to ensure a more inclusive approach.



CURRENT ACTIVITY

- The current plan is working toward territory-wide implementation of JK for the 2017-18 school year.
- Stakeholders engaged include Education Authorities (Divisional Education Councils/Yellowknife District Education Authorities/Superintendents), JK/K teachers and principals, the NWTTA, licensed early childhood operators, including Aboriginal Head Start program staff.
- Engagement has included face-to-face meetings and community visits, as well as webinars and teleconferences.



- Licensed early childhood operators have also had the opportunity to participate in two JK engagement sessions during the Early Childhood Symposium in August 2016 held in Yellowknife, NT. For those that were unable to participate, four additional webinars were offered (two english, two french).
- During engagement, stakeholders have been provided with information on the training provided to JK/K teachers and the play-based JK/K curriculum. Stakeholders have also had the opportunity to both respond to and ask questions about territorial implementation of JK.
- Plans for delivery of JK have been developed as a result of the engagements, including:
 - Education Authorities will have the discretion to hire staff with a minimum of a 2 year diploma in Early Childhood Development from an accredited postsecondary institution or those with a Bachelor of Education degree.
 - Implementation of the JK program in communities can be provided on a full-day or half-day basis to complement existing community programs. This will be at the discretion of the local District Education Authority (DEA).
- The DEA will have the ability to implement JK in a manner that will work with Aboriginal Head Start programs and other early childhood development programs within their community contexts.
- **If you have comments or questions related to JK, please contact the JK Hotline at 1 (844) 698-5655.**

