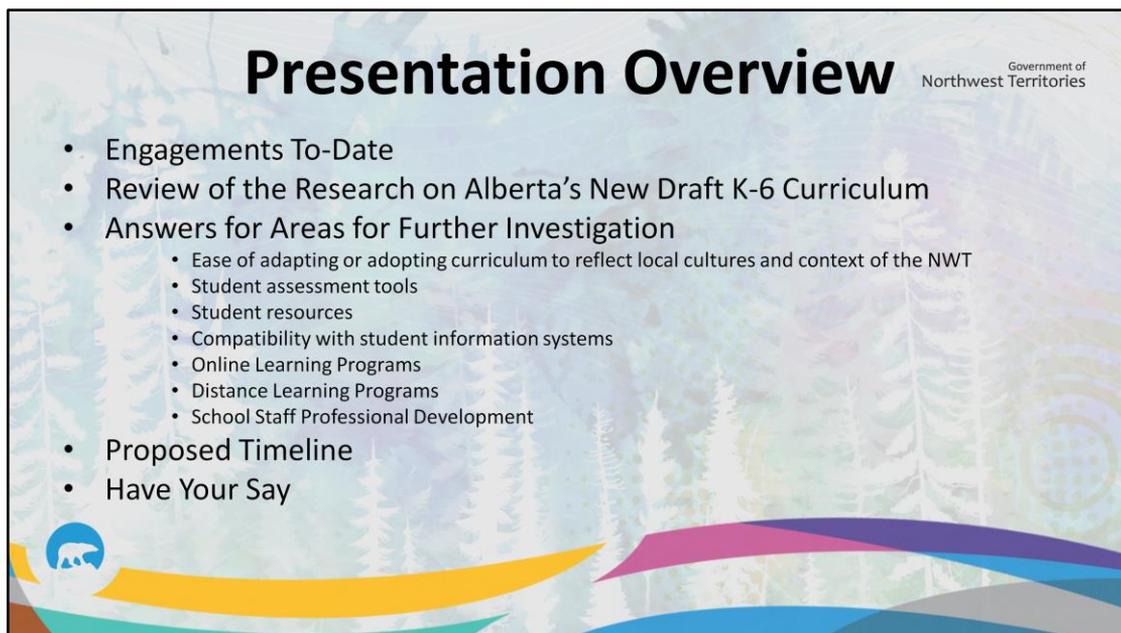


**ECE JK – 12 Curriculum Renewal Update –
What We Learned (so far ...)**
June 2021

Government of
Northwest Territories

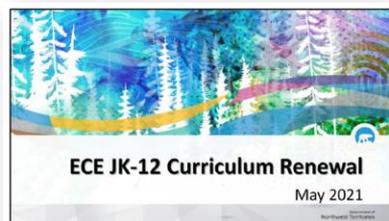


This presentation on JK-12 Curriculum Renewal follows this outline:

- 1) **Engagements To-date** - an overview of the number of engagements held to date, including the partner group and date of the engagement.
- 2) **Review of the Research on Alberta's New Draft K-6 Curriculum** – a review of the newest research and how this impacts Alberta's alignment to the NWT's education priorities
- 3) **Answers for Areas for Further Investigation** - providing the answers to questions identified in the discussion paper around what we have learned in the following Areas for Further Investigation:
 - Ease of adapting or adopting curriculum to reflect local cultures and context of the NWT
 - Student assessment tools
 - Student resources
 - Compatibility with student information systems
 - Online Learning Programs
 - Distance Learning Programs
 - School Staff Professional Development
- 4) **Proposed Timeline** – a review of the updated timeline
- 5) **Have your say** - a review of how you can still contribute feedback

Engagements To-Date

- 37 Total Engagements have been held with:
 - Education Bodies (DECs & DEAs)
 - Indigenous Governments
 - Northwest Territories Teachers' Association (NWTTA)
 - External Working Groups
 - Standing Committee
 - Other Public Groups



3

In the first round of engagement, we've held 37 engagement sessions with Indigenous Governments and Education partner groups.

ECE will continue to schedule engagements through to the end of the current school year. Some partners have completed an initial engagement already and have confirmed their desire for follow-up engagements as well. (Upcoming meetings in **BOLD.**)

Education Bodies (DECs & DEAs):

- South Slave DEC & Administrators (April 12)
- Hay River DEA & Administrators (April 12)
- Yellowknife Education District 1 Administrators (April 19)
- Commission scolaire francophone TNO DEC & Administrators (April 19)
- Yellowknife Catholic Schools Board Trustees & Administrators (April 20)
- Sahtú DEC & Administrators (April 26) & (May 10)
- Education Leaders (April 27)
- Yellowknife Education District 1 DEC (April 27)
- Beaufort Delta DEC (May 4)
- Dehcho DEC (May 6)
- Fort Resolution DEA (May 11)
- Fort Providence DEA (May 25)
- Ndilq DEA (June 3)
- Education Leaders (June 22) – What We Learned

Indigenous Governments:

- Gwich'in Tribal Council (April 14).
- Kátł'odeeche First Nation (April 15)
- Tłı̄chq Government (April 20)
- Déljne Got'ine Government (May 10)
- NWT Metis Nation (May 18)
- Dehcho First Nation (June 25)
- **Salt River First Nation (June 28)**
- **Yellowknives Dene First Nation (June 30)**

NWTTA:

- President and Executive (March 30)
- Regional Presidents (April 14)
- Teacher Sessions (April 21, April 22, & April 24)

External Working Groups:

- Curriculum and Assessment Sub-Committee (March 16, April 7)
- Regional Indigenous Languages Coordinators (May 12)

Standing Committee:

- Standing Committee on Social Development (April 13)

Other Public Groups:

- Northwest Territories Association of Communities (April 23)
- NWT Dene Nation (May 12)



Researcher's Review of Alberta's new draft K-6 Curriculum

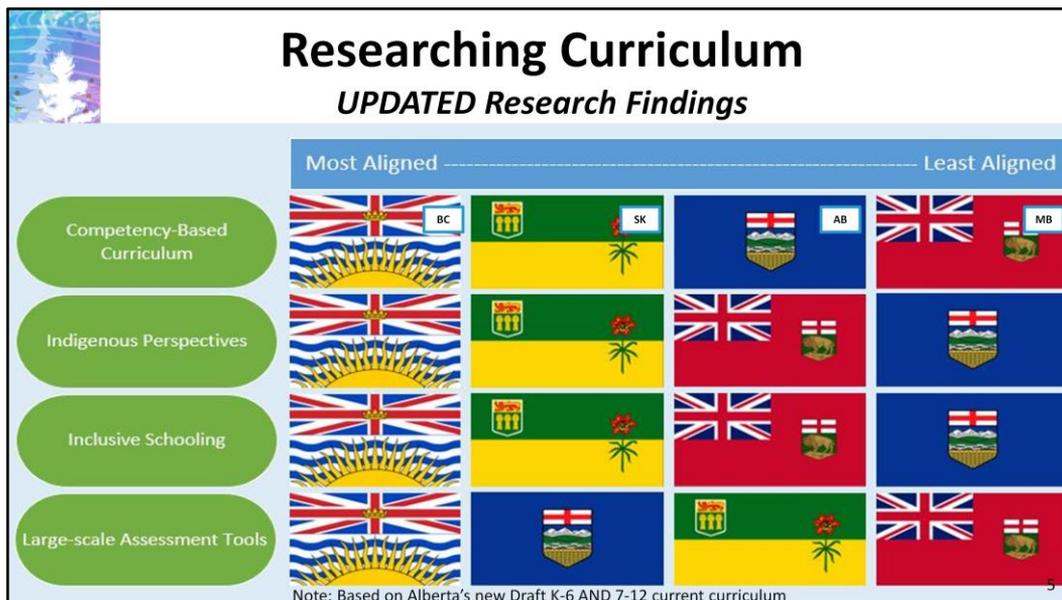
- Malatest reviewed the new draft Alberta K-6 curriculum using the same criteria and methodology
 - Jurisdictional report for Alberta was updated
 - ECE Report was updated
- ECE used the analysis to update the ranking of the provinces against the major themes.

4

The research company, Malatest, was hired to review the new Alberta K-6 curriculum, using the same criteria and methodology used in their original scan.

Malatest was asked to update their jurisdictional report for Alberta, as well as their Final Report, so that ECE could use the analysis to update the ranking of the provinces against the original four major themes:

- Theme 1: Competency-based Curriculum (being a Capable Person)
- Theme 2: Inclusion of Indigenous Perspectives
- Theme 3: Inclusive Schooling (all children and youth belong)
- Theme 4: Large-scale Student Assessment Tools



ECE staff used the updated research reports to review the ranking each of the provinces against the major themes outlined above in order to determine the degree to which the JK-12 curriculum was compatible with NWT needs.

The information in the chart remained unchanged, and in all four themes that were examined, weighted and ranked, **British Columbia remained as the most closely aligned to the NWT's priorities.**

Although the chart itself did not change, the analysis of the new information from the draft Alberta K-6 curriculum saw Alberta's alignment decrease in most areas.



Areas for Further Investigation

Specific questions regarding the following areas for further investigation were researched in more detail to support the decision making process:

- Ease of Adapting or Adopting the Curriculum
- Student Assessment tools
- Student Resources
- Compatibility with Student Information Systems
- Online Learning Programs
- Northern Distance Learning
- School Staff Professional Development



6

Building on the research completed by Malatest, ECE identified further areas to investigate before recommending a decision to the Minister about the best possible partner for NWT JK-12 curriculum.

Since the time of the engagements, ECE has researched and found answers to the questions identified.

The discussion questions fall under 7 main themes:

1. Ease of adapting or adopting curriculum
2. Student assessment tools
3. Student resources
4. Compatibility with student information systems
5. Online Learning Programs
6. Northern Distance Learning
7. School Staff Professional Development

The results of those findings are shared in the upcoming slides/pages and highlighted using the following coding:

✓ On track – no concerns

? Unsure – more research needed

✗ Concerns noted – will require significant changes or goes against NWT priorities .

Ease of Adapting or Adopting Curriculum

Alberta

- ✓ It is assumed that the NWT will be able to adapt the new curriculum;
- ✗ The new K-6 curriculum is content driven, which would require significant adaption;
- ✗ Adoption is unlikely in the lower grades, but unknown for the higher grades at this time;
- ? Uncertain of any changes to high school programming; however, it is assumed that the current 5 credit system will be maintained; and
- ✓ The NWT can retain NWT specific courses and requirements with a new curriculum.

British Columbia

- ✓ Yes, the NWT will be able to adapt the curriculum;
- ✓ The curriculum design is flexible, requiring little changes to core or curricular competencies;
- ✓ Most identified content would need to be adapted to the NWT; however, it is likely that there are areas that may be adopted;
- ? Graduation requirements will require updating and the NWT would need to decide whether or not to move to a 4 credit system; and
- ✓ The NWT can retain NWT specific courses and requirements with a new curriculum.



ECE needs to understand clearly how, and if, a new curriculum can be adapted to reflect cultures and context of the NWT.

Will the NWT be able to adapt a new curriculum?

Alberta

- Yes; although not yet confirmed specifically by AB, the NWT assumes that the ability to adapt the new curriculum will be approved, as it has been in the past.

British Columbia

- Yes; BC education is agreeable to ECE adapting their curriculum to meet the needs of the NWT.

Will the new curriculum require significant adaptations or can portions of the curriculum be adopted as is?

Alberta

- The new draft K-6 curriculum has a content-driven design, which would require significant adaptation before being used in the NWT; adoption is unlikely in the lower grades, but unknown for the higher grades at this time as the grade 7-12 curriculum is not yet available to us.

British Columbia

- The curriculum is designed to be flexible so that local content and perspectives can be easily integrated, hence little change would need to be made to the core competencies or curricular competencies.
- Content would need to be adapted to include NWT and local content; however, research is been done to confirm areas that may be adopted.

Will the new curriculum require changes to NWT graduation requirements and high school programming?

Alberta

- Uncertain as new Grade 10-12 curriculum has not yet been released; however, it is assumed that they will maintain the current 5 credit system.
- The NWT can retain NWT specific courses and requirements with a new curriculum.

British Columbia

- Requirements for graduation will need updating as the suite of courses are all different; however, the NWT can retain NWT specific courses and requirements with a new curriculum.
- A decision would need to be made around whether to move to a 4-credit system (which would require system changes), or to stay at a 5-credit system.

NOTE: Graduation requirements and high school programming:

- All Canadian provinces have comparable graduation requirements which means that the overall breadth of expectation will be comparable to existing NWT requirements. A decision will need to be made about any potential new graduation requirements given changes to the senior high program specific to Alberta or British Columbia.

Student Assessment Tools

Alberta

- ✓ Yes, the NWT will have access to Alberta's large scale assessment tools.
- ✗ A content-driven curriculum will likely require student assessment in the classroom that will focus more on memorization.
- ? Unsure of any new resources to support assessment using the new curriculum.
- ✓ Yes, the NWT will have access to assessment documents with no associated costs.

British Columbia

- ✓ Yes, the NWT will have access to BC's large scale assessment tools.
- ✓ Classroom assessment processes for formative and summative assessment practices will continue to exist with a competencies-based curriculum.
- ? New competency-based assessment practices will require teacher training support.
- ✓ BC has training videos for teachers on assessment
- ✓ Yes, the NWT will have access to assessment documents with no associated costs.



ECE needs to understand the implications and costs related to accessing large-scale student assessment tools and classroom assessments. The following questions will try to get at this answer:

Can the NWT access large-scale student assessment tools and if so, what is the cost?

Alberta

- Yes, the NWT will have access to Alberta's large scale assessment tools.
 - Alberta Achievement Test (AATs) in grade 6 & 9 and Diploma Exams in grade 12
- Current costs are \$650,000 annually for both AATs and Diploma Exams.

British Columbia

- Yes, the NWT will have access to BC's large scale assessment tools
 - Foundational Skills Assessments (FSAs) in grade 4 & 7, and Graduation Assessments in Grades 10 & 12
- Estimated cost is \$250,000 annually for both FSAs and Graduation Assessments.

How are JK-12 students assessed or evaluated in the classroom?

Alberta

- No changes to classroom assessment has been noted at this time; however, a content-driven curriculum will require student assessment in the classroom that will focus more on memorization.
- Unsure of any new resources that will be made available to support assessment using the new curriculum.

British Columbia

- Classroom assessment processes for formative and summative assessment practices will continue to exist with a competencies-based curriculum.
- New assessment practices will be needed, along with existing practices; as such teachers will need training support as they work with a new curriculum. BC has training videos for teachers on assessment

Do they have a student assessment strategy or protocol that the NWT can access and if so, what are the costs?

Alberta

- Yes, the NWT will have access with no associated costs.
- AB's assessment strategy is outlined in a range of documents about the Alberta Achievement Tests and Diploma Exams

British Columbia

- Yes, the NWT will have access with no associated costs
- BC's assessment strategy is contained in a series of documents related to the Foundational Skills Assessments and Graduation Assessments

Teaching Resources

Alberta

- ✘ The draft K-6 curriculum is content-driven and will likely require specific teaching resources, such as textbooks, novels, etc.
- ? Specifics around costs are unknown at this time.

British Columbia

- ✓ The curriculum was designed for local level resources, without requiring any specific teaching resources, such as textbooks, novels, etc.
- ✓ Existing resources in NWT classrooms can be used to support the curriculum, including *Literacy Place*, *Math Makes Sense* or *Jump Math*, or *Fountas and Pinnell*.



ECE needs to understand the implications and costs related to teaching resources.

What JK-12 teaching resources will accompany the new curriculum and what are the costs of these resources?

Alberta

- A content-driven curriculum will require the purchase of specific teaching resources, such as textbooks, novels, etc.
- It is unknown at this time what those required resources will be or what the cost of purchasing them will be – this is assumed to be a high cost.

British Columbia

- The curriculum was designed so that resources could be selected at a local level, without requiring the purchase of any specific teaching resources, such as textbooks, novels, etc.
- Existing resources in NWT classrooms can be used to support the curriculum, including literacy programs such as *Literacy Place*, math resources such as *Math Makes Sense* or *Jump Math* or diagnostic assessment tools such as *Fountas and Pinnell* or *Jerry Johns*.

Student Information Systems Compatibility

Alberta

- ✓ Yes, NWT schools can continue to use PowerSchool;
- ✓ No, ECE would not be required to use a different system; and
- ✓ No costs have been identified.

British Columbia

- ✓ Yes, NWT schools can continue to use PowerSchool;
- ✓ No, ECE would not be required to use a different system; and
- ✓ No costs have been identified.



ECE uses two different student information systems and would need to understand if either of these systems would need to change with the implementation of a new curriculum. The following questions will try to get at this answer:

Is the student information system compatible with the NWT's current systems?

Alberta

- Yes, we current use PowerSchool which is compatible.

British Columbia

- Yes, NWT schools can continue to use PowerSchool.
- Many independent schools in BC currently use PowerSchool and it compatible with BC's larger system.

Would the NWT be required to use a different system? If so, at what cost?

Alberta

- No, the NWT would not be required to use a different system.

British Columbia

- No, the NWT would not be required to use a different system.

Online Learning Programs

Alberta

- ✓ Yes; through identified school boards.
- ✗ No online French Immersion courses are available at this time.
- ✓ Costs range from \$100-\$200 per credit.

British Columbia

- ? Unsure of what online programs are available in BC; details are currently being researched.
- ✓ The Yukon also offer BC courses through their Aurora Virtual School.
- ? Unsure at this time if the NWT can access BC or Yukon online programming; this is still being researched



ECE will need to understand what online learning programs are offered and access implications for NWT students. The following questions will try to get at this answer:

Does the jurisdiction offer online or distance education courses?

Alberta

- Yes; although Alberta Education will no longer offer online courses through their Provincial Alberta Distance Learning Centre (ADLC). NWT schools can access online courses through the following four online schools: Vista Virtual School, Francophone Distance Education Centre, SCcyber E-learning Community and the Centre for Learning @Home.

British Columbia

- Yes; however, details are currently being researched.
- The Yukon also offer BC courses through their Aurora Virtual School.

If so, can the NWT access these courses and what are the associated costs?

Alberta

- Yes, a number of individual school boards will continue to offer online courses to NWT students in English and French First Language (for Rights Holders only); however, no school boards offering French Immersion courses have been identified at this time.
- Costs range from \$100-\$200 per credit.

British Columbia

- TBD, this is still being researched at this time

Northern Distance Learning

Alberta

- ✓ The structure and administration of NDL will not require changes;
- ? It is likely that all NDL courses would likely be new; however, no information about Alberta's high school courses has been released at this time;

British Columbia

- ? The structure and administration of NDL will not require changes;
- ? All NDL courses would be new;
- ? Would require a determination regarding which courses would be deemed 'higher-academic' or more difficult to offer locally in small schools.



ECE will need to understand what online or distance education programs are offered and access implications for NWT students. The following questions will try to get at this answer:

What changes would need to be made to NWT Northern Distance Learning (NDL) to accommodate the shift to a new curriculum?

Alberta

- Unsure at this time, as no information about Alberta's high school courses has been released but it is likely that the courses will be new; however, the structure and administration of NDL will not require changes.

British Columbia

- All high school courses would be new, and as they do not follow a course streaming model (-1,-2,-3), a determination regarding which courses would be deemed 'higher-academic' or more difficult to offer locally in small schools would need to be made; however, the structure and administration of NDL will not require changes.

School Staff Professional Development

Alberta

- ? Unsure what access NWT school staff would have to PD opportunities;
- ? Unsure what support NWT school staff could expect; and
- ? Unsure what costs would be associated with accessing PD and/or supports.

British Columbia

- ✓ Yes, NWT has been welcomed to attend PD opportunities;
- ✓ BC personnel have been very supportive to date, and have offered their support as and when needed; and
- ✓ Only costs associated to participating in PD would be related to travel; however, due to COVID-19, most PD is now virtual.



ECE needs to understand the implications, opportunities and costs related to accessing professional development (PD) opportunities and supports. The following questions will try to get at this answer:

What access would NWT school staff have to PD opportunities?

Alberta

- Unsure what access NWT school staff would have to PD opportunities, this is still being researched

British Columbia

- NWT school staff, board staff and Department staff are welcome to attend PD opportunities as and when they occur

What degree of support could NWT school staff expect?

Alberta

- Unsure what support NWT school staff could expect, this is still being researched

British Columbia

- BC personnel have been very supportive to date, and have offered their support as and when needed; it is expected that this will continue to be offered throughout a phased-in implementation of a new curriculum.

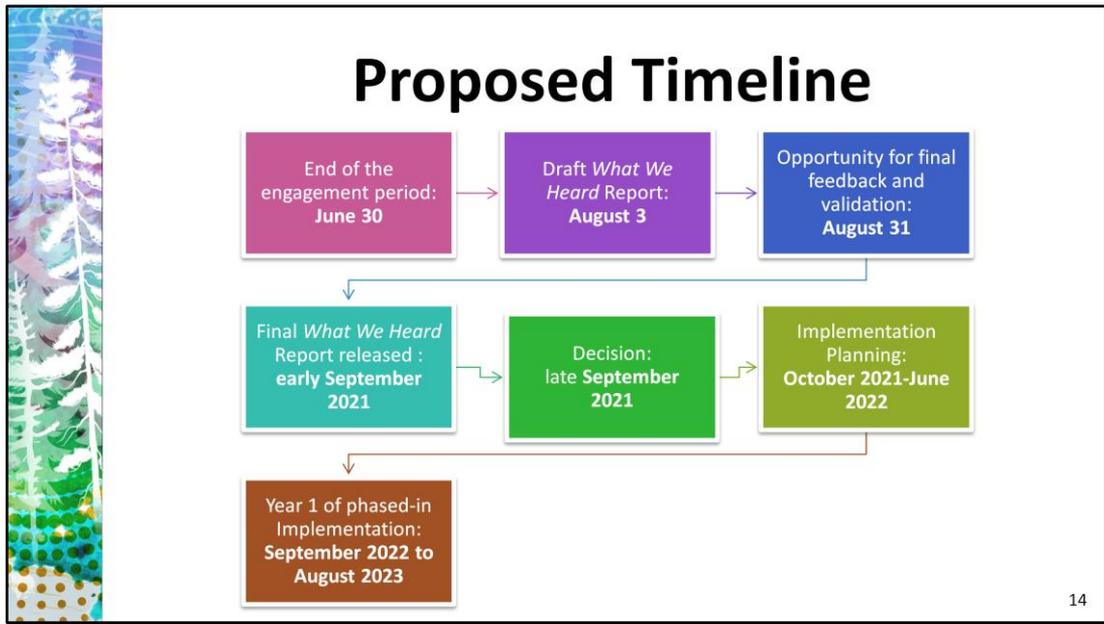
What costs are associated with accessing these PD and/or supports?

Alberta

- Unsure what costs would be associated with accessing PD and/or supports, this is still being researched

British Columbia

- Only costs associated would be related to travel; however, due to COVID-19, BC has moved to a mostly virtual PD platform removing all costs.



The proposed timeline

- End of the engagement period: June 30, 2021
- Draft *What We Heard* Report sent to all partners: August 3, 2021
- Opportunity for feedback on draft *What We Heard* Report: August 31, 2021
- Final *What We Heard* Report released: September 7, 2021
- Making a Decision: September 30, 2021
- Curriculum Implementation Planning: September 2021 – August 2022
- Year 1, beginning of phased-in grade 1-12 Curriculum Implementation: September 2022- August 2023

