

Takhini neighbourhood survey

What Takhini residents think about the Government of Yukon's plans to relocate Whitehorse Elementary School to their neighbourhood

1. Introduction

The Takhini Neighbourhood Association was invited to meet with the Minister of Education, the Minister of Community Services and the Minister of Highways and Public Works on October 18, 2024, to discuss their members' concerns regarding the government's decision to relocate Whitehorse Elementary School from downtown to Takhini.

To prepare for the meeting, the Association surveyed its membership to collect residents' thoughts on the government's decision.

This report presents the data collected in its raw form. The only alteration that has been made is to remove personal information included in some responses.

2. The survey

The survey asked 3 questions:

1. What's the most important message that the Minister of Education needs to hear regarding the WES relocation project?
2. Do you support the relocation of WES to Takhini?
3. Please explain your response to question 2.

2.1. Survey response

Response to the survey was overwhelming. 144 people completed the survey between 1:15 PM on Sunday, October 13, 2024, and 8:30 PM on Thursday, October 17, 2024. That's an average of more than one response an hour.

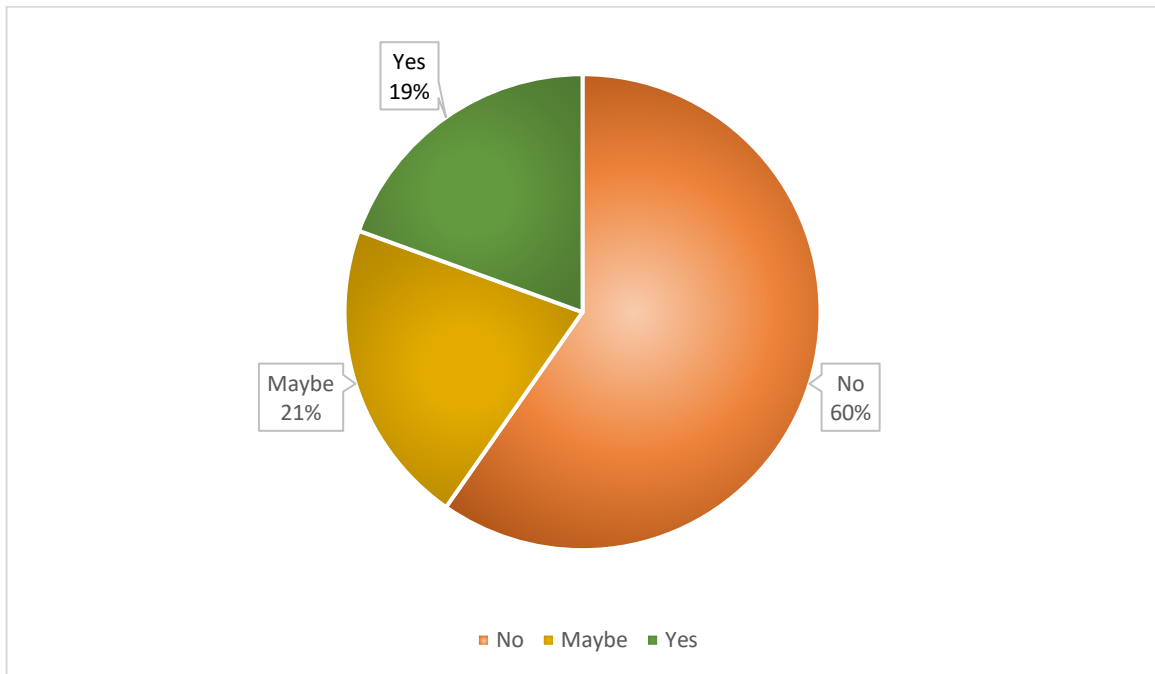
Survey respondents spent an average of 15 minutes composing their responses. That's a total of 36 hours spent completing the survey.

2.2. Survey results: Question 2

Question 2 presented 3 options respondents could select in response to the following question: Do you support the relocation of WES to Takhini?

1. Yes
2. Maybe
3. No

Responses are presented in the following pie chart.



2.3. Survey results: Question 3

The following sub-sections are broken down by each response. Submissions are presented in raw, unmodified format. Some respondents indicated that they had already answered question 3 in their response to question 1, so those responses have been omitted.

2.3.1. Question 3 response: No

The following submissions are in response to the question, “please explain your response to question 2,” following up on a “no” response to the question, “Do you support the relocation of WES to Takhini?”

1	I do not think that Range Rd. can sustain two elementary schools, a university, two jails, and the ball fields.
2	We have a school in the neighbourhood. Money should go toward renovating, maybe expanding it. Maybe even considering housing WES and Takhini Elementary under one roof -- an example of collaboration. Building a new WES in Takhini will take up important recreational space. Traffic along Range Road is already too congested and building a new WES will only make it worse. It makes the most sense to keep WES downtown for parents and students. Why not build a new WES on the same as state one of this project and tear down the old WES as stage 2.
3	1)My family loves the green space behind Takhini Elementary. We collected wild plants and mushrooms there every summer and fall. Our kids also love playing in that space and exploring nature so close to our house. Its become an extremely important part of our life. The absolute last thing we want is the loss of any of this space. 2)Traffic is already a nightmare in the mornings. Whistlebend uses range road as a main artery to downtown when it's not designed to be. We can take anymore traffic.
4	I do not believe traffic changes can be accommodated; and green space preservation is a requirement in this neighbourhood.
5	As mentioned above - I do not believe that we can provide safe road access and space for so many children here!
6	There will be added 500 plus vehicles on Range Road and University Dr. School bus drivers are hard to recruit. They say the kids they transport are out of control. Teachers and EAs say the same thing. More traffic in an area that is already congested is not a good thing.

	Too near the jail and halfway house for young kids. The jail visitors can be drug and pedo dealers.
7	For all the reasons that the association has expressed concerns: lack of transparency, no consultation, lack of evidence and rationale, etc.
8	This school will draw students from across Whitehorse. I would be fine with another catchment school, but strongly feel that the bilingual school should be downtown. Given the commitment to a downtown school, it doesn't make sense to push the bilingual school, with the traffic it will bring, into our community.
9	Other options have not been given serious attention, concern about increased neighbourhood traffic, loss of green space,
10	<p>There are many reasons I don't support the schools relocation to Takhini, the main one being that Range Road has turned into a major traffic route but was never designed to be one. A new school will undoubtedly exacerbate the traffic issue and result in major issues for neighborhood residents and others using Range Road. This has very clearly not been considered in the governments decision making process.</p> <p>My second concern is the proposed clear cutting of the forest beside Takhini Elementary. My child and I walk those trails every day and I find the green space incredible beneficial for my mental health. Clear cutting such an important piece of land would truly make me consider leaving the neighborhood to find another with more green space. The proposed design feels thoughtless and in contradiction of every study out there that totes the benefits of children having access to nature.</p>
11	Too much congestion and negative impact on sustainability of Takhini ES
12	The proposed location of WES to be beside the Takhini School makes no sense given the congestion it will cause on Range Road which is ALREADY congested. Stay away from this location and any further greenbelt destruction. Leave Takhini Elementary alone and do not put two schools on Range Road. Put schools where the people are not on a through fare for drop off - this does not build community.
13	I do not believe our little community can support this large infrastructure development. The traffic is already an issue and a 500 person school will surely cripple an already overwhelmed roadway. This lead me to safety concerns for our children on the neighbourhood streets as there will surely be increased traffic on our residential streets.

	<p>I am also very concerned about losing any of the green space adjacent to the central park townhouses. Our children and many of the children in our neighbourhood frequent these woods. It would be a major loss for our community to see this green space removed.</p> <p>I am also concerned about the effect a development like this will have on our property values. Currently our home backs on to the green space and the current proposed development will demolish the green space and leave us with a giant multi use field as our view.</p>
14	<p>Takhini is already more than busy enough with all of the infill housing and its considerable traffic, including cyclists that pass through via the trail network. Adding additional infrastructure and the associated motor vehicle and non motorized traffic would detract from what once was a quiet neighborhood. The city's plans for managing the Whistlebend-based traffic that passes through along Range Road will likely be insufficient and adding more will make the situation unbearable. Whitehorse's city limits encompass more land than the city of Calgary, and with less than 40k people, I'm sure YG can find somewhere else to build if they try.</p>
15	<p>The proposed site for WES is adjacent to an existing elementary school. Having two of the same age-related schools is redundant.</p>
16	<p>I just don't see how putting a new school in an already fragile ecosystem with growing traffic demands is a good idea.</p>
17	<p>Recently premier Ranj Pillai emphasized that this government is committed to reducing crime in the downtown area. Encouraging families into the downtown core is a simple means to reduce crime. Families are encouraged into an area if a school and playing field are in the district. What is a simpler and easier strategy?</p>
18	<p>The Range Road/Takhini area is not representative of the students who typically attend French Immersion. This type of school would be better suited in a suburb such as Copper Ridge or Whistlebend. If the Education Department does not have the statistics to determine this, they could collect it and be more strategic in their planning. Range Road is becoming very busy and taking the greenbelt away will only worsen the school experience and our living experience. There must be other options - we should be made aware of these. We should not be brought into the discussion AFTER the government has made its decision. In Takhini North, we are already battling the increased noise from both Range Road and the Highway. Give us a break, and think about the quality of life of Yukoners and their children.</p>

19	I agree with the concerns from the October 13, 2024 newsletter. Also, there are some serious drainage issues in the area behind the school and close to the Normandy crescent road, which I fear will be aggravated if the area is to be transformed into a multi-sport field and existing vegetation removed.
20	<p>There are lots of reasons I am opposed to this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -the traffic is already terrible, and this will further congest an already miserable driving area. -the removal of forested areas to build new school infrastructure will have a negative impact on the people and animals who live in the area -I used to live downtown, near the current EWES location. Removing a school from downtown is a bad idea - it will negatively impact the downtown community, remove opportunities for downtown kids to walk to school, and hollow out our downtown even further. -There were no public meetings held to inform this decision. No opportunity to learn more about the proposal, and no interest in hearing from locals on our views. Stating as you do in your report that it is Community preference: Preferred by the Takhini Neighbourhood Association is ridiculous. We don't want a new EWES in Takhini, at all. I haven't talked to a single Takhini resident who does. -It seems that this decision has just already been made - with no ability for residents to meaningfully shape where in the city the new school will be built. Why not just rebuild it where it is now? Why force Takhini residents to bear the brunt of congestion in our tiny neighbourhood?
21	I'm very concerned about traffic, and impact on green space. I also have heard that downtown residents support keeping a school in the downtown area (for a variety of reasons), and would hope YG is listening to this concern as well.
22	Almost everyone making comment that I've seen/heard wants WES to remain downtown. You should be setting up portable facilities at another school to facilitate students and staff while the old building is replaced
23	It greatly affects the students of Takhini Elementary school who use the green space for their outdoor learning. It does not make sense to compromise their learning and their school culture and community. A huge school on the same lot will drastically affect Takhini elementary.
24	WES needs to stay downtown! It is not appropriate to have an elementary school directly across from the jail! Traffic is already beyond max.

25	Range road traffic, two elementary schools right next to each other doesn't make sense, school should remain downtown.
26	Commitment to have a school in downtown core has not been met. Add school downtown then talk about additional schools
27	<p>With the current bussing situation and lack of drivers available to keep up with current demands for students requiring transportation to and from school, how will moving a school from downtown to Tahkini help the families residing in the downtown core that either rely on walking or biking to get their kids to and from school?</p> <p>On top of this anyone not able to get school bus transportation will need to than drive their child(ren) to and from school therefore congesting range road further.</p> <p>Softball Yukon is a huge asset to The Yukon, hindering their ability to provide resources to the hundreds of Yukoners that enjoy getting out to play during a very slim window of decent weather is unfair to say the least.</p> <p>COW has already interfered quite a bit with the ability of motorists & cyclists etc to use most of range road for the majority of the summer of 2024- while we understand the need to repair the sanitary lines, the work was extensive and took quite some time to complete, this being said- I can just imagine the lengthy process to which we will endure the same set backs when COW/YTG takes on building another school in an already congested space.</p>
28	Range Road is currently at capacity with the increased traffic. It is difficult to pull out of our neighbourhood now, so having more traffic with parents driving their kids to and from school is unsustainable.
29	Way too much traffic, impact on Green space, noise, will greatly impact quality of life in neighbourhood...just with the construction phase alone...and then once it's open...a whole other story! This plan was not comprehensively thought through. There are options that make a lot more sense...as mentioned above...both practically and fiscally speaking. Decisions can't just be pushed through for political reasons...they often are reactive and not responsive to what people actually want...like pushing through the building of FH even though they knew the design they chose was going to be way to small.
30	There are other options take the ball fields to another location
31	Our small area should not hold another dense population building.

	We already have a prison...a university...a school...government offices..and seniors complex.
32	I think there are better options. The public needs to be truly consulted.
33	Use the downtown site.
34	<p>Firstly, a school such as WES can be placed any where. It serves students from a wide area. There is no direct commitment to the area where it is situated. In this case those who want or require a French language program. These students will be bused into the school and out to where they live. The current school should have local students as a priority and then those who wish to come for the programs here.</p> <p>Secondly, the building of the school will result in several external issues. These include a significant increase in traffic on range road with all of the issues of safety and access. The propose removal of green space. This has been raised more eloquently by others than I can. The suggestion that the recreation facilities would be share. How can you organize this. And do really expect it to work between two group that are are close competitors for the same space?</p>
35	I believe it's important for the health of downtown Whitehorse to have a school. There should be a variety of services, shops, age groups and different types of residences to be a balanced community. Our downtown core is at risk for driving this critical variety away. It will become a collection of public housing buildings.
36	Why? Why two elementary schools next to each other and no school downtown ... another death blow to downtown and redundancy on Range Road. It's weird and, well, weird.
37	<p>No consultation with the community citizens are greater WH city citizens.</p> <p>No land use engineering completed.</p> <p>No traffic studies completed for already congested roads.</p> <p>No less important is safety of cyclist in having a right to a safe and enjoyable commute.</p> <p>The long term light pollution for residences near this development</p>
38	Every neighborhood needs a school and downtown needs it own school.

39	Downtown desperately needs a school, whereas Takhini does not need another school next to another school, ruining our forests and creating more congestion on our roads.
40	It seems like a lot of kids from Takhini go to WES but I worry about the increase in traffic and the impact on Takhini Elementary.
41	I don't believe taking the last school out of downtown is good neighbourhood building, I just moved into Takhini from Downtown and I used to see so many parents walking their children to and from EWES every day. I think that Takhini is crowded enough during busy school drop off and pick up hours. As well I don't think it benefits the community to take three softball fields away that are used at least five days a week from May through August by everyone in our community.
42	I don't think the site was chosen with proper consideration of alternatives, such as downtown, tank farm area, and Whistle bend. I think the old EWES building should be restored and not demolished. Other cities retain schools that are hundreds of years old, as they have historical and architectural value.
43	<p>A large number of parents drive their kids to the existing school. Current conditions on Range Road in the morning and afternoon are unsafe for students and challenging for drivers. A new Whitehorse Elementary in conjunction with an existing Takhni could mean tripling the amount of traffic during peak hours.</p> <p>The proposed clearing of green space behind Takhini school needs to be reconsidered. Besides the loss of green space, the area is a natural accumulation. From the spring freshet into mid summer the area is a shallow lake.</p>
44	We already have significant traffic congestion at the Hart intersection (Range Road/Two Mile Hill) with residents of Whitehorse getting to and from work. Relocating WES to the Takhini Subdivision will substantially increase the traffic congestion problem. Also the current and future expansion of the Whistle Bend Subdivision will have a major impact on traffic congestion at the Hart intersection. Plus the future development of the Range Point neighbourhood (approximately 390 new residential units) will further increase traffic congestion. Also at some point in time the existing federal buildings on Range Road will be decommissioned and potentially replaced with housing units or other projects that will further increase the current traffic congestion problem. Plus the physical development of the new school that

	<p>will take approximately 2 to 3 years and will create more traffic congestion during the construction phase.</p> <p>The proposed mutli-use sports field will destroy a green space used by residents of the Takhini neighbourhood and students at Takhini Elementary School.</p> <p>The destruction of the two ball diamonds to accomodate a new school doesn't make sense. The ball diamonds are used extensively during the summer months by local teams and for hosting tournaments. These two diamonds are important assets for Softball Yukon and for providing recreational opportunities for Whitehorse residents.</p>
45	<p>Dispersing schools brings vibrancy to communities-they act as community centres in many cases. Removing a school from downtown takes away that community space and deadens downtown.</p>
46	<p>Since whistle bend construction, and the new softball fields (for adults and kids)range road has an incredible traffic and noise problem. The softball fields increases traffic evening and evening. Traffic from porter creek and whistle bend morning and evening. It now takes me 24 min from Takhini east to downtown in the morning during traffic time! 6 min outside traffic time. It is already difficult and dangerous for parents and Takhini east residents to cross range range to access school and trails. The Normandy residents can not cross safely range road to walk on the Takhini bluffs.</p> <p>If WES was to be constructed there, the multiflex field will destroy the forest. It will be best to build it on the softball field besides the range. I am also concerned that the school will be build on a ground that has been sinking every years.... 2 schools besides each other makes no sense . A school should deserve a community need. I am wondering where the suggestion to build WES -an immersion school - in Takhini may come from It seems to me that the immersion factor has not been part in the discussion. In general, immersion kids come from wealthy families. Is it now more convenient for them to have it in Takhini?</p> <p>Another concern will university way. You will now have traffic turning left on a hill with traffic coming down from the university (buses, taxis, cars)..</p> <p>Takhini is already very busy with area , school, baseball fields, art centre, jail, university, Normandy living, the barracks....I would rather make all the softballs fields relocated out of town and have the space freed to build accommodation.</p>

47	No proper planning and analysis of current situation. Lack of consultation, no proper consideration for the impact of increased traffic without proper road infrastructure in an area that is already problematic. People want a school downtown!
48	Traffic concerns
49	Takhini doesn't need another elementary school, or more traffic on Range Road. Downtown needs WES to stay downtown.
50	The traffic congestion on Range Road/Mountainview Drive is already insurmountable. Another school, with additional expansion of sports fields, eliminating all green belt and buffer zone between loud, long, and late noise will hugely affect condo development owners. I believe it's also important to keep a school in the downtown core.
51	If a school is maintained downtown at all times, I would be open to further discussion about opening a new school in Takhini, but a school in one neighborhood cannot be replaced by a school in a different neighborhood. If an additional school is being proposed in Takhini, it should not be located next to an existing school. If you go to any other city you will not find multiple schools located beside each other. The Riverdale neighborhood is the only place where I have seen so many schools so close together and it causes a lot of traffic congestion. It will be the same outcome in Takhini. Schools should be spaced out around the community and located based on projected population growth. In addition, not having a school downtown sends the message that downtown is not for residents and families, meanwhile it is one of the most populated neighborhoods with many families.
52	Start listening to those who put trust in your leadership. Ask for sensible input with reasonings backed with cost effective Solutions. Ignore the wing nut complaints. Form decisions on the greater good for the people and environment
53	There has been a lot of development in the Takhini neighbourhood in the last few years that has caused congestion and a reduction in greenspace and recreational areas. These issues have not been solved and adding another school, at a location that is frequently used for community events and activities, would just make these issues worse. Requiring parents/guardians from outside the neighbourhood to drive their kids to the school would be unfair to the parents and Takhini residents. Traffic already crawls at peak times. Also, downtown is Whitehorse's hub, so it makes way more sense for a French immersion school (with students from all neighbourhoods) to be

	located at a central location. Removing the only school from downtown will absolutely reduce community vibrancy.
54	Removing a school from Downtown and placing it within a small radius of a university, two jails and another elementary school is absurd. With one road to and from this location.
55	There are better options, i.e. converting F.H Collins into an elementary school and building a bigger high school in a different location. Moving WES to Takhini is a short sighted option and creates more problems than it solves.
56	Goes back to question 1. The increase in congestion through Takhini and the loss of the ball diamonds.
57	Takhini already has a traffic problem. It will be far worse with first construction of a school, and then operation of a school. Destroying the forested area and two ball diamonds makes no sense at all. Downtown must have a school. It's crazy to think otherwise. What is the government expecting to be built on the existing site of WES? They've been SO quiet about that. They COULD use portables while they build a new school on the same lot.
58	There is an existing school beside the location already there, if the school downtown is demolished and that space is used for something other than a school, there won't be any locations downtown that a school could ever move into
59	See resp #1. Also, I think it would be better to keep the Immersion school downtown. Bringing students and parents from all over Whitehorse will help keep downtown resident-appropriate and support downtown businesses.
60	There is nothing wrong with the present location of WES, it can be rebuilt adjacent to the existing building much like FH Collins was some years back.
61	1. Traffic on Range Road is already bad because this route services Takhini, the college area, Northlands, porter creek and whistle Bend. Adding another school will make it worse since many WES parents drive their kids to school. 2. It is short sighted to remove the school from downtown since schools add vibrancy to a community. There does appear to be room on the current WES site to build another school while students continue to use the existing WES.

	<p>3. Govie hasn't adequately explained why the school needs to move from downtown nor have they explained what will become of existing WES building or land (there are some conspiracy theories out there).</p> <p>4. This project was presented as a fait accompli and failed to provide any data or information related to other options considered, like moving wes to FHCollins and instead building a high school that meets the needs of a growing population.</p> <p>5. Recreation, in this case baseball, is a big part of the community and losing the current fields without a plan for an alternative would negatively impact many.</p> <p>6. My big message is SLOW DOWN! There seems to have been very little thought given to the various elements and outcomes, and most concerning very little opportunity for public involvement at the planning level.</p>
62	With the infill about 15 years ago, Whistlebend development, the university and now Normandy Manor and the new condo building the traffic in Takhini is already too much. A new school will only add to that. Safety of residents is not given anymore.
63	I am a resident of Takhini North and feel that the Takhinis are already over-capacitated because of all the duplexes in the three neighbourhoods, the two new seniors' residences on Range Road, the Barracks, Yukon Place (Yukon Archives, Yukon University, Yukon Arts Centre, 55+ residence,), the Whitehorse Correctional Centre, the softball fields, the Coroner's facility, the disc golf courses, and the associated road and trail systems. I am very concerned that the relocation of WES to Takhini will diminish my quality of life and that of my wife and neighbours.
64	Pedestrian and bicycle safety is already a huge concern on Range Road and Normandy Road North. There have already been two tragic accidents involving children and youth on these streets. Congestion, limited visibility and speeding are the main issues in this area. Since becoming a major thoroughway from Whistlebend to downtown, these issues (congestion, limited visibility, speeding) have increased considerably. As a result, so too has the the risk increased for children, pedestrians and bikers in this area. Adding another school to Range Road would exponentially increase this risk further. It is not safe to add more traffic to Range Road. We want Range Road, Normandy Road North, and all of Takhini to be safe for residents to walk, bike and drive to school and downtown. Another school on this road would our whole neighbourhood and attendees of schools in the area at serious risk.
65	It would be better to keep EWES in downtown

66	Leave the green space. A new school would result in dangerous and overwhelming traffic conditions.
67	<p>Takhini school needs to be replaced.</p> <p>The jail needs to be moved out of prime city real estate. Then you have spots for 2 schools with lots of green space for all learning in our community</p>
68	<p>There is too much traffic on Range Road as we speak. Every morning, the traffic is backed up to Takhini Elementary and sometimes the jail between 7:55 and 8:30 am. Adding another school will turn this into a bigger mess. The forest behind Takhini is used daily by the classes, especially since TAK has become a FNSB school. This would negatively affect all the programming for TAK classes.</p> <p>Having an elementary school downtown is necessary. This way there are schools in all neighbourhoods, schools are what can make a neighbourhood. Removing schools from a part of town changes the community feel of the place completely.</p>
69	<p>This will create so many more issues than it will solve. Another example of piss poor planning and thinking.</p> <p>See comments above. You will be creating another traffic nightmare, just like trying to get in and out of Riverdale during school pickup and drop off.</p>
70	Traffic is already way to congested
71	Again, downtown needs access to an elementary school.
72	<p>-there should be an elementary school downtown (proximity matters for families. I was a kid who grew up in an unstable home and I made it to school as much as I did because I lived close by. Had that not been the case my life might have looked very different today).</p> <p>-takhini elementary is on the list of schools needing a replacement. It should be replaced before a new school is placed here.</p> <p>-traffic is already terrible on range road. It is not safe for residents (especially kids and those with mobility challenges) to cross range road. I have been nearly hit and yelled at by commuters while trying to cross with my kids. A new school will increase the volume of traffic and kids on the road and increase the likelihood of another accident.</p>

	<p>-schools should be spread around to the different neighborhoods in Whitehorse, not concentrated in a couple of areas like in Riverdale. This adds to traffic challenges and decreases access for many families.</p> <p>-just because there is an educational reserve on the softball fields does not mean it is the best place to put a school. Those reserves are set in place like a land 'dibs' system. Have other areas been considered? Has any other feasibility work been done? It seems like we could be setting ourselves up for failure by making a decision on location prior to determining the viability of that location and if there might be a better option. A traffic assessment, land feasibility work (half of the area being considered turns into a lake every spring), discussions with the community association, etc. should be carried out prior to making a decision on the location of a new school.</p>
73	<p>Amended rezoning at the detriment of local residents.</p> <p>Traffic has been speeding on Range Road constantly. vehicle traffic congestion increase dramatically which puts all pedestrians and cyclists at risk.</p> <p>The multi use field will cut down the greenspace for Central park residents with very little to no buffer from the planned field.</p> <p>Noise and light pollution.</p> <p>Lastly no other serious studies were ever completed looking at other school location possibilities.</p>
74	<p>The advancement of key infrastructure projects is not something to be taken lightly nor should it be undertaken without a well thought out plan in place. No consultation was undertaken between the DoE with the local community members nor was rationale provided, to both the community and public at large, to explain the Department's position on this location choice over any other. The detrimental impacts to local traffic, the loss of shared green space, the increase to resident's property tax owing (when LIC's come knocking with the increased degradation of city infrastructure; roads and utilities), the loss of important community infrastructure in the softball fields and a lack of transparency regarding the DoE's location choice have lead me to not support this endeavor.</p>
75	<p>The downtown option would make the most sense.</p>
76	<p>Proper consultation pls. The traffic and congestion are at their peak. Adding a school at this location will pose a hazard to everyone involved, esp the kids.</p>
77	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The traffic congestion is already horrific 2. The loss of that green space

78	<p>1. Encroachment on green space and loss of a public recreation resource.</p> <p>2. Traffic ... the addition of Normandy Place, a new condo complex and the expansion of Whistle Bend has made Range Road (in its current state) inadequate for the driving public and hazardous/dangerous for the community.</p>
79	<p>Takhini only has 2 ways to enter from and both intersections are dangerous and filled with loads of traffic. Building a new school will cause more congestion in this small neighborhood which is not needed. It is already hard enough with the amount of traffic coming in and out.</p> <p>Also, I don't support it as I had heard loads of concerns about parents having to drive further for their child to go to school. Whitehorse elementary school is highly populated with students and it will be a big inconvenience for parents to have their child move to a school further from home. Keep WES close to downtown for the convenience of everyone who already currently attends that school</p>

2.3.2. Question 3 response: Maybe

The following submissions are in response to the question, “please explain your response to question 2,” following up on a “maybe” response to the question, “Do you support the relocation of WES to Takhini?”

1	We can't support or oppose until we know the impacts. If there is no traffic study we would default to No Support.
2	I think it would be a huge opportunity to be at the table. One HUGE concern I have is that takhini will bear all the burden and not have any benefit. What are the benefits they're prepared to offer us? I would like to see one big change in policy which is that WES would be seen as a takhini catchment school- that we would have the right to send our children there as our neighborhood school if we wanted. Right now, our neighborhood catchment school is whistlebend if we don't want to send our kids to an FNSB school. I would want the choice. I would be so angry if there were a school in my backyard and I wasn't given the choice to send my kids there, but that was the existing policy for downtown. I think that would be an easy concession for DoE to make that wouldn't even cost them any money.
3	If WES is to be relocated, something must be done to calm the traffic on Range Road. I do not support the relocation of WES without significant upgrades to Range Road to make it a safe active transit route. That would be a completely separated bike path along the entire length of Range Road from 2 Mile Hill to Mountainview.
4	Not enough information available to make decision.
5	I'm not opposed to a new school, I don't use the ball diamonds and don't think a new school would impact the greenspace too much. I see the school having a potential positive impact on property values. However, I do want to know what the traffic impacts are expected to be. But ultimately the downtown should retain a school to keep the downtown family friendly. While YG has said they're committed to a downtown school, YG Education has already planned it's schools new schools for the next 10-15 years, so another unplanned school wont be needed/built until at least, leaving the downtown without a school, driving families out and then it'll be a harder sell to build a replacement school downtown, once they families are gone from not having a school for the past decade or more.
6	If an innovative design was accepted and did not impact our green space and they figured out a traffic solution, with safe bike lanes, with again, no damage to our forest then yes, maybe it would be okay. If they commit to making the

	space best for young children and not compromising their needs for softball's needs.
7	Only if they do it with minimal damage to the forest AND if they can promise minimal disruption (traffic, noise etc) during and after the construction period, which I am dreading. We've had enough heavy equipment noise and vibration up here.
8	If they use the land to maximize its potential for child development and not pander to softball yukon then I would fully support the school. Also if they actually did their due diligence in planning for the school that would be helpful as well
9	If a school (WES) can be built without removing the remaining greenspace west and northwest of Takhini elementary school I would support this relocation of WES. Traffic is another consideration. I would like to see data regarding the anticipated increase in traffic on Range Road, as it is already very congested in the morning and late afternoon.
10	I would like the option to send my kid to french immersion, however, I do not want to have to send my kids out of the neighbourhood or switch their school.
11	We are very concerned about the traffic this will bring to Range Road.
12	Not at the expenses of greenspace
13	<p>Depending on the results of the traffic study (this is huge) and would impact the HART intersections, and how the school could be used to support active transportation, would likely be impactful. A fuller discussion of all possible options (not just Takhini-based options) is also paramount - it might be that Takhini is the best place for it, but that case has not yet been made.</p> <p>Also, if the Dept of Ed is removing the softball fields, it should be pitching in for the development of alternate sport/rec facilities, not just looking to other government departments/funders. It's part of the cost of the school project.</p>
14	Based on the analysis, a Takhini school might be appropriate although I would think a downtown school would be a higher priority.
15	<p>If they could find a way to retain the forested area, I believe that would be beneficial to the school communities & local residents alike.</p> <p>Ultimately, a new French Immersion school has to be built somewhere. Lets us keep up trees, then I could support the location of the school here.</p>

16	With proper planning and engagement the school can be a positive addition to the community.
17	I would prefer NOT to have the new school adjacent to Takhini elementary as it would affect the enjoyment of my home. I live in central park and face onto the playground. The small forest adjacent to the playground is very important to me - I enjoy seeing the trees from my windows and I walk through this forest everyday walking my dogs. Natural spaces near homes is very important to me and is one of the things I really value about living in Whitehorse. In my opinion, IF the school must be built in Takhini, the proposed location of the school on the softball diamonds is a better location than adjacent to central park - the latter would significantly impact the enjoyment of those units facing the playground as we would be looking at a school rather than trees.
18	Potential traffic congestion. Not convinced that this site is the best option given the very large catchment area for it and the need for so much bussing and parental traffic going to an already congested area. It is difficult to access from Two Mile Hill at the best of times. What is the bigger planning picture? ie what other options might be better? Need to consider that Takhini Elementary is near the top of the list for school replacement. What are the plans for the old Whs Elementary School site? It seems that this site has better access and is more convenient for parents dropping their kids off. There will soon be a need for a new high school and where will it go?
19	Why are we putting schools next to a jail that should have been built outside of town...
20	This will enhance the quality of our neighbourhood and the educational resources available to our children. Mixed and diverse communities are healthy, robust communities. Blending facilities for all ages in the same area is good civic planning, demographic and racial silos aren't.
21	I feel that this community is not set up for a University, Jail, 2 elementary schools, territorial office, federal offices, commercial spaces, and the population. This is all supported by a shared waste/storm sewer system, one 2 lane access road both in and out, with no traffic accommodations at the main intersection. This is also on the heels of ministerial considerations around Infill for residential properties around the federal land close to the arena. All of these create a headache for users. This will become a riverdale situation.
22	I can't say either way because it feels like there was no meaningful education or engagement.

23	<p>As long as they do a range road traffic study (it's already impacted by all the whistler traffic) and find a way to protect the green space then I support the move to Takhini. I DO think that removing the school from downtown will have a negative impact on the sense of community in our downtown and it would be excellent for them to address why that is happening I'm the first place.</p>
24	<p>I prefer have a school there than Softball Yukon as neighbours. SY have not been good neighbors. Replace Takhini school with a newer one, build West downtown.</p>
25	<p>I am a ten-year Takhini Resident, with a young child, not yet school age but I do have French heritage and may consider French Immersion for my children. Having this option within walking distance would obviously be a positive for me, but that is a very personal motivation.</p> <p>I have walked my dogs on the trails behind Takhini Elementary but usually go further, to the paved trail and beyond to McIntyre Creek - this area is MUCH more important to me and I don't feel it is at risk with this project. For most of the spring and summer, I have to avoid the trails behind the school because they are a swamp - which is smelly, has dog poo floating in it and is a breeding ground for mosquitos. Improving the drainage issues would also be a positive to me - by putting the school on the ball fields, a lot of the healthy forest could be preserved. The forest on the west side of the paved path will still be there for residents and students to enjoy - the outdoor infrastructure for the students of Takhini Elementary and EWES would be improved.</p> <p>I do not play softball, though I have in the past, I am not personally attached to the fields being where they are and believe there are other solutions. In the grand scheme of things - this aspect of the proposed plan feels like a small issue that can be resolved. The land is not Softball Yukon's, and they have benefited from a pretty good arrangement with YG for awhile. I think YG is within their jurisdiction to reclaim this land, and I think the City of Whitehorse asserting that the zoning is a hurdle or barrier they will impose is somewhat overreaching and political pandering.</p> <p>I do occasionally have to wait awhile on Range Road to drive downtown for work and daycare in the morning. Traffic does concern me. I have seen it increase over the last ten years and speeding and the increased traffic overall are absolutely a concern. Range Road and the intersection at Two Mile Hill do not foster safe commuting. Adding traffic (let's keep in mind, at specific times of day) with the addition of a school is a concern and I'd like to see what the traffic impact study suggests and also the role that the City of Whitehorse will</p>

	<p>play in response to improving safety and traffic congestion on Range Road as many aspects of that would fall in their area of responsibility, not just YGs.</p> <p>I think it is really important as a neighborhood and a broader community, that we acknowledge that there can be BOTH positive and negative outcomes of a project, that we have to look at things from a lens beyond only our own. Our city is growing, our infrastructure is aging and we simply cannot afford to cast negative shadow on every proposed plan or project that aims to address this or we will never get anywhere. We can ask that there is forethought and due consideration given to planning and that this is carried out in a firm, but fair, respectful, and transparent way.</p>
26	There needs to be a traffic study first.
27	I think the downtown core needs its own school. I think there needs to be a lot more consideration of other property options or reuse of lots. Also I don't support putting more elementary schools next to a jail. Our Takhini neighborhood uses the green space that has been proposed and don't want to lose it.
28	Not hugely in favour but I thought that this land where they plan to put WES was called the Takhini Education Reserve (??) and so assumed it was land that had been earmarked some time ago for a school. I would really like clarification on that point - was this land historically set aside for a school? If so, I think it may be hard to argue that we don't want it in our backyard. Could the Assoc please ask and get clarity about this from YG? Thanks for your time!
29	My child attends Takhini Elementary School, and we made a point of registering her there because we live in the neighbourhood and wanted her to be able to walk to school. I would be supportive of relocating WES to Takhini if there was also a plan to build a wing for a new Takhini Elementary School, as TES is also an older building that is due for replacement soon. This approach has been done elsewhere (one example I am familiar with is St Gabriel, a Catholic elementary school, and Jack Mackenzie Elementary School, a public school, in Regina - they share a gym and other facilities.) This would save on construction costs compared to two separate buildings. I will be very upset if I have to bus my child out of the neighbourhood to a different school.
30	More information needed to form an opinion around the relocation. Do not support as proposed, but not opposed to relocating the school to Takhini in general.

2.3.3. Question 3 response: Yes

The following submissions are in response to the question, “please explain your response to question 2,” following up on a “yes” response to the question, “Do you support the relocation of WES to Takhini?”

1	It will be great to have a new school in the neighbourhood that our kids can walk to.
2	<p>I support reducing traffic from downtown.</p> <p>The location of the current WES is not the most suitable location for a school. Students will have better access to outdoors from Takhini.</p>
3	There are not many educational reserves in Whitehorse. This is literally the intent of the land. I’m pretty disappointed that nobody is talking about the benefits that schools bring to neighborhoods. I think the characterization of takhini forest being “clear cut” is a wild exaggeration. I’m worried that the NIMBYs will win here and they will decide to move the school elsewhere. I was very excited for my child to be able to walk to a brand new French immersion school. It feels like an opportunity to be antagonistic and score political points rather than taking a larger perspective about how this benefits the city as a whole.
4	I have a young family and am looking forward to them being able to walk to a new school in our neighborhood.
5	I would like the Association to consider the “bigger” picture in expressing its concerns. Firstly, Whitehorse needs a new modern elementary school. This will benefit generations to come. Secondly, land designated as Educational Reserve, has been specifically set aside for that intended use. While this might mean there is a less disturbed “green space”, or be granted other temporary uses, it is intentionally set aside to provide for future educational development. With this in mind the Association should, in my opinion, seek to understand all aspects of the current proposed building site; both the benefits and impacts of the new school. These considerations should not be individual perspectives, but rather forward looking “whole of community” perspectives. What is the balance between loss of underutilized green space and the improved learning environment of a new, modern, safe school? How is the learning environment of both the new school and Takhini Elementary improved by providing a new sport activity area vs having two softball diamonds used by a few teams for a few months in our short summer? Our city is growing and this brings additional traffic congestion everywhere; just travel in or out of Riverdale in the morning or evening, navigate our downtown core at lunch time, or commute from the

	<p>north or south on a daily basis. And so yes, Range Road traffic would be impacted, but where could a school be built where traffic wouldn't be an issue? Finally, I would urge you to express to all those that listen to our Associations voice that while the decision on where and when a school is built might be a political decision ""our"" input is not to be politized. Our association should not represent any political bent. You represent all those who reside here, of whatever political stripe they wear, or not.</p> <p>Thanks very much for your continued efforts and representation of matters of interest to our community.</p>
6	Proximity to French-language immersion
7	The school board owns the land and a replacement for WES is required.
8	It's got to go somewhere, so why not here? The current building is not suitable for a school, and never was. Yes I understand the importance of a school downtown but a new one cannot be built until the old one is torn down. The trees behind Takhini school are dead.
9	<p>Many students that live in Takhini travel to WES for French Immersion (my kids included). I think it's awesome that our neighbourhood kids could have a French Immersion school right in the neighbourhood! There is already a French immersion elementary school in Riverdale. The Takhini school land reserve seems pretty big and makes a lot of sense to me to use it for a school. Schools are important and I'm glad our government is able to invest in a new one in our neighbourhood.</p>
10	<p>I see schools as a valuable community asset and I really hope Takhini finds a way to welcome this new school. I feel excited that government is interested in investing in a new school in our neighbourhood, and I found the media coverage of the topic over the last week disheartening. It's not like schools are some unpleasant but necessary public service like a sewage lagoon or a landfill.</p> <p>My daughter will be starting kindergarten in four years. For me, it would be a dream come true if she could attend a brand new french immersion school within walking distance of our house. Actually, the thought almost makes me feel guilty because I think ""how could I possibly be this fortunate?""</p> <p>I don't share the concerns about traffic (if range road gets busier perhaps that will be the push I need to ride my bike more) but I understand the concerns of others. However, I do think that as our city continues to grow, at</p>

	<p>a certain point it simply won't be possible to continue with the car dominant lifestyle that most of us are accustomed to.</p> <p>I am not concerned about the loss of greenspace in this situation. I feel grateful that McIntyre Creek Park was recognized and protected in the City's most recent OCP and I walk the trails there almost everyday. I don't feel that my ability to enjoy this existing greenspace will be threatened if a new school is located in the area under discussion. It actually seems like there would be a lot of interesting land or nature based learning opportunities for students being located so close to this park.</p> <p>I feel like I am the only person in the neighbourhood who is excited about this new school.</p>
11	<p>I believe this is the right choice for Whitehorse. However, as a stakeholder it feels like the Takhini neighborhood was an afterthought. You can do more to keep us in the loop going forward.</p>
12	<p>I have already explained the main part of my response in answer to question 1. In addition, I do think there are many advantages to having two schools in our neighbourhood, and despite all the concerns that have been raised, I think it is still a good idea for our community association to get behind this project.</p> <p>For example, the proposal for a multi sport field is in a low lying forested area that usually floods in the spring. A sports field with an enhanced system of drainage will be big plus for the two schools and of course, for our community.</p> <p>I also think that the Yukon government may not have had a lot of choices in this matter. The Whitehorse Elementary School needed extensive seismic upgrading and appears to be headed for demolition. The downtown of Whitehorse still needs a elementary school but that is not our problem, or our central interest. From what I understand that the land used for the sports fields had already been designated as reserved for schools. In negotiations like this, we must consider the interests of other parties not just our own interests.</p> <p>Finally, I am concerned that our association has been used by the opposition parties to score points with the public. Some of this is legitimate as it seems our position was misconstrued in the government report. I vote for Kate White but the broader interests of the NDP party are not always aligned with the interests of our association. I do not think it is wise for our association to go the route that some citizens always take in situations like this "" Not in my back yard NIMBY), and proceed with excessive caution not being open to the merits of the proposal. I hope that I am not misreading the signals that our association seems to be sending.</p>

	Thank you very much for this opportunity to express my analysis and concerns.
13	Once the Range Road traffic flow is sorted, I think a school is a great addition to the neighborhood.
14	Why wouldn't we want a new school in our community for our kids to go to?
15	Safer than downtown location, more access to green space and can help to alleviate traffic congestion downtown.
16	Schools should be close to where people live, so kids and staff can walk, ski, or cycle to school. Also, this will increase our property values.
17	This will enhance the quality of our neighbourhood and the educational resources available to our children. Mixed and diverse communities are healthy, robust communities. Blending facilities for all ages in the same area is good civic planning, demographic and racial silos aren't.
18	Takhini is now the centre of Whitehorse geographically. It is easily accessible from all suburbs above the escarpment
19	The land is already educational land, and there's already a school there so we know it is a good location for a school. Traffic management will be a challenge and I understand it's unfortunate to lose some baseball diamonds and a bit of green space but we need schools for our kids more than those things. This is a reality of living in a growing city.
20	<p>1 This use of the land is consistent with and will support the multiple recreation and education land uses already in the neighbourhood.</p> <p>2 I support an education use over other less positive options, such as building a YG low threshold housing project in Takhini. We already have the two incarceration facilities here.</p> <p>3 A new school should have a positive and ongoing impact on residential housing prices (parents often choose to live close to schools their children attend).</p> <p>4 Build bridges to the Takhini community now that will bear fruit later!</p> <p>Eg A school facility will provide an additional after school facility for public activities; there could be bilingual Girl Guides and Scouts troops, and like the Badminton Club currently operating at Takhini Elementary.</p>

	<p>Eg There is an opportunity for interaction between seniors and children, since Normandy Place and the Seniors Residence at YukonU are nearby.</p> <p>Eg There is a future learning opportunity between YukonU education and health university students and the new school, since they are nearby.</p> <p>5 It will be positive to have an elected school council in the neighborhood going forward. The WES school council has been an active one - this will be good for the Takhini neighbourhoods.</p> <p>My support for the new school is based on the following conditions:</p> <p>1 Consult directly with Takhini residents and homeowners. The Minister of Education only seems to consult and listen to FNED, however FNED is not elected by Yukoners and does not speak for me.</p> <p>2 The Department of Education must communicate progress to the same standard HPW has done on the Nisutlin Bay Project. What an excellent job HPW have done on their bridge photo stories!</p> <p>3 The new school needs a playing field space. However, find a way to accommodate the green space /forest concerns of residents.</p> <p>4 Resolve traffic light concerns along Range Road from Two Mike Hill to Mountainview. All crosswalks need to be the same as the one in front of Takhini Elementary, with lights and push buttons. Those are the only ones that work in winter.</p>
21	<p>I fear our community is taking a position of NIMBY. While I love and use our greenspace daily, I weigh the responsibility of communities to support infrastructure for Whitehorse. This could be an opportunity for the community to lead the way for a shining example of Active and safe routes to schools through groundbreaking, well planned AT route to Takhini from downtown and other neighborhoods. I would suggest engaging the Cycling Association of the Yukon through their Urban Cycling committee.</p> <p>I would like to clarify that I am an empty nester who's children went to an English, not french immersion, school.</p>
22	<p>Takhini school is out of date and needs to be removed.</p> <p>We need bigger and better but only if proper community consulting is involved.</p>
23	<p>The current WES building needs replacing and there is land available in Takhini. It makes sense to build it there then build another school downtown since there needs to be increased capacity as the population grows.</p>
24	<p>This location has given too much space to softball, but I fully support putting a second school on the site. We had a difficult time deciding where to send</p>

	<p>our kids; wishing that they could have both a ""neighborhood school"" that they could walk to, and also French Immersion. We chose the latter.</p> <p>Drawbacks of this have included exposure to some of the painful realities that downtown is currently faced with; witnessing public intoxication, violence, and threatening behaviours. Meanwhile, they also have less access to nature from their school and are continually subject to poorer environment (air quality, noise). There is no question that WES is badly outdated. The future of the downtown site carries interesting potential, but this is a separate planning problem.</p> <p>The draft plan that has been circulated provides options that modernise use of the Takhini space, and balance a range of needs. I am most opposed to the large amount of real-estate given to the softball diamonds, but don't feel strongly on this. I like the location for these schools as it is central to a wide range of growing neighborhoods with young children, and convenient to CGC - the location of extra-curricular activities for many, many WES students. I also love the spirit of hearing the softball all summer -even though I don't play.</p> <p>YG, you have my support to carry on!</p>
25	<p>School are so so important and enhance a neighbourhood. Our neighbourhood is an excellent location for schools - pedagogically, access to green space, proximity to the CGC, the arts center, YU makes lots of sense. I strongly believe our neighbourhood will benefit in the long term.</p>
26	<p>I appreciate that many folks have strong emotional attachments to the forest behind the school. That's a difficult pill to swallow. However, when faced with issues of NIMBY-ism (which many of us are understandably prone to), I think a useful way of framing the issue is: What are the alternatives? What are the benefits and impacts associated with each alternative, and can those impacts be addressed in any way? As far as I know, there are no immediately obvious alternative locations for this school. Assuming that this decision was made in the absence of reasonable alternatives, another question is whether it is possible to simply not build the school (the null alternative). Again, my assumption is no; the population is growing, in particular demands for French immersion. That is not an issue that will simply disappear, so again, not really an option. This brings us to the current location. I appreciate that many people might have strong emotional attachments to the forest - I walk my dog there every day, my kid plays in that forest, so I get it. However, I suspect those most significantly impact by the removal of the forest are those whose houses directly back onto the forest, which are relatively few in number. What are their alternatives for wild spaces that their kids can play in, in the absence of the current forest? They're actually quite good. We live incredibly close to McIntyre Creek, which is permanently protected. If the impact is that</p>

	their kids have to walk 10 minutes rather than 2 minutes to get to a wild space, I think that's a reasonable impact given the more substantial benefit.
27	I think if it's done right, it's a good central space.

2.4. Survey results: Question 1

The following submissions are in response to the question, “What’s the most important message that the Minister of Education needs to hear regarding the WES relocation project?”

Some respondents indicated that they had already answered question 1 in their response to question 3, so those responses have been omitted.

1	Study traffic impacts before making any decisions.
2	We need to be at the table as important stakeholders.
3	If WES is to be relocated, need significant improvements to Range Road to make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists.
4	What are all the locations available, and which were considered, and why was the process not public and why was there not better consultation with affected groups?
5	They are not the final decision body and they have been premature it saying the new school "will" be in Takhini. YG will need still need multiple approvals from the City, include amendments to the Official Community Plan and zoning. They should respect the City's jurisdiction and decision making powers.
6	<p>PLEASE do not cut ANY green space and be transparent to share VALID data of claimed root rot. Do not minimize the decision to cut trees by saying we have other green space trails and McIntyre, etc. leave enough green space to create light and noise barriers for all nearby homes especially Normandy Condos. Leave the forest for the children to play. Demonstrate a concern for our environment. The proximity of the forest matters. Clean it up if needed but do not cut.</p> <p>Sport Yukon and Softball Yukon have an obvious seat at the decision table but who is representing green space and active lifestyle and trail users? Points were given if a proposed plan could save existing structures but did the forest count as an existing structure? The forest should be saved over the ball fields if it is between the two. They deserve ball fields too so find them alternate options that can accommodate 3 fields. Wouldnt flyballs be dangerous near the proposed EWES anyway? The ball field is private property with signage to keep out and they anre not even used for our neighborhood or school benefits. The field is too big for elementary students, use the space for their needs.</p>

	Make a plan and show our neighbourhood commitment to finding a solution to protect green space and design age appropriate solutions.
7	Protect the forest. No trees destroyed. Listen to residents.
8	<p>If you are going to build kids a school and safe space, use the land to do it, dont chain off and fence a large section for a baseball field that kids cant utilize to play on. The parcel of land is for a school.</p> <p>They state that they will have state of the art decompressing and desensitizing areas, the gold standard for that is green space which they plan to bulldoze because they want to keep the baseball field instead of making the space child friendly</p>
9	Greenspaces in the Takhini neighbourhood have been significantly reduced over the years by various infills. The greenspace that remains is important to the health and well being of everyone who lives in the Takhini subdivision, especially those in high density housing. One of the proposed plans would result in loss of greenspace west and northwest of Takhini elementary school. Please do not remove any more greenspace!
10	I DO NOT want to bus my kids to another neighbourhood. Part of why I live in takhini is so I can walk to work and school.
11	Traffic flow is a real concern.
12	We would like proper consultation and impact assessments (traffic, light, etc.)
13	There was improper/inadequate consultation with Takhini residents; there was no explanation as to why it has to be in Takhini (right beside an existing school) and not another neighbour; doing the traffic study after the school location is selected is insane
14	Proper transportation and school facility studies are a basic requirement.
15	<p>It is important that the government invests in education in the Yukon. This involves replacing aging buildings such as the current WES.</p> <p>However, that investment should not be made at the expense of our natural environment.</p>
16	There needs to be a traffic study to analyse the impact of the relocation of the WES school on the Takhini Neighborhood, and more transparent engagement with the community as the planning proceeds.

17	To involve citizens and especially the affected neighborhoods - encourage expression of concerns and be transparent in the decision-making process. There may be very valid reasons for the chosen location - open communication and transparency go a long way towards acceptance.
18	Have you really thought this proposal through?
19	What is going to go where the old school is? Green space? Ball fields? Or are we going to ruin downtown with more low income housing.
20	You could have done a better job on consultation and information sharing. Please do so going forward. Hopefully that will help to calm everyone down a little bit, as opposed to turning a good news story into fodder for unnecessary controversy and NIMBYism.
21	Consultation with the entire community, not just a few association members. There is no need for this to be a secretive process. This should have been a transparent process beginning with community input for all of the proposed sites for the new school and not just "Ok everyone, Takhini will be the next site for a school".
22	Feels like a bad plan in terms of traffic.
23	The green space needs to be protected, surely there is a way of having sports fields that don't require the clearing.
24	Stop this process, listen to the community of Downtown and Takhini and then plan accordingly.
25	<p>Message: There has not been enough information shared about the project, or firm decision making, period. This has led to a significant delay in making ANY progress on the Takhini site, or possibly elsewhere. It has led to a LOT of misinformation, speculation and concern within the community. It is not working for the community, or the project.</p> <p>Once the announcement was made, it took way too long to identify 3 potential locations on the Takhini site. If this had been done quicker and the government was more committed to vetting this plan, some of the assessment work could have begun earlier (i.e. geotechnical and traffic). We would have a lot more information to work with to discern if this location is truly viable - at least from a strictly quantifiable position (to the degree it can be quantified). Simultaneously, YG could have properly identified stakeholders and developed an engagement strategy with a means to collect information about how this decision impacts those affected - Takhini,</p>

	<p>and Downtown, FNSB and what is most important to them with respect to any development concerns to try and capture the qualitative.</p> <p>When the school relocation was announced - Education spent almost two years making a poor effort at putting together a PAC and working with the EWES school council in what seemed like an attempt at making decision more palatable. During this time, very little progressed on the project, and very little was provided to the public/stakeholders in terms of concrete rationale for the site or other sites considered. This process was unnecessarily covert and led to negative progress in my view. What an unfortunate waste of time and resources.</p> <p>Replacing educational facilities in the Yukon, and in Whitehorse needs to be a priority and it is unavoidable. Any decision that is made is likely to negatively impact some, and positively impact others - there will always be issues and concerns and it is impossible to please everyone not matter where this school goes but decisions need to be carried out in a transparent and respectful way. There needs to be much more fore thought into how these decisions will be rolled out.</p>
26	<p>The traffic on Range Road needs to be addressed on Range Road before considering another school in this location. In addition to the traffic, it has become extremely dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists. I am not opposed to the location - but I don't have confidence that the existing problem will be addressed, and in fact, will become much worse. A traffic study needs to happen first to see if this location is feasible.</p>
27	<p>I am very concerned about the transportation analysis and effects on Range Road traffic. It is already so congested at 8am from commuters from Whistle Bend / Porter Creek. I have been stuck on the road 15mins+ from the elementary school to the two mile hill intersections many mornings.</p>
28	<p>People talk about a downtown school and we def need a school downtown that is for the kids that live downtown that are NOT in French immersion, so please let's do what is right for the kids and build a regular elementary downtown so they don't have to walk (??) to Selkirk Elem for classes.</p> <p>Relocating WES, well, it has to go somewhere. The catchment area for WES is the whole of Whitehorse, and I am pretty sure the WES students are entitled to ride the school bus no matter which part of Whitehorse they live in. So, is there land available somewhere that would be easily accessed for kids, staff, parents that ride their bikes? I suspect wherever WES gets built, the volume of traffic will be impacted so let's at least make it a location that is 'attractive' for those folks that have been reluctant to switch to bike power because of the current location and the challenges in biking there.</p>

29	We made the choice to send our child to TES because we live and work in the neighbourhood, and wanted to avoid having to bus to school. My concern is that WES will move into Takhini, and Takhini school will be demolished and I'd be left having to bus my kids to Whistle Bend. We prioritize biking for transportation - there is no safe way to bike to Whistle Bend, and traffic on Range Road is already a significant issue at peak times in the mornings. I don't think the traffic considerations of adding a school in Takhini have been thought through, and the future plan for Takhini Elementary School is unclear.
30	Disappointment with the misrepresentation of the association's position.
31	Long Term planning that a counts for population growth
32	Advance consultation is essential, with any neighbourhood affected by a new school. Transparency about the requirements of a new school site also need to be shared with the public and there needs to be a meaningful avenue for dialogue. Ideally this could be part a broader vision around education.
33	1) Green space is extremely important to the community. 2) A thorough traffic study must be completed prior to choosing any new locations for WES.
34	Complete traffic analysis on Range Road, University Drive and Two Mile Hill (20+ years analysis required). If the WES relocation goes ahead as suggested, then YG MUST cover all costs of any mitigation/improvements/changes. Would this cost exceed land acquisition costs of another location not yet identified. The City and TNA also must be included in this analysis... YG MUST also be responsible for creation, as approved by Softball Yukon, of replacement sports fields.
35	Destruction of green space without proper consultation should never been allowed. The city did not take into account what this means for the neighborhood. Furthermore, Range Road is already congested with a lot of PC traffic coming through - I do not believe that Range Road can handle more traffic and be safe for kids!
36	Consult with the residents . Follow what was polled and data collected. Do not look at the poll and then do what they want
37	1. Traffic congestion on Range Road. 2. Loss of green space
38	Question whether the school needs to be relocated. Look at values to be gained by renovating current school. Consider temporary relocation, for

	instance to other spaces in downtown - using existing buildings like Shipyards park building, KDCC, Library plus portables. If absolutely necessary to build a new school, do so in same location, with same options for temporary relocation of students.
39	The lack of consultation with residents is absolutely unacceptable. The government should be acting in a transparent fashion and this entire process has felt very secretive. Furthermore, the government intentionally released misinformation in saying the community association supported the schools proposed location, which has resulted a in lack of trust with the minister and current government.
40	Increase in traffic will be too high Takhini ES will be in jeopardy of long term existence and we need a community school
41	STOP making decisions for the community of Whitehorse without consulting the PEOPLE
42	That we do not want his school in the neighbourhood and if that cannot be prevented then we need to know and have a commitment to preserve the green space and a solid traffic and safety plan.
43	Takhini residents don't appreciate being told their neighborhood will be impacted by a government decision they have had no input into.
44	The Minister needs to hear and learn about the traffic concerns we residents of Takhini have to more projected traffic problems than now exist.
45	Range road is already getting insanely busy at peak times of the day as a result of Whistle Bend traffic being redirected and will only get worse as that area is further developed. Can Takhini (and Range road) support the new school?
46	This decision has been made WITHOUT community engagement. This is apparent as there has been: no study of the current congested traffic on Range Road, no study of the green space slated as the "shared" playing field is a low land with extremely poor drainage and there has NOT been any consideration for the on-going densification the Takhini neighbourhood.
47	Traffic in this area is already a problem. It is not a desireable location for Takhini residents nor will the educational experience for elementary students be improved by removing greenspace at the existing school. Yukon has a lot

	of beautiful features - these should be a part of the educational experience. Do not deny our children access to nature.
48	The concerns summarized in the October 13 2024 newsletter. They capture my concerns well.
49	I don't support the relocation of EWES to Takhini at this time. The process for site selection has been secretive and confusing, and I'd like to see a wider community conversation about school locations happen publicly, with lots of room for meaningful contribution from neighbourhoods, NGOs, FNSB, etc. Without assuming that the only option is Takhini.
50	I am extremely concerned about the increase in Range Road traffic if the WES is relocated next to Takhini Elementary School. Has anyone considered the huge increase in traffic partially on Range Rd, and partially going down the hill of Mountain View drive towards the Industrial Area, once the 390 extra homes will be built north of Northland Trailer Park? That will create lots of problems on Range Rd, along with the WES built on Range Rd. as well. I live on Normandy Rd North, and already sometimes have problems entering Range Rd. Do not want the problem increased.
51	I responded earlier but want to add another point - there is space between Takhini School and Correction Centre (ball diamond); is a new elementary school immediately across the street from the CC appropriate?
52	I'm very disappointed to hear about the lack of consultation with the association and YG should strive to do much better moving forward. I agree with all the primary concerns raised by the association.
53	Make sure it's big enough for the future. We don't need another FH Collins
54	Hundreds of residents and students for many many years to come will lose precious green space. Takhini Elementary school students are out in the woods every single day. Let's prioritize the youngest in our community.
55	WES needs to stay downtown! It is not appropriate to have an elementary school directly across from the jail! Traffic is already beyond max.
56	That the school is a part of the municipal systems for traffic, transportation, transit and active transportation. Several sites across the city should have been assessed (including a traffic impact study, and a site servicing assessment) before selecting the takhini educational reserve. Community Development Division at Community Services should be planning this type of infrastructure for education, they have no idea how to do it themselves.

57	Traffic study to ensure range road and all intersections on range road between 2 mile hill and mountain view can support and move the flow of traffic and active transportation infrastructure effectively.
58	<p>-Range road is congested enough with traffic during peak times.</p> <p>-There is a huge concern with motorists not slowing down already for the current school zone, and almost no re-enforcement from RCMP or Bylaw</p> <p>-We are very much involved with softball in the spring/summer with our kids and this will definitely have a negative affect</p>
59	The traffic congestion has exploded with the new builds in Takhini North, condo's/apartments. Range Road is backed up all the way to the jail every morning and afternoon. Residents in Takhini value what little green space they have left. There must be a better location for the school.
60	I think that there could be a better plan for the location of the school. The traffic on Range Road will be crazy and will definitely have an effect on the quality of living in the neighbourhood. Whitehorse Elem should've moved into FH Collins and a new high school with adequate space for the number of students should be built...near CGC would be a great location.
61	Don't take the anymore green space down and the traffic is horrible
62	Will cause too much traffic along range road making it impossible to exit the side roads at rush hour.!
63	The new WES should be located on the current site. It should stay downtown
64	Schools should be spread through town not side by side (there is already too much of that)
65	Traffic is dangerous already, this area cannot handle a school that will hold 700 people.
66	Eliminating existing greenspace would be irresponsible.
67	It should not here. The takhini school should be updated (new) for the young people in the community. The school here should be a vibrant member of our community.
68	The new school needs to be downtown.

69	<p>Why? Why two elementary schools next to each other and no school downtown ... another death blow to downtown and redundancy on Range Road. Downtown should have an elementary school kids can walk or bike to.</p> <p>Why? Why the layout that destroys the trees the kids love to play in and which makes the playground and schoolyard special, as well as valued by residents in adjacent homes? Why not put both schools side-by-side and the parking lot and play area in the existing parking lot and play areas?</p>
70	The cut down of trees planned for the multi use sports field very near to residential dwellings .
71	Not removing green space in Takhini.
72	<p>Our greenspace is special, and we are opposed to its removal.</p> <p>Also, Range Road is already too busy with Whistle Bend traffic. We don't need another Lewes Boulevard.</p>
73	How to manage the increase in traffic on Range Road. And how to save all the forest around the school.
74	I believe Takhini residents deserve to be consulted with on this matter.
75	The project must not go ahead without proper consideration for the Range Road traffic problem. The cumulative impacts of multiple development projects have already made Range Road traffic unbearable.
76	WES should be relocated in a central location that allows for efficient flow of morning and afternoon traffic. (perhaps Valley View south)
77	The relocation of WES to the Takhini Subdivision will negatively affect residents living in the subdivision.
78	Keep an elementary school downtown. Consider locations other than the education reserves. Think about how the reconstruction of WES fits in with the replacement or modification of other schools-namely Takhini School and FH Collins (over capacity)
79	<p>There needs to be a downtown school as well as one to replace old Takhini school. Range road is extremely busy adding more traffic ridiculous. Turning left on to Range rd from Takhini East will be more dangerous than it is now. Consider building a large school on Wildland Fire property near Canada Games Centre on west side of Alaska highway just before 2 mile hill</p>

80	Please do not build WES in Takhini without thoroughly discuss this possibility with Takhini and downtown residents as both communities will be greatly affected!
81	This project does not make sense when you consider the current traffic situation on Range Rd with the development of Whistle Bend. YG should have explored other potential sites downtown and consulted (and listened to) all people concerned.
82	I do not support it. WES needs to remain downtown for children in the downtown area. Having a 2nd school in Takhini will create madness with traffic.
83	Traffic and safety and the need for a diverse downtown!
84	Re-build it downtown.
85	WES should be built downtown, at current location. Please learn from the mess up in Riverdale with 4 school's built almost side by side. The traffic congestion to and from Riverdale is appalling. FH Collin's should have been built larger, and the French school not built there at all. The congestion through much of the school day impedes access to hospital as well. Consider infrastructure and access before choosing location.
86	There needs to be a school downtown at all times to properly serve our community as a whole.
87	Why the lack of Consultation with stakeholders especially with the residents of Takhini. Where is the traffic impact study for a street that is already so congested and more so as Whistlebend grows?
88	Takhini does not have the capacity or need for another school. Moving the school to the proposed location would be a loss for both Takhini and Downtown residents.
89	Remiving a school from the downtown core takes away from the vibrancy of a city, not to mention congestion in Takhini.
90	Cutting down more greenbelt is too big of a loss for all parties involved. Traffic is already an issue and needs to be addressed first, before adding more.
91	The amount of congestion coming through Takhini and the loss of the ball diamonds.

92	WES should NOT be built in Takhini.
93	An elementary school moving out of the downtown area is a bad move for the young people who live in the area
94	<p>Traffic problem on Range Road a big issue before senior residence and other densification. Don't want a school that draws students and parents from ALL of Whitehorse. Better to have a facility suitable for seniors to wLk to with walkers.</p> <p>We haven't heard an alternative plan for the current WES site downtown. Is there some other unidentified impetus for the proposed school relocation?</p>
95	The proposed new location for WES is unsuitable, will cause traffic gridlock - in a community where we have seen far more growth and traffic increase than most other parts of Whitehorse.
96	I do not want a new school on Range Road. Takhini already has very high density with all the duplexes and condos and being the road to Yukon Place (Uni, arts centre and Archives), the traffic is insane, the trails are crowded- too much! Have lived in the area since 1999 and it has really changed.
97	I do not support moving WES to Tahkini, or building any other school at that location.
98	Without any traffic consideration (i.e. new or improved roads and intersection) no support for a school. Also, what happens with the current WES lot and why is YG "looking for space for a new downtown school"? Can the new school not be build on the current lot while students stay in current school? The current WES lot is huge.
99	I am a resident of Takhini North and feel that the Takhinis are already over-capacitated because of all the duplexes in the three neighbourhoods, the two new seniors' residences on Range Road, the Barracks, Yukon Place (Yukon Archives, Yukon University, Yukon Arts Centre, 55+ residence,), the Whitehorse Correctional Centre, the softball fields, the Coroner's facility, the disc golf courses, and the associated road and trail systems. I am very concerned that the relocation of WES to Takhini will diminish my quality of life and that of my wife and neighbours.
100	It is not safe to add another school and its associated traffic to Range Road, a road that is already a risk to commuters at this time. More traffic leading to congestion and limited visibility in this area puts everyone at serious risk.
101	No good idea to have a school in from of the jail

102	Move WES temporarily to another location and then rebuild on existing WES site.
103	We need to keep our green space
104	Please do not relocate WES.
105	What are they thinking? How does this make any sense? What is the plan for traffic along Range Road with more and more homes being constructed in Whistlebend? What will they do about the drainage issues that already plague that area? How much research has been done on how this will impact the surrounding lands (Flooding, forest health, noise impact, house values) How will the two schools interact with each other? Tahkini Elementary is also an old school, do those kids get a new School too? This will create more issues than solve.
106	Accessibility
107	Takhini isn't "downtown", taking a school away from a neighbourhood is not the answer.
108	-Just because there is an educational reserve on the softball fields does not mean it is the best place to put a school. Those reserves are set in place like a land 'dibs' system. Have other areas been considered? Has any other feasibility work been done? If seems like we could be setting ourselves up for failure by making a decision on location prior to determining the viability of that location and if there might be a better option. A traffic assessment, land feasibility work (half of the area being considered turns into a lake every spring), discussions with the community association, etc. should be carried out prior to making a decision on the location of a new school.
109	Changing the current zoning greenspace to urban/residential to accomodate the school and multi use field. Whats the point of zoning anything if the gov of the day can amend to suit its needs. We have purchased our properties with green space zoning. We want it to stay that way!!
110	What involvement did the DoE have with the CoW to study traffic flow impacts in an already congested area (Range Road) for alleviating the inevitable increase in local traffic flow that a new school will have? Additionally, was any further study or consultation given to the eventual

	impacts that the future phases of Whistle Bend development will have upon this same area?
111	The primary choice should be the existing WES site downtown. The community is against the announced proposal. We will not accept loss of green space and increased traffic on Range Road, particularly considering the imminent growth of Yukon University.
112	We are all stakeholders in this project. Please be respectful through consultation/ democratic process with the neighborhood. Do not decide for us, the voters with a major project like this through a back-door deal.
113	Do not put it in Takhini
114	They need to back up and actually consult and not pay lip service to consultation. Their ham handed approach to community engagement has become a hallmark of this liberal government and it will cost them dearly at the polls. If there is one other point to make is that they have forgotten who they work for and their approach is fundamentally disrespectful.
115	It will cause more traffic congestion on Range Road when there is already too much. Also, building another school across from the prison may not be the best idea - constant sirens throughout the day will get students disregulated and worried about what's happening.
116	That the community is generally supportive of having a new school, but that there is still some work to be done on the details.
117	Please have a good traffic control plan when putting in the school. The traffic at Whistlebend Elementary is chaotic.
118	I am excited to have a new school in our neighborhood. I feel intimidated to express this view but it's true. I think this is the best choice for students not only in our neighborhood but across Whitehorse. It seems like education has bungled this in terms of consultation but I do think it's the best choice.
119	Not all Takhini residents are against this.
120	To understand that building a significant piece of public infrastructure requires as much consequential planning as does the capital project.
121	They need to do public consultations.
122	As [a person living] adjacent to the proposed relocation, our most important concern (mentioned in your October 13th newsletter), is the Government's

	commitment to the preservation and minimal reduction of the existing green belt.
123	<p>Can we develop sustainable transportation infrastructure to help alleviate traffic congestion on Range road? More efficient School buses, bike lanes, trails.</p> <p>Green space is important for the community AND the schools, please do your best to maintain access to green space.</p>
124	<p>Based on the information shared in the ""Choosing the future site for École Whitehorse Elementary School"" document, a large amount of forested area will be removed to develop a new multi-sport field. It also shows a softball field being maintained at the site between the two elementary schools. My priority concern is: why is maintaining a ball diamond being prioritized instead of forested space at an elementary school?</p> <p>The evaluation gave the weighting of impact to the ball fields a 5, vs weighting of management of the forest a 2. I question why the priority is given to the ball fields if the designated land use for this parcel is for schools. My neighbours are very concerned about losing all the trees that offer some buffer between their property and the school field, as well as losing a valuable natural space for playing and walking in the neighbourhood. Why is Softball Yukon's priority of higher import in this analysis than the local community and schools' priorities?</p> <p>Having direct access to nature at an elementary school is a huge benefit to the student's health, wellbeing and fun. This benefit extends to the local community of kids and adults who play and walk in those woods every day. If there is sporting infrastructure beside the school, it would make sense for it to be sporting infrastructure that can be used by elementary school students.</p> <p>I know that as our City grows, densification will occur and we will see development of previously undeveloped areas. I am not opposed to removal of some forest, where required, on this parcel of land. I am opposed to the removal of forest, when there are other options that could see more of the forest maintained.</p> <p>I urge the Yukon Government to be thoughtful about the placement of the planned sports field(s), parking and playgrounds when confirming the layout for the new EWES site, recognizing that the placement of the school building alone is not the only component of impact to our neighbourhood.</p>
125	Not all residents are against this idea, but we needed more consultation.
126	I support the government's proposal to have the French immersion school (WES) relocated to the sports fields in Takini. This is an important addition to

	<p>our community and will enhance the value of homes in the area, and contribute to community diversity and well being.</p> <p>I do have concerns about increased traffic on Range road, however, I think this can be handled through increasing further the number of cross walks (one across from Normandy Place and another near the existing school at Vimy Place street) and other measures such as speed limits.</p>
127	Fix the traffic situation (crossings, HART, and flow) before building the school.
128	We want a new school, but the details need to be better worked out.
129	Stop building bungalow schools. Build higher to reduce surface sealing, preserve green space. If you don't want to spread the school over more floors, add offices for YG.
130	You could have done a better job on consultation and information sharing. Please do so going forward. Hopefully that will help to calm everyone down a little bit, as opposed to turning a good news story into fodder for unnecessary controversy and NIMBYism.
131	It needs to be in a central location.
132	Regardless of where the school is built, the government needs to adequately consult the affected parties if they want to gain the trust of the community they serve.
133	Consult directly with Takhini residents and homeowners about the school from start to finish of project.
134	If the project goes ahead I feel this is an opportunity for Range Road to be a showcase for active transportation (AT). The AT specialists from Oulu, Finland provided solid examples and information how to support and grow this movement in a winter city. This project and the neighborhood of Takhini can be leaders for safe routes to downtown, encompassing Range Road , 2 Mile Hill through to the Yukon River Trail. This will benefit both students, staff, parents as well as Takhini neighborhood visitors and residents alike.
135	Location, so traffic an safe for childare off range road.
136	There needs to be new schools in Whitehorse and they need to be built fast! Build one in Takhini then build another downtown.
137	It seems an educational reserve is an appropriate spot for a school and if it really is the best location a bit of greenspace loss and minor traffic inconvenience is ok.

138	I fully support the relocation of WES to the Takhini site. I would prefer that the new school be built first for students of Takhini Elementary, and then the WES students move into the next school that is built on the site of the current Takhini School, but fully agree with putting two schools on this site.
139	I like the school being in our neighbourhood.
140	The most significant consideration in this decision is benefits and impacts. While the relocation will undoubtedly benefit many (the francophone community is growing, and we can't ignore that), what are the key impacts? The primary adverse impacts in my mind will be traffic congestion. Although the removal of a beautiful forest will impact some, I don't consider that impact to be significant given the scope of impact (realistically only affecting those houses that border the school) and availability of alternatives (there are still many easily accessible wild spaces nearby). Traffic congestion however, will impact nearly all Takhini residents, as well as those commuting through the neighbourhood. This is especially concerning for cyclists.
141	Consult more.