

**FOR RELEASE #**

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**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREAS CHANGED IN THREE WHITEHORSE NEIGHBOURHOODS**

WHITEHORSE – The Department of Education has announced changes to the enrolment areas of three Whitehorse schools in order to meet demographic shifts and plan for the projected growth in Whitehorse area neighbourhoods.

“These changes reflect the Department of Education’s work to respond to changing demographics as well as the needs of the communities,” Minister of Education Patrick Rouble said. “Department officials have met with administrators and school councils in all the affected schools, and all agree that this plan is in the best interests of the students and schools.”

The changes are as follows:

**Whitehorse Copper**

New enrolments in the developing Whitehorse Copper neighbourhood, also known as Mount Sima, will be assigned to the Golden Horn School beginning in the 2008/09 school year. These enrolments were previously assigned to the Elijah Smith School.

**Valleyview and Lobird**

New enrolments in Valleyview and Lobird will be assigned to Takhini Elementary beginning in the 2008/09 school year. These enrolments were previously assigned to the Elijah Smith School.

The changes will not affect students who are already enrolled for the coming year. Future students who have siblings already enrolled in the original attendance area will not be affected by this change.

These changes were required because the Elijah Smith Elementary School has been operating at full capacity while the Takhini and Golden Horn Elementary Schools have experienced a decline in enrolments.

This plan accommodates future needs so that students will be assigned to schools in a way that makes the most sense for all students and all schools as the neighbourhoods change.

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