May 5, 2015

Paddy Meade

Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services

Health and Social Services

201 - #1 Hospital Road Whitehorse, YT Y1A 3H7

Dear Ms. Meade:

**Re: Health Behaviours of School Age Children Yukon Report**

The First Nation Education Commission (FNEC) finds the above report—the means by which the survey proceeded, thus its findings—inaccurate and /or controversial. While data was not disaggregated between Yukon First Nation and non-First Nation students, it is evident that YFN students comprise a majority in many, if not most rural schools where the most controversial data is reported. Due to the lack of engagement and involvement of First Nations in the surveying (including question design and the survey process) the survey findings are highly questionable. FNEC also feels that this report places Yukon First Nation students in a negative light.

The Commission would like to remind Health and Social Services about government-to-government protocol; engagement starts prior to any Yukon wide initiative. The principles of OCAP should also apply in the case. Any future Yukon wide initiative that Health & Social Services pursues should be in dialogue with both the First Nations Education and Health Commissions prior to its initiation.

Thank you for your time.

Yours truly,

Tosh Southwick, FNEC Co-Chair Roberta Hagar-Ball, FNEC Co-Chair

cc: Lori Duncan, Health Director, Council of Yukon First Nations

 Jennifer Wykes, Education Director, Council of Yukon First Nations