

Yukon Territorial Green Party

For Immediate Release

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Legislation forces Yukon Education employees to discriminate: Green Party

Whitehorse, Yukon: Government funding of Catholic schools requires Yukon Education employees to divide children along religious lines and to hire teachers based on their religion.

“Yukon’s practice of funding religious education is morally indefensible.” said Yukon Green Party leader Kristina Calhoun. “We should be bringing families and communities together not perpetuating historical divisions.”

Teachers -- including First Nations teachers -- are treated as second class citizens when applying for jobs in Yukon Catholic schools unless they can produce “a current Roman Catholic pastoral reference, baptismal certificate and teacher faith letter”.

The Green Party position is that publicly funded jobs must be equally open to applicants of any faith or no faith.

Funding education for only one religion discriminates against other religions and gives Catholics a privilege all Yukoners know is unfair.

“Catholics are fair minded and justice oriented and shouldn’t be put in a morally difficult position of receiving unfair privilege.” said Calhoun.

The Green Party holds that Yukon, as a secular jurisdiction, must treat the Catholic community as it treats all other faith communities or people with no faith.

Funding Catholic schools forces students to travel further from home to school than necessary, wasting time and money, and contributing to climate change. Funding only schools open to all students and all teachers would be environmentally beneficial.

Yukon is not constitutionally required to fund Catholic education, nor would its abolition require changes to the Canadian Constitution. Quebec, Manitoba and Newfoundland abolished their Catholic school systems without Constitution amendments.

For more information, contact:

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