**S.E.T.S.A (Special Education Teachers Sub-Association)**

*Prepared by the SETSA Executive*

*January 26th, 2021*

**Purpose:**

*To provide insight into what is impeding Special Education in the Yukon and provide suggestions on what can be done to strengthen it.*

**Challenges:**

* Time to collaborate
* Clear, consistent, and current communication between Student Support Services and all schools
* Lack of understanding regarding inclusive practice
* Fixed mindsets about special education students and support staff (Teachers, EA, and Administrators)
* Lack of explicit and consistent role expectations/ job description
* Need for training specific to the role of the LAT

**Suggestions:**

In 2019 SETSA surveyed Yukon LAT’s regarding time spent on specific duties and responsibilities. The results of the survey revealed that Yukon LAT’s feel that there is not enough time allocated for collaboration between Special Education (LAT’s) and classroom teachers. Research on inclusion indicates that through the implementation of models of shared responsibility a school’s capacity to support all learners increases as well as reduces the time pressures on LAT’s. Therefore, the SETSA executive recommends that there be PD training for all Yukon Educators on inclusive practice, inclusive leadership and how to collaborate effectively. It is SETSA’s belief that training in the above mentioned areas will strengthen inclusive practice in all Yukon schools.

Moving forward there should be consistent and common language used by all LAT’s in the Yukon regarding anything dealing with Special Education services being utilized at the school. This would mean that if parents have a question regarding something that is being used with their student, every LAT will be able to give them the same answer and refer to the same documents and processes. Currently the application of supports/special education processes in the Yukon varies from school to school and from rural community to urban center. The goal would be to have an updated document with commonly asked questions and answers that are consistent between schools and in line with Student Support Services current guidelines.