

# EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TSUUT'INA NATION

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Tsuut'ina Nation

**CC:** Education Board of Trustees  
Executive Director of Lifelong Learning  
Education Staff  
Renfrew Educational Services  
Southland Transportation  
Communications

**DATE:** December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**RE:** **Update on the Situation at Chiila Elementary School**

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Dādánast'ádā

I am writing to provide an update on the situation that took place at Chiila Elementary School this morning. At approximately 8:30 a.m., a pipe burst in the gymnasium, prompting the immediate evacuation of all staff and students from the school.

The Tsuut'ina Fire Department was immediately contacted and responded within 9 minutes of our dispatch. Southland Transportation was also called to transport students to Chief Big Belly Middle School, ensuring their safety and comfort. Additionally, the Tsuut'ina Public Works Department arrived to assist in assessing the situation.

Upon inspection, the fire department determined that the excess water from the burst pipe generated steam, which was initially mistaken for smoke. No fire took place at Chiila Elementary School. Students have since been safely transported home by their parents/caregivers or Southland Transportation, while staff members have been released for the day.

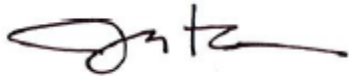
Servpro Restoration Services is currently onsite and has commenced the restoration process. The school's water and heat have been turned off to facilitate this work. Please note that the Chiila Winter Concert scheduled for tomorrow, December 19th, has been postponed until further notice.

A decision regarding classes at Chiila Elementary School for tomorrow, December 19th, and Friday, December 20th, will be made by the end of the day. This decision hinges on the extent of damage incurred in the gymnasium and the progress of the restoration efforts. Classes at Chief Big Belly Middle School, Manyhorses High School, and Bullhead Adult Education Centre will proceed as scheduled for the remainder of the week.

We would like to thank the Tsuut'ina Fire Department for their quick response and the Tsuut'ina Public Works Department and Servpro Restoration Services for their assistance in handling this situation. Additionally, we thank Southland Transportation and the dedicated staff at both Chiila Elementary and Chief Big Belly Middle School for ensuring the safety of our students.

We will continue to keep you updated as more information becomes available. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Kaiswatum', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jonathan Kaiswatum  
Director of Education  
Tsuut'ina Education Department