

ANNOUNCEMENT

YELLOWQUILL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE GRADUATION 2021

Thursday, June 24, 2021 (10:00 -4:30)

Due to Covid 19 Health Restrictions we are limited once again on what we can do for your Graduation Celebration this year.

It has been a difficult year once again for you as students and for us as staff at Yellowquill University College as this is the second year we have had to do on-line learning vs in-person learning for a portion of the school year. I know that you have had to adjust your way of learning to accommodate the on-line format and it has been very difficult at times. It has also been difficult for Instructors to keep you all engaged in your education. We hope is that next year we will get back to our new normal. We miss the sound of your laughter and voices in the hallways.

We are planning a **DRIVE-BY/WALK-BY GRADUATION** again this year, however there are stricter restrictions in place right now. Due to the restriction of not having more than 5 people in an outdoor setting this will restrict the numbers of those who can attend.

In order to facilitate the safety regulations, we have opted to do the following:

- There will have a virtual ceremony at 9:00 a.m. inviting all Students, Instructors, Board of Directors and Funders/Counsellors. We will acknowledge and congratulate the Graduates and announce the recipients of the Scholarships and Awards. A zoom link will be sent as soon as we know who is graduating.
- We have scheduled 10 minute timeslots for each graduate to come and pick up their Diploma and Awards and do the photo op, beginning at 10:00. Your Instructor will attach your time to this email. Please keep in mind that **time is a factor** and you need to be here at **your scheduled time**.
- The staff parking lot at the west side of the building will be reserved for you, the graduates. You can come and park 5 to 10 minutes prior to your scheduled time. An Instructor will let them know when it is your turn – you will come through the front – your Diploma and a gift package will be given to you by the Director and you Instructor. A photo area will be set up for photos to be taken. You will pick up a treat and coffee and leave right away. PLEASE NOTE: The Graduate can only bring people living in the same household with them to the event. We don't want to get fined or for any student to get fined so we ask that all rules and regulations be followed.
- If your funder wants to present you with a gift, I would suggest that other arrangements be made for this purpose. They can be dropped off at the building and we can hand out

if that is a preference. (I am aware of one other Graduation that occurred in the City and that organization was given hefty fines so we do not want that negative publicity or have to pay a fine).

- Parking is also very limited in the area right now due to construction therefore we need to limit the number of cars and the time for each Graduate.
- It is unfortunate that we have to do Graduation this way again however, there is nothing we can do about the Health Restrictions.
- Graduation is a celebration as you all have put lots of time and effort into getting you Certificate or Diploma. Our attempt is to make it memorable for you.
- We have put up a big sign in front to Petro Can at the corner of St. Mathews and Madison to honour you: we will decorate the front and side of the building; we are making every attempt to make it a celebratory occasion for you, the student.
- Once we have determined who is graduating each Instructor will let the student know when their time slot is to come to the University College and they in turn can notify their funder.
- I have attached the Health Restrictions as they pertain to Graduations during this time of restrictions.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2021 !!!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bobbi Pompana', followed by a horizontal line.

Bobbi Pompana
Director



COMMUNICATION

ISSUE: Year-End Graduation Events

Schools wishing to host modified graduation ceremonies must adhere to the public health orders and guidelines in effect at the time the ceremonies take place.

As you plan for graduation, please be prepared to:

- follow applicable current public health orders and guidelines
- consider virtual ceremonies, “drive-up” vehicle ceremonies, or “drive-in” vehicle ceremonies
- use creative ways to honour graduating students such as lawn signs and video keepsakes
- minimize interactions between school staff and graduates and plan for a zero contact event by:
 - pre-recording messages—If staff or volunteers are required to have contact with any equipment (e.g., speaker), the equipment must be cleaned and disinfected after each use
 - placing diplomas on a table for the graduate to retrieve
 - involving the minimum number of school employees required to host the event
- ensure two metres of physical distancing at all times
- ensure photographers and videographers adhere to public health orders:
 - provide outdoor services to the individual person (graduate) and the person’s household members
 - ensure there is no mingling in groups or waiting in lines

Schools planning to distribute diplomas at in-school events will follow all current guidance and public health measures for schools. Schools in remote learning can follow the current guidance regarding small groups (no more than five or six students) attending the in-school event (during the school day) to receive their diploma. Schools not in remote learning can have their Grade 12 instructional classes attend (one class at a time) to receive their diploma. Schools must follow all current public health measures for schools, including the following:

- ensuring two metres of physical distancing at all times
- ensuring students wear a mask at all times, except for when posing for a photograph, if fully distanced from the photographer and others
- ensuring staff wear a mask, unless facilitating the event and fully distanced from others
- do not have more than one graduate at a time on the stage or at the staging area
- ensure only graduates and required staff attend

Additionally, no guests can be present at the in-school event. Where additional groups are required due to the number of graduates, plan adequate time between groups to allow for cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces and to avoid the crossing paths of groups.

Schools may consider postponing the graduation celebrations until the fall.

Additional Guidance on “Drive-In” and “Drive-Up” Vehicle Events

A “drive-up” vehicle event is characterized as having attendees drive to a designated area where the graduates receive their diplomas and then leave the designated area.

A “drive-in” vehicle event is characterized as having attendees drive to a designated location large enough to hold the required number of vehicles, which are spaced a minimum of two metres. While ensuring that all applicable public health orders are followed, attendees observe the ceremony, which may be projected onto a large screen, streamed to their electronic device, and so on.

For “drive-in” and “drive-up” vehicle events, the following guidelines apply:

- vehicles must be separated by a minimum of two metres
- windows and sunroofs may be open, but doors and trunks are to remain closed
- only participants from the same household may occupy the same vehicle
- participants may stay immediately outside their vehicles in a manner that ensures that they are able to maintain a separation of at least two metres from other persons attending the gathering or event who arrived in another vehicle
- graduates may leave their vehicles to collect their diplomas
- provide washroom access only if necessary and capacity should be limited, with frequent cleaning and disinfecting before, during, and after the service
- no serving of food is allowed and all other services must be suspended, including the use of picnic and play areas
- a list of attendees should be kept for 21 days for contact tracing purposes

Please forward questions and inquiries to educovid19@gov.mb.ca.

Additional information is available on the Manitoba Education COVID-19 website at www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/latest.html.