

## Leah Jagodics - Planning for Return to School – 9 July 2020

As a parent of 2 school-aged children, I have been the parent working from home full time during COVID while my husband works outside of the house (essential services). I had to stop home-schooling efforts two weeks into this as it was not sustainable. I instead opted for activity books that my children could do on their own while I worked. My children are struggling with their mental health. They need interaction with other children their age. This is especially visible with my 7 year old son entering grade 2. He has an IEP and requires interaction with his peers and different authority figures. If schooling is 2 days a week I will send both children. I will have to take leave without pay or go part time. I am currently working in a specialized group for the GOC focusing on increasing Indigenous business capacity. This will greatly affect my works ability to meet our mandate. There is a very visible trickle effect. I urge you to find measures to make school full time. At the very least – one week on and one week off. At least then my children have a chance to retain knowledge and I have a chance to juggle (barely!) my workload.

I am making this clear – I will not be able to home school my children and work. They are not able to work independently with online schooling. We have one computer in our house and it is being used for my work. This is a large expense both financially, mentally, emotionally on our household. I am hoping that the school board is going to instruct teachers to be flexible with their work plans and submission from children at home based on the individual home situation.

Many thanks for including my comments and allowing my voice to be heard. I greatly appreciate it.

All the best,  
Leah Jagodics