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MAR 31 2017

MR. SHANE THOMPSON
CHAIRPERSON
STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Response to Briefing on Junior Kindergarten Implementation

Thank you for the March 09, 2017 follow-up to the briefing on Junior Kindergarten (JK) implementation. As you are aware, JK is an evidence-based approach that will assist in putting children in the best position possible to succeed as they enter into and move through the education system.

Data from the Early Development Instrument (EDI) has clearly shown us that many Northwest Territories (NWT) children are vulnerable in one or more critical development areas, reflecting the need for investment. In fact, EDI data has shown that 38 percent of 5-year old children in the NWT are vulnerable in one area of their development as compared to 25 percent in the rest of Canada. In small communities, as many as 53 percent of 5-year olds are vulnerable in one area.

The implementation of JK meets the GNWT commitment to ensure the territory has free, play-based care for 4-year olds and will provide parents and families with access to high quality early childhood programming regardless of income or geographic location.

Please find responses to your questions on JK implementation below:

- 1. Please provide further detail on the department's research findings regarding support services needs in JK-aged children within the education system.*

JK is an optional program for which parents may choose to enroll their child full-day, half-day, or not at all; therefore, it is not possible to predict the support needs of the JK-aged children within the education system. However, all schools in the NWT follow the Ministerial Directive on Inclusive Schooling (2016) which is focused on supporting success for all students through collaborative support systems that enable teachers to best meet the diverse needs in their classrooms.

Through the NWT Inclusive Schooling model, each school's school-based support team may include a wide variety of members such as the principal, program support teacher, classroom teacher, parents, students (when appropriate), regional inclusive schooling coordinator, and superintendent. As well, there may be support from other related service providers and professionals from other departments, such as the Department of Health and Social Services. The school-based support team works together to problem solve and develop strategies to support classroom teachers in meeting students' needs and to reduce barriers to learning. As with all students, children with exceptionalities entering JK will have access to these existing school supports.

2. Please provide additional detail on planned new program support teacher positions/funding for the 2017-18 school year, and the source of funding, including how funding is calculated, for this initiative.

The funding for Program Support Teachers (PSTs) is based on the number of students enrolled in any particular school. The specific formula is as follows:

- If there are less than 30 students enrolled in a school, funding for 0.5 PST is provided;
- If there are more than 30 and less than 119 students enrolled, funding for 1.0 PST is provided; and
- For 119 students or more, a school is provided funding based on enrolment divided by 119 up to a maximum of 3.25 PSTs.

In the 2017-2018 school year, the NWT Education Authorities will receive funding for 71.97 full time equivalent PST positions as compared to the 71.22 PST positions in the 2016-2017 school year.

3. Please provide further detail on the rationale behind the trigger point for additional mid-year funding to schools (eight per-cent or 10-student enrolment increase).

Based on the NWT School Funding Framework (Framework), contributions to Education Authorities are calculated based on prior-year student enrolments. During the school year, there may be unexpected significant increases to student enrolment that would require additional funding to support expenditures for current year actual enrolments. This is referred to as "Extraordinary Enrolment Funding".

Extraordinary Enrolment Funding is provided when the community student enrolment is greater than eight percent and there is an increase of at least ten full time equivalent students. This has been included in the Framework to identify situations where additional teaching staff and operations and maintenance funding are necessary. The additional funding calculation is done once the student enrolments for the current school year are finalized.

4. *Please provide the Committee with a copy of, or a link to, the "Day in JK" video. Please identify the cost of the video, including development, production, and distribution.*

The link to the JK video can be found on the contractor's Vimeo channel at <https://vimeo.com/208168731>. All permissions and family consent have been collected. The complete cost of the video, including consultation, development, and production is \$10,000, a copy of the invoice is attached.

Distribution costs for the 2016-2017 fiscal year are expected to be approximately \$5,000; to be shown at theatres in Yellowknife and Hay River. Additional distribution will include websites, Facebook pages and YouTube.

5. *Please provide further detail on how the department is collecting data on current busing costs across the territory. Please indicate the expected completion date for the department and education authorities' review, and upon completion, provide the review's findings to the Committee.*

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), in consultation with the Department of Transportation, is currently reviewing the requirements for the safe transportation of 4-year olds. Once this information is collected it will help inform discussions with transportation vendors including the additional costs for Education Authorities. Once this information is known and collected, ECE will assess and potentially bring forward as part of the supplementary estimates in the fall 2017.

6. *The Committee recommends that all future departmental communications respecting junior kindergarten reflect this reality.*

Parents who choose to enroll their child in JK, even with any potential after-school costs, will pay far less than the fees that they would need to pay to have their child enrolled in full-day childcare.

JK will bring additional savings to parents who may consider entry into the workforce and/or who wish to attend school or training. Currently, parents may pay up to \$12,000 annually for full-day child care. With the territorial implementation of free, play-based JK, parents may only incur the costs of out-of-school care, if needed, which is significantly less than full-day care.

7. *The Committee recommends that the department's universal daycare action plan address childcare needs specifically emerging from junior kindergarten implementation.*

As committed to in the GNWT Mandate, a draft action plan for universal child care will be developed by March, 2018. Committee will be provided multiple opportunities to contribute to the development of this important initiative.

8. *Please provide an update on the department's engagement with the Aboriginal Head Start program (AHS), including further detail on how the department intends to build from successes in Fort McPherson and Ndilo.*

ECE has met with AHS staff on a number of occasions to address concerns they have raised regarding JK and, at the request of AHS staff, included a Healing Circle led by an Elder and professional counselor to strengthen relationships with AHS and ECE staff. The investment of time, finances, and energy into these meetings illustrate ECE's commitment to work in partnership with AHS programs. Through engagement with both AHS and school staff in Ndilo and Fort McPherson, ECE will support Education Authorities in the remaining six communities offering AHS with decisions regarding full-day or half-day scheduling and programming that best suits the needs of families.

9. *Please identify the number of 4-year-olds currently enrolled in existing JK programs, where possible, the ratio of those enrolled to those not enrolled.*

There are currently 120 JK students registered for the current 2016-2017 school year in 20 communities. According to Statistics Canada, there are 127 4-year olds in those 20 communities that offer JK (excluding Ndilo as population data could not be separated from Yellowknife). Thus, the percentage of those enrolled who can currently access JK is approximately 94 percent.

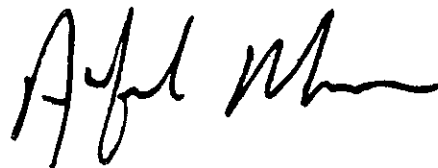
10. Please identify those communities which during the JK pilot phase either chose not to offer junior kindergarten or implemented, then ended, the program, as well as their reasons for doing so (e.g., insufficient resources, lack of interest/four-year-old children, etc.).

Of the 29 small communities with the option of JK implementation, there are 20 communities that have chosen to implement JK in their schools for the 2016-2017 school year. Of these, 16 have chosen to continually implement JK for all three consecutive years. Aklavik and Fort McPherson discontinued JK but have since decided to implement JK this year. When first introduced, Sachs Harbour, Sambaa K'e, and Jean Marie River did not have 4-year olds to register for JK. Sachs Harbour and Jean Marie River now have 4-year olds and offer JK in their schools. Nahanni Butte had a 4-year old registered and attending JK earlier this year, but that child has since moved out of the community.

For the 2016-2017 school year, nine communities do not offer JK. The communities of Behchokò, Gamètì, Wekweètì, and Délı̨ne have not implemented JK as the Tłı̨chǫ Government and Tłı̨chǫ Community Services Agency finalize details regarding early childhood programming in their region. Paulatuk, Fort Providence, Kátł'odeeche, and Fort Resolution discontinued JK implementation. Sambaa K'e is undergoing construction in the school and felt that this year would not be an ideal time to add more students.

The regional centres of Inuvik, Hay River, Fort Smith, and capital city of Yellowknife have not yet had the opportunity to implement JK.

Thank you to the Committee for its interest in the territorial implementation of JK programming for the 2017-2018 school year. JK is an investment in all children in the NWT and is in alignment with the 18th Assembly's mandate which calls for free play-based care for 4-year olds.



Alfred Moses
Minister, Education, Culture
and Employment

Attachment

c. Distribution List

Distribution List

Principal Secretary

Secretary to Cabinet

Deputy Minister, Education, Culture and Employment

Committee Clerk



REQUEST – A/P VOUCHER

March 15, 2017 ✓

Bus Unit: ECE01

Invoice No.: 195

Vendor Name: Artless Collective Inc. ✓

Invoice Date: March 13, 2017 ✓

Vendor ID: 0002011988 ✓

Description: JK Promo ✓

PO#:

Comments:

Line	Org.	Acct.	Fund	Area	Sett.	Prog.	Bus Unit	Project	Activity	Source	Cat	SubCat	Amount
1	71019	53280	01	11	005	65202	ECE01	6276	1	Other	Other	Other	\$5,000.00
2													
3													
4													
5													
6													
												Total	\$5,000.00

Arleen Canadien-Gargan March 15, 2017
Prepared by Date


Expenditure Authority
Debbie Muford

03/15/17
Date
Acting Director

Payment Authority

BA 3/15/17.

Invoice: Krystal Pidborochynski

71019/65202 Acc. 53280

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aRTLeSS Collective Inc.
Po Box 217 Station Main
Yellowknife NT X1A 2N2



GNWT - ECE
Krystal Pidborochynski

Invoice # 0000195
Invoice Date March 13, 2017
Balance Due (CAD) \$5,000.00

Task	Time Entry Notes	Rate	Hours	Line Total
Production	JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN: Promo a 30-60 teaser for theatre +web	0.00	0	0.00

Item	Description	Unit Cost	Quantity	Line Total
Pre-Production	Promo: Consult / Concept Delivery / Tech Prep	2,500.00	0.5	1,250.00
Production	1 Day Shoot: Promo	2,500.00	0.5	1,250.00
Post-Production	Promo: Logging / Edits / Delivery / Review	2,500.00	1	2,500.00

Total 5,000.00
Amount Paid 0.00
Balance Due (CAD) \$5,000.00

Terms

Your invoice is due upon receipt. All payments should be made out to ARTLESS COLLECTIVE INC.

Payment options include:

Direct email money transfer to info@artlesscollective.com

VISA, or MASTERCARD (subject to a 5% handling fee).

If paying by cheque, please contact us ahead of time to arrange details.

If you have any questions about this bill, please contact us immediately. Thanks for the work!

444-8382
Vendor 2011988

