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Asked by: Adam Arreak Lightstone, MLA Iqaluit-Manirajak

Asked of: Hon. David Joanasie, Minister of Education

Number: 49-5(2)

Date: October 21, 2019

Subject: Cost of Lunch Hour Transportation

Question 1: How many Communities does the Department of Education or District Education Authority (DEA) provide contracted transportation services of students between home and school from the private sector?

- a. What is the total number of bussing contracts?
- b. What is the total cost of the contracts?
- c. What is the average cost of the contracts per student?

Question 1 Response: The Department of Education currently has private sector bussing contracts in 11 communities across the territory.

- a. The total number of private bussing contracts in Nunavut is 11.
- b. The total cost of the 11 private sector bussing contracts is \$2,798,223.74.
- c. The average annual per student cost of private bussing contracts in 11 communities is approximately \$485.*

*Based on total full-time enrolment for each of the communities identified.

Question 2: How many communities does the Department of Education or District Education Authority (DEA) provide bussing services **internally** for transportation of students between home and school?

- a. What is the total cost of providing this service internally?
- b. What is the average cost of providing the service per student?

Question 2 Response: The Department of Education/DEAs, currently provide bussing services in 12 communities.

- a. The total cost of providing this service is \$710,894.00.
- b. The average per student cost of internal/DEA bussing in 12 communities is approximately \$205.*

*Based on total full-time enrolment for each of the communities identified.

Question 3: Of these bussing services, how many provide **lunch hour** transportation?

- a. Private sector contract services.
- b. Internally run by Department of Education or DEA.

Question 3 Response: Schools in all communities with school busses offer bussing at lunch hour, except Inuksuk High School in Iqaluit.

Question 4: What is the **cost associated** with lunch hour transportation?

- a. Private sector contract services.
- b. Internally run by Department of Education or DEA.

Question 4 Response: There is no specific cost associated with lunch hour transportation.

- a. Private bussing contracts are not split up by hours and stops made in a day. When a contractor bids on a bussing contract, they bid on the full cost for an entire 1-3 year period.
- b. For Department of Education/DEA bussing services, each DEA, with the assistance of the Department, creates a budget for bussing services that includes driver wages, repairs and maintenance, fuel, and storage, as required. The budgets are not broken down by number of stops and routes.

Other information of note:

- The overall cost of bussing contracts has increased significantly over the past several years. The total cost of school bussing in 2010/11 was \$1,724,568.76. The total cost of bussing in 2019/20 is \$3,509,117.74.