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Asked by: John Main, MLA Arviat North – Whale Cove

Asked of: Hon. David Joanasie, MLA

Minister of Education

Number: 54-5(2)

Date: November 7, 2019

Subject: Security and Violence in Schools

Question 1: What specific measures and/or procedures does the Department of Education have in place concerning school security?

Response: In 2016, the Department, in collaboration with the Nunavut Teachers' Association, released a Crisis Response Guidelines for Nunavut Schools Staff Manual and a Principals Planning Manual to guide school personnel in taking a proactive and preventative approach to violence in schools, making the working and learning environment safe and welcoming.

Further, the Department of Education recently established an ongoing working group with Community & Government Services in response to the increased number of arson attempts and other related incidents at schools. The working group is currently developing plans, procedures and action items to help better protect our schools as well as other GN assets.

Question 2: By region, what were the number of 'lockdown' incidents in Nunavut schools during the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years?

Response: Department is working to revise its lockdown tracking processes. The lock down data for the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years is not yet available. As of May 2017, for the school year 2016-17, there were 26 lock-down incidents in schools; 18 in the Qikiqtani, 4 in the Kivalliq, and 4 in the Kitikmeot.

Question 3: Does the Department of Education maintain a reporting or tracking system concerning security and/ or violent incidents?

Response: Utilizing tools currently available to us, the Department of Education has recently developed a tracking tool within the Student Information System that will allow teachers and principals to track security and violent incidents. This tool will ensure that reported data is collected accurately and consistently across Nunavut, and will allow all schools to track relevant information for each case.

The tracking tool will be rolled out along with comprehensive violence report forms that are being developed with input from staff in all regions and in collaboration with the Nunavut Teachers' Association.

The Department of Education, in partnership with the Nunavut Teachers' Association, will continue to evaluate and review reporting systems that aim to capture relevant reporting details, allow for statistical analysis, create avenues for submitting both written and electronic reports and have a multi-direction communication method to ensure reports are directed at the appropriate party (e.g. Regional School Operations, Nunavut Teachers' Association, Nunavut Employees Union, etc.).

Question 4: Is there a significant trend in student-on-student violence in recent years?

Response: The Department of Education is unable to comment on trends related to student-on-student violence, as the reporting and tracking of these incidents has not been consistent, and the Department cannot verify the accuracy of available data.

Question 5: Is there a significant trend in student-on-teacher violence in recent years?

Response: The Department of Education is unable to comment on trends related to student-on-teacher violence, as the reporting and tracking of these incidents has not been consistent, and the Department cannot verify the accuracy of available data.

The Department is working to improve its incident reporting process in schools, and will work with the Nunavut Teachers' Association to identify and break down barriers to the reporting of incidents. The Department is dedicated to providing school staff with the tools and supports necessary to eliminate violence in all forms in schools.

A new handbook is currently in development, amalgamating the Crisis Response Planning Guidelines, Principal's Planning Manual and Fire Safety Manual, streamlining expectations of all school staff before, during and after incidents and emergencies.