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

Asked of: Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik, MLA
Minister of Family Services

Number: 29-5(2)

Date: April 23, 2019

Subject: Recipients of Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students

Question:

1. For the following academic years, how many students receiving Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students were enrolled in an accredited post-secondary university program:
 - a. 2017-2018
 - b. 2016-2017
 - c. 2015-2016

Response:

- 2017-2018: **105**
- 2016-2017: **88**
- 2015-2016: **92**

Question:

2. For the following academic years, broken down by type of program (diploma, certificate or degree) how many students receiving Financial

Assistance for Nunavut Students were enrolled in an accredited post-secondary college program:

- a. 2017-2018
- b. 2016-2017
- c. 2015-2016

Response:

- 2017-2018: **294**
 - Certificate: 60
 - Diploma: 131
 - Degree: 103
- 2016-2017: **293**
 - Certificate:82
 - Diploma:125
 - Degree:86
- 2015-2016: **231**
 - Certificate:25
 - Diploma:124
 - Degree:82

Question:

3. For the following academic years, how many students receiving Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students were enrolled in an accredited post-secondary Trades training program:
 - a. 2017-2018
 - b. 2016-2017
 - c. 2015-2016

Response:

Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students does not fund trades training programs. Trades programs are funded through the Adult Learning and Training Supports (ALTS) program, which is another program run under Career Development Division of the Department of Family Services.

Question:

4. For the following academic years, how many students receiving Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students were enrolled in the Nunavut Sivuniksavut program:
 - a. 2017-2018
 - b. 2016-2017
 - c. 2015-2016

Response:

- 2017-2018: **50**
- 2016-2017: **47**
- 2015-2016: **36**

Question:

5. For the following academic years, how many student receiving Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students were not enrolled in any of the programs listed in questions 1, 2, 3 and 4 above:
 - a. 2017-2018
 - b. 2016-2017
 - c. 2015-2016

Response:

The FANS program only funds students attending designated post-secondary education programs at accredited colleges and universities. Therefore, all the FANS students receiving funding are covered in questions 1, 2 and 4.

Question:

6. What types of issues are Family Service staff encountering with administering the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students under the current electronic system and database?

Response:

The FANS program has two database systems; the main FANS database and Loans Manager System. The ongoing issues experienced by the FANS program are:

Separate Systems

The two database systems are not connected to each other. For example, when a student receiving loans has their payment information entered into the FANS database, the FANS database cannot tell us if a student has exceeded their lifetime loan amounts or how much a student owes in loans.

Work load and data entry is duplicated and, in some cases, tripled due to the database systems being separate. All payments are entered into the FANS database and once those data entries are completed, the loan entries are then entered into the loans manager system which requires another set of financial paperwork.

The FANS database is also separate from all other GN databases, which makes it hard to verify if a student is receiving duplicate funds intended for the same purpose from other programs such as Income Support and ALTS.

Outdated Systems

The FANS database and the Loans Manager System are both outdated and run on a version of Windows that is no longer supported. There are several glitches which cause issues with student profiles as well as payment issues.

Does Not Meet Day-to-Day Data Requirements

The FANS database only allows for certain data to be entered and as a result several excel spreadsheets are required to track other data. For example, FANS has a master student spreadsheet, loans master spreadsheet, travel spreadsheet and several other spreadsheets for appeals, scholarships, etc.

Cannot Produce Statistics

The FANS database and the Loans Manager System cannot produce necessary statistics for monitoring and managing FANS programs. As a result, staff have to collect statistics manually by combining data from the database systems with the master spreadsheets to produce accurate information. This is very time consuming and allows for human error.