

COR/19/728

June 6, 2019

Dear Applicant:

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (Our File #: EECD/043/2019)

On May 23, 2019, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development received your request for access to the following records/information:

"The following briefing materials from April 2019: - information note titled Conseil scolaire francophone provincial de Terre-Neuve et Labrador - Funding; - decision note titled K-3 Mathematics Resources; - decision/direction note titled Child Care Services Subsidy Net Income Threshold Change."

I am pleased to inform you that a decision has been made by the Deputy Minister for the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (the department) to provide access to some of the requested information and the appropriate copies have been enclosed.

Access to the remaining records, and/or information contained within the records, has been refused in accordance with the following exceptions to disclosure, as specified in the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015* (the Act):

Section 29: Policy, Advice and Recommendation

29. (1) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information that would reveal

(a) advice, proposals, recommendations, analyses or policy options developed by or for a public body or minister.

As required by 8(2) of the Act, we have severed information that is unable to be disclosed and have provided you with as much information as possible. In accordance with your request for a copy of the records, the appropriate copies have been enclosed.

You may appeal this decision and ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the decision to provide partial access to the requested information, as set out in section 42 of the Act. A request to the Commissioner must be made in writing within 15 business days of the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Commissioner. Your appeal should identify your concerns with the request and why you are submitting the appeal.

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The appeal may be addressed to the Information and Privacy Commissioner as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
2 Canada Drive
P. O. Box 13004, Stn. A
St. John's, NL. A1B 3V8
Telephone: (709) 729-6309; Toll-Free: 1-877-729-6309
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500

You may also appeal directly to the Supreme Court Trial Division within 15 business days after you receive the decision of the public body, pursuant to section 52 of the Act.

Please be advised that responsive records will be published following a 72 hour period after the response is sent electronically to you or five business days in the case where records are mailed to you. It is the goal to have the responsive records posted to the Completed Access to Information Requests website within one business day following the applicable period of time. Please note that requests for personal information will not be posted online.

The Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act requires us to provide an advisory response within 10 days of receiving the request. As this request has been completed by day 10, this letter also serves as our Advisory Response.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned by telephone at 709-729-7180 or by e-mail at garynoftall@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,



Gary Noftall
ATIPP Coordinator

Attachment

Information Note
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Title: Conseil scolaire francophone provincial de Terre-Neuve et Labrador – Funding

Issue: To provide background information regarding requests for funding from the Conseil scolaire francophone provincial de Terre-Neuve et Labrador.

Background and Current Status:

- The *Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Agreement on Minority-Language Education and Second Official-Language Instruction 2013-2014 to 2017-2018* (OLE Agreement) was signed in March 2014. Under this bilateral agreement, federal funding is provided on a 50/50 basis, with the federal government providing a set amount contingent upon the province spending at least the same amount under each of French minority language and French second language (FSL) initiatives, as identified in the action plan contained in the Agreement.
- Under the OLE Agreement, the federal government sets a total annual funding amount for French minority language education. Programs and Services Division receives \$2,639,295 in funding for FSL programs per year, and \$1,301,551 for French first language programs, for a total of \$3,940,846 annually. This amount is broken down in a 5-year action plan, which budgets for various initiatives. While these amounts have not changed for several years, the recent federal budget has suggested that an increase may be available in the future, if provinces and territories match funds.
- OLE funding amounts are fixed over the term of the agreement. From year to year, any decision to change funding for an initiative would need to be offset through changes to another initiative or with additional provincial funding.
- The OLE Agreement is not intended to offset all costs associated with providing for minority language education. The action plan, which is approved by the federal government, sets the priorities of the province, with amounts budgeted for each initiative. Any changes to the action plan must be reported, and explained, to the federal government.
- For the 2017-18 school year, the Conseil scolaire francophone provincial (CSFP) de Terre-Neuve et Labrador received a total of \$888,503 in the context of the OLE Agreement. The original request from CSFP was \$1.3 million (the complete federal contribution). (**Annex A**)
- In addition to the CSFP grant, \$16,802 was provided directly to CSFP schools for school trips.
- Further to that directly provided to CSFP, other 2017-18 FFL spending included funds for activities offered through the Fédération des parents francophones de Terre-Neuve et du Labrador (FPFTNL) for francophone children, including preschool and afterschool programs. Funds were also provided to Francojeunes and Sharing Our Cultures. (**Annex B**) The total provided to the school district and francophone organizations was approximately \$1.1 million.
- Additional 2017-18 OLE FFL funds spent directly by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development included the costs of curriculum development, translations, evaluation, and administration, for a total of approximately \$226,000. (**Annex B**)
- Total funds requested by CSFP for 2018-19 was \$1,301,000. Total funding approved to date for CSFP is \$923,503.

- For 2018-19 \$200,000 was also approved from the FFL grant of has been approved for FPFTNL activities.
- The total amounts requested, and approved, for the CSFP under the OLE Agreement from 2015-16 to 2018-19, are listed in Annex C.

Action Being Taken:

- None required at this time.

Prepared/Approved by: R. Keough/J. Hogan/B. Clarke/E. Churchill/R. Gardiner

Ministerial Approval:

March 28, 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Keough", is written over the "Ministerial Approval" line.

Annex A

Summary of Funds approved for
 Conseil scolaire francophone provincial (CSFP) de Terre-Neuve et Labrador
 for 2017-18 under the
*Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Agreement
 on Minority-Language Education and Second Official-Language Instruction*

	Requested 2017-18	Approved 2017-18
Teacher aides	131,976	123,000
Library resources	15,000	6,000
Francisation	425,000	288,000
Computer services	60,000	45,001
Administrative services	55,000	50,000
Program specialist services	114,000	122,582
Communication and promotion services	65,000	65,501
Francophone identity building	153,500	74,001
Recruitment and retention of personnel	45,500	21,418
Professional Learning	181,024	54,500
Strategic plan	54,000	0
Additional funding		38,050
TOTAL	\$1,300,000	\$888,503

Annex B**Summary of remaining French first-language funding 2017-18**

2017-18 Funding	
Fédération des parents francophones de Terre-Neuve et du Labrador (FPFTNL)	
After-school	63,660
Pre-school	75,356
Francisation familiale	30,688
Saturday camps	12,094
<i>FPFTNL - Total</i>	181,798
Francojeunes	5,000
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development - curriculum development, program development specialist salary, translation costs.	226,250
TOTAL	\$ 413,048

Annex C

Summary of Funds provided directly to
Conseil scolaire francophone provincial (CSFP) de Terre-Neuve et Labrador
from 2015-16 to 2018-19 under the
*Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Agreement
on Minority-Language Education and Second Official-Language Instruction*

Fiscal Year	Requested	Approved
2015-16	\$1,502,715	\$ 843,215
2016-17	\$1,125,000	\$ 850,000
2017-18	\$1,300,000	\$ 888,503
2018-19	\$1,301,000	\$ 923,503

Decision Note
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Title: K-3 Mathematics Resources

Issue: The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) is granting monies to the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District to enable them to enter into a purchase agreement with Clockwork Fox Studios, to provide Zorbit's Math Adventure (Zorbis) to all schools teaching K-3 mathematics within NL.

Background and Current Status:

- BN/19/15 provided approval for the Division of Programs and Services to enter into an agreement with Clockwork Fox Studios, to provide Zorbis to 40 schools from the public K-12 education system as part of a pilot project at an anticipated cost of approximately \$70,000.
- EECD has identified further savings within professional learning and school board operations budgets that will be used to expand the scope of the previously agreed to 40 school implementation of Zorbis.
- These savings have been realized through budgets related to several teacher professional learning sessions that were delivered at a lower than anticipated cost. Furthermore, several teacher professional learning sessions, related to the Education Action Plan, were delayed until the new fiscal year.
- Clockwork Fox Studios has offered to provide all schools in NL teaching K-3 mathematics with a three-year license for \$960,000.
- This price would include support and PL as follows:
 - Unlimited ongoing Support, via online chat or email;
 - Two live PL sessions on a subject of EECD's choosing per year;
 - Two online PL sessions on a subject of EECD's choosing per year;
 - Four introductory webinars for new users per year;
 - Online course, self-guided PL on how to achieve outcomes;
 - Embedded PL, facilitated through teacher dashboard;
 - One student engagement contest per year; and
 - District dashboard and analysis data;
- The purchase agreement for Zorbis will be between the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District (NLESD) and Clockwork Fox Studios.
- Upon approval, EECD is prepared to transfer a total of \$860,000, in the 2018-19 fiscal year, directly to the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District to cover the purchase cost. The remaining cost will be negotiated between EECD and NLESD in the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Analysis:

- Provides all schools offering K-3 mathematics (4 grade levels) with access to Zorbis for three-years.

- A professional learning plan focused on maximizing Zorbis impact on K-3 mathematics teaching and learning will be developed. This will be virtual and available to all K-3 teachers. This will take advantage of PL support offered by Clockwork Fox Studios.
- This represents a significant investment in a Newfoundland and Labrador based company.

Prepared/Approved by: A. Johnson/B. Clarke/E. Churchill/R. Gardiner

Ministerial Approval:

March 29, 2019

BN/19/39



Decision/Direction Note
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Title: Child Care Services Subsidy Net Income Threshold Change

Decision/Direction Required:

- Confirmation of the effective date of a change in the net income threshold for full child care subsidy needs to be confirmed in order to implement the change in the Integrated Service Management (ISM) system.
- It is recommended that the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development be directed to [REDACTED]

s. 29(1)(a)

Background and Current Status:

- The Child Care Services Subsidy (CCSS) program provides help with the cost of child care fees in regulated services to eligible families with lower net family incomes.
- The net family income eligibility level (to receive full subsidy) was raised in June 2017 from \$27,000 to \$32,000 per year. Families with higher net incomes may receive a partial subsidy.
- Prior to the 2017 increase to \$32,000, the last increase in the family net income threshold was 2007.
- [REDACTED]
- The Operating Grant Program (OGP) provides operational funding to participating child care centres that must adhere to several conditions of funding including:
 - Reducing fees to the daily rates payable under the CCSS program with no surcharges; and
 - Paying qualified Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) a minimum of \$12 per hour and qualified centre administrators a minimum of \$14 per hour
- Families eligible for full subsidy under CCSS who attend a child care centre participating in the OGP receive child care at no cost to them.

s. 29(1)(a)

Analysis:

- Currently, a net family income of \$32,000 per year or less, after income testing, results in a full subsidy so that there is no parental contribution calculated. Families with a net income above \$32,000 may have a parental contribution assessed and receive a partial subsidy.
- Increasing the net family income threshold (after income testing) will increase the number of families eligible for full and partial subsidies, and will further reduce the parental contribution for child care for those currently not eligible for a full subsidy.
- CCSS is processed through the Integrated Service Management (ISM) case management system.
- A formula in this system, reflecting the net income threshold, will need to change to provide calculations of whether a family is eligible for full or partial subsidy and to determine the parental contribution if a partial subsidy is determined.

s. 29(1)(a)



s. 29(1)(a)

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s. 29(1)(a)

Alternatives:



s. 29(1)(a)



s. 29(1)(a)

Prepared/Approved by:
Ministerial Approval:

M. Goss-Prowse/R. Gardiner

April 15, 2019

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