Adam Arreak Lightstone



Written Question

Asked by: Adam Arreak Lightstone

Asked of: Hon. David Joanasie

Minister of Education

Number: 32-5(2)

Date: May 30, 2019

Subject: FASD in the Education System

Purpose: As the Minister previously indicated, there are many children in our education system who are suffering from unconfirmed FASD. I am worried that these children are not receiving the support they need to succeed. Early intervention is crucial for those living with FASD, as we must assist them to learn to live with their disability before it is too late.

It is imperative that the Department of Education is FASD informed, in order to make appropriate decisions. From the Minister's office down to the school administration, all involved must understand FASD, and how to provide the required support for cognitive problems and behaviour challenges. FASD is the leading underlying cause of developmental delay and learning disability in North America, yet, we have not been openly talking about FASD or providing comprehensive support and accommodated learning approaches for these students. Very often because this disability is considered 'invisible' the signs of brain based differences are misperceived and punished as challenging behaviour, rather than the student's needs and strengths being identified and supported.

In order to ensure the government is moving towards addressing the needs of children with FASD, I would like to inquire about the current practices in place, as well as the future strategy.

- 1. Has the Minister of Education, and Senior Personnel of the Department of Education, become **informed** in the needs of students with FASD?
- 2. Does the Department of Education consider the issue of FASD in our education system a **priority** matter?
- 3. How many students currently have confirmed FASD?
- 4. How many **additional students** have been confirmed with FASD over each of the last three fiscal years?
- 5. What **current supports** are in place for students with FASD?
- 6. Are the current supports for students with FASD **adequate** to meet their needs?
- 7. Does the Department of Education **intend on increasing** supports for students with FASD?
- 8. Does the Department of Education provide training to teachers on how to **identify suspected** undiagnosed students with FASD?
 - a. If so, how often is the training provided?
 - b. Does the Department of Education intend on expanding this training?
- 9. Does the Department of Education provide training to student support assistants on how to **identify suspected FASD**?
 - a. If so, how often is the training provided?
 - b. Does the Department of Education intend on expanding this training?
 - c. Does the Department of Education intend on identifying FASD leads at each school to ensure FASD best practices are adhered to when signs of FASD are raised for suspected FASD or confirmed FASD in students at each school in NU? (This would mostly likely be the SST)
- 10. Does the Department of Education provide training to teachers on how to provide educative **assistance for students** with FASD?
 - a. If so, how often is the training provided?
 - b. Does the Department of Education intend on expanding this training?
- 11. Does the Department of Education provide training to student support assistants on how to provide **educative assistance to students** with FASD?
 - a. If so, how often is the training provided?

- b. Does the Department of Education intend on expanding the this training?
- 12. Has the Department considered incorporating an FASD **screening process**?
- 13. Has the Department of education begun the development of a **comprehensive strategy** on how to address the needs of students with confirmed and unconfirmed FASD?
- 14. The Federal Government in association with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami has created the Child First Initiative that ensures Inuit children have access to the essential government funded health, social and educational products, services and supports they need, when they need them. Some examples of what could be funded include;
 - tutoring services;
 - educational assistants;
 - specialized school transportation;
 - psycho-educational assessments; and
 - assistive technologies and electronics

A request for a group of children with similar needs from multiple families or guardians can be submitted by a community or a service provider.

Has the Department of Education submitted a request for funding to assist Inuit children living with FASD to provide comprehensive support and accommodated learning approaches for these students?