



March 6, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Dear: Band-Operated School Authorities

**Re: School Bus Purchasing**

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The Ministry of Education (EDUC) and the Association of School Transportation Services of BC (ASTSBC) have conducted a Request For Standing Offer (RFSO) for school buses. School bus vendors were invited to submit standing offer prices for various types of buses. Effective March 9, 2020 the RFSO and other supporting documents will be available on the ASTSBC website at <http://www.astsbc.org/>. To view them, click the "Bus Standing Offer" link on their home page.

Note that this is not a bulk purchase of school buses, rather the ASTSBC has simply secured standing offer prices for school buses from March 9, 2020 to May 4, 2020. The standing offer prices are Free on Board (FOB) for each purchaser's receiving location and include delivery, packaging, crating and unloading costs anywhere in the Province of British Columbia.

In the spirit of the July 2006 "British Columbia First Nation Education Agreement," in which the Province pledged, where possible, to offer a First Nations Education Authority "access to provincial bulk purchase initiatives", the Ministry is again inviting band-operated schools to participate in this opportunity to purchase school buses at lower cost.

Band-operated schools that are planning to purchase a new bus are encouraged to contact school bus vendors directly and enter into contracts to purchase from the vendor of their choice, using the "Draw Down Form" mechanism described in the RFSO.

The ASTSBC will invoice band-operated schools, just as they will invoice independent schools and public boards of education, for two percent (2%) of their bus purchase price to defray the cost of administering this initiative. Band-operated schools that are in arrears of their administration fee payment from purchases under previous RFSOs will be ineligible for future standing offer procurements.

If you have any general questions, please contact me at [Michael.Nyikes@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Michael.Nyikes@gov.bc.ca) . If you have specific questions, you can email the ASTSBC's RFSO Committee at [rso@astsbc.org](mailto:rso@astsbc.org).

Sincerely yours,

Michael Nyikes, Director  
Minor Capital Projects Unit

cc: Joel Palmer, Executive Director, Capital Management Branch  
Ravnit Aujla, Planning Officer, Minor Capital Projects Unit  
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