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2004:B3

MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education

**FROM: Kevin Kobus
Assistant Deputy Minister**

DATE: April 15, 2004

SUBJECT: 2003 School Facilities Survey

In January 2000, the government announced the Accountability Framework for Pupil Accommodation Grants which included an annual School Facilities Survey. I am pleased to advise you that the results of the 2003 School Facilities Survey (administered last fall) are now available to school boards and to the general public at the following Internet address: <http://sfis.edu.gov.on.ca/PublicAccess/SurveyResults/home.htm>. Summary tables are available at both the provincial and individual board level. In addition, the website also includes links to summaries of the survey results for individual schools.

Also available to assist boards to compare their schools with similar schools in other boards is a file containing survey results and facility information from the School Facilities Inventory System (SFIS) --e.g. capacity, area, year built etc. -- for each school in the province. This file is also available at the above noted Internet address.

This is the fourth year the School Facilities Survey has been administered, and I am very pleased with the results. We again received over 19,000 responses, which represents a response rate of over 80 per cent. The results from the 2003 survey confirm the excellent results received in prior years – respondents are very satisfied with the cleanliness and general condition of schools in Ontario. Over 70 per cent of respondents rated their schools as “Good” or “Excellent”, and over 96 percent evaluated their schools as “Satisfactory or better”.

2004 School Facilities Survey

The 2004 survey process will be very similar to the process used in previous years. Once again, the Ministry would appreciate if boards establish processes to coordinate the data collection process at the local level.

The internet web site used to gather these results at the individual school level will be located at the same web address as last year (<http://sfis.edu.gov.on.ca>). The component of the School Facilities Inventory System where schools access the system to provide their results will be operational in late September 2004.

This will give boards a six-week period to administer the survey (as was the case with previous surveys). In addition, the data collection website will be re-vamped in time for the 2004 survey. Users will find the website easier to navigate and the data entry page will more closely resemble the hard-copy survey questionnaire.

Extensive support materials and documentation were prepared for the initial survey in 2000. These materials were shared with boards in a memorandum dated August 21, 2000 (memorandum 2000:B19) and are still valid. These materials can also be accessed online from the SFIS website at: <http://sfis.edu.gov.on.ca/Download/Survey/SurveyIndex.htm>.

To reduce the workload associated with this survey, boards will be able to re-use the usernames and passwords generated last year. More information on this and other administrative issues related to the survey will be shared with your School Facilities Inventory System contact person in September.

I thank you for your cooperation in administering this component of the Accountability Framework for Pupil Accommodation Grants. The results received are invaluable to boards in planning facility maintenance activities as well as identifying best practices that can improve the operational efficiency of schools.

If you have any questions regarding last year's results or the upcoming School Facilities Survey campaign, please contact Mary Iannaci at (416) 325-4297 (e-mail: mary.iannaci@edu.gov.on.ca) or Susan Peschken at (416) 325-8589 (e-mail: susan.peschken@edu.gov.on.ca).

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