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2010: SB34

MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education

FROM: Andrew Davis
Director
Financial Analysis and Accountability Branch

Alayne Bigwin
Director
Aboriginal Education Office

DATE: July 5, 2010

SUBJECT: Tuition Fees for First Nations Pupils Living On-Reserve and
Attending a School Operated by a District School Board

The purpose of this memo is to inform you of recent amendments to the fees for First Nations pupils living on reserve enacted in the regulation *Calculation of Fees for Pupils for the 2010-11 School Board Fiscal Year* (O. Reg. 195/10). These amendments are designed to promote transparency, cooperation and simplify tuition fee agreement negotiations between school boards and First Nations.

The base fee for First Nations pupils will continue to be calculated according to the formula set out in section 3 of the Fees Regulation. One important amendment is the base fee no longer includes a charge based on the claims-based portion of the board's approved claims for the special incidence portion (SIP) and the special equipment amount (SEA). However, the base fee still includes a component for the SEA per-pupil amount, which is designed to support computer-related needs. Accordingly, where a tuition fee paying pupil would otherwise qualify for a SIP or SEA claim, the funding to meet the needs of the pupil should be recovered from the party responsible for the pupil's tuition fee.

In addition to the change in the fee calculation, some of the provisions regarding fees above the base amount have been clarified. In previous years, school boards were able to charge an additional fee, based on a factor, for students enrolled in high cost programs. School boards and First Nations must now reach an agreement regarding when additional charges are required. When additional fees for educational programs, services or equipment are agreed upon, the Fees Regulation requires the amount to be determined on a cost recovery basis. If the parties cannot

Page 1 of 2

agree on an amount, pursuant to the Fees Regulation, the amount shall be determined through arbitration.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact:

- Jackie Tabar at (416) 325-2052 or jackie.tabar@ontario.ca; or
- Shirley Carder at (416) 325-4404 or shirley.carder@ontario.ca.



Andrew Davis



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cc. Superintendents of Business