



November 23, 2012

VIA EMAIL

To: Band-Operated Schools

Re: School Bus Purchasing

As was done last year, the Ministry of Education (MED) and the Association of School Transportation Services of BC (ASTSBC) 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. As of Monday, November 26, the RFSO and other supporting documents will be available on the ASTSBC website at <http://www.astsbcb.org/>. Click on "Bus Standing Offer", then "Shares", and then "Dropbox" to view the current documents.

Note that this is not a bulk purchase of school buses, rather the ASTSBC has simply secured standing offer prices for school buses that are in effect until January 31, 2013. The standing offer prices are Free on Board (FOB) 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 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. The RFSO in early 2012 resulted in significantly lower prices than previous years, so the savings are still considerable.

If you have any questions, please contact Joel Palmer, Regional Manager, Capital Management Branch, Ministry of Education, at 250-216-4627 or Joel.Palmer@gov.bc.ca. If you have specific questions you can email them to the RFSO Committee at rfsoc@astsbcb.org.

Sincerely yours,

Joel Palmer
Regional Manager
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