

PRIMARY SCHOOLS, STAFFING

897. Hon M.J. CRIDDLE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Can the minister confirm that he will retain the current 2001 staff levels for all primary schools?
- (2) Will the minister provide additional support in the form of practical class sizes, teacher assistant time and teacher duties other than teaching allocation, when P-1 split classes are unavoidable?

Hon G.T. GIFFARD replied:

- (1) No. School staffing establishments are dependent upon school enrolments. All primary schools will continue to be staffed according to the K-12 staffing formula which, in general terms, allocates teacher time to schools on the basis of the number of children enrolled. The current ratio of staff to children will be maintained.
- (2) Education assistant time will continue to be provided to mixed-age P-1 classes on a sliding scale based on the number of preprimary children enrolled in the class. Teachers will continue to be allocated time for duties other than teaching according to the levels agreed in the Government Schoolteachers and School Administrators Certified Agreement 2000.