



February 6th, 2023

The Hon. Chrystia Freeland, P.C., M.P.,
Deputy Prime Minister of Canada and Minister of Finance
House of Commons
Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0A6

Re. Building a pan-Canadian school food policy

Deputy Prime Minister Freeland,

We write to you to express our strong support for the creation and funding of a pan-Canadian school food policy.

We congratulate the Government of Canada on fulfilling its commitment from Budget 2022¹ to begin developing a National School Food Policy. We note the recent consultations that took place and look forward to seeing the results soon.

School food programs increase access to nutritious foods for children, so they can learn and thrive in their schools. Unfortunately, current programs only reach about 21% of children.² We strongly believe this is a worthy investment in our children and their future. A pan-Canadian policy will ensure equitable and destigmatized access to meals at school for all Canadian children. It will also benefit farmers and local economies, as well as families, many of whom are struggling with their grocery bills.

We note that the 2021 Liberal Party of Canada platform³ committed to a \$1 billion dollar investment over five years towards a national school nutrition program. We believe that this is a strong minimum investment and urge you to consider the results of engagements with stakeholders to ensure that the funding provided is appropriate and responsive to the diverse needs of Canadian children.

Minister, Canada's children are our most valuable and important resource. They are our future. Investing in them should always be our priority, despite the many challenging situations our country faces. As senators, we are focused on the long-term well-being of Canadians, and believe this is a crucial issue that must be addressed if our country is to be healthy safe and prosperous for generations to come.

¹ [Budget 2022](#)

² [Discussion document from ESDC](#)

³ [Liberal Party Platform, 2021](#)



We trust that you will consider this request diligently, and we hope to see the necessary funding made available in the coming months.

Regards,

The honourable Senator Rosemary **Moodie**

The honourable Senator Brian **Francis**

The honourable Senator Raymonde **Gagné**

The honourable Senator Stan **Kutcher**

The honourable Senator Kim **Pate**

And endorsed by the following honourable senators:

The honourable Senator Yussuf
The honourable Senator Ravalia
The honourable Senator Deacon (ON)
The honourable Senator Black
The honourable Senator Lankin
The honourable Senator Petitchlerc
The honourable Senator Patterson (ON)
The honourable Senator Quinn
The honourable Senator Forest
The honourable Senator Dagenais
The honourable Senator Cordy
The honourable Senator Bernard
The honourable Senator Clement
The honourable Senator Burey
The honourable Senator Greenwood
The honourable Senator Coyle
The honourable Senator Hartling

The honourable Senator Moncion
The honourable Senator Mégie
The honourable Senator Gerba
The honourable Senator Boyer
The honourable Senator Osler
The honourable Senator Deacon (NS)
The honourable Senator Duncan
The honourable Senator McPhedran
The honourable Senator Ringuette
The honourable Senator Anderson
The honourable Senator McCallum
The honourable Senator Dalphond
The honourable Senator Sorensen
The honourable Senator Dasko
The honourable Senator Loffreda
The honourable Senator Arnot
The honourable Senator Cormier
The honourable Senator Audette

CC. the Honourable Karina Gould, P.C., M.P., Minister of Families, Children and Social Development.