

Deputation by Andreea Ionescu
Government Management Committee
City of Toronto
Oct 21, 2008

The BetterDaycareFoodNetwork is urging the Government Management Committee 3 items:

- 1) To have a substantial increase in the food budget for Children Services - a lot more than 15 000.
- 2) To have a clear sustainable component, such as the one recommended by LFP.
- 3) To increase the local food component as much as possible, as only an 8% increase is extremely low, especially for an agriculturally endowed province like Ontario, or a country like Canada.

Point 1: A 15 000 increase is nothing. 15 000 divided by 3000 children is 5 dollars per child per year. That is 5 dollars divided by 200 daycare days, which is an increase of 2 ½ cents per day per child for 3 meals. Please give Children Services a budget increase they can work with. *Currently toddler \$2.56 per day*

Point 2: Sustainable - Every wild animal in Nature eats local, organic and in season. *A bear in*
Algonquin Park eats local, organic and in season. So, by having a sustainable component for children's food is feeding these children what Nature always intended us to eat.

Ex. The YMCA started feeding kids meat from naturally, locally and ethically raised animals two years ago. The city can do the same. You must have also received the letter of endorsement on our behalf, for this cause, from the Elementary Teachers of Toronto union, which was sent to all the city councilors and the mayor. The letter was sent out in June and it is also posted on our website. Is it too much to ask to have daycare kids eat only meat and dairy from animals fed their natural diet, that were not given routine antibiotics, and were not forced to eat their own kind?

When Nature designed a pesticide, it designed something wonderful, for example, the nightingale. It sings pretty, it looks pretty, it's an insect eating machine, and it does not give you cancer. When people invented pesticides, the result was some horror chemicals that also harm us, as we are also living creatures. So again, feeding our children chemical pesticide free food is Nature's way. I ask you to support and encourage sustainable.

Point 3. Re: Local

Please support your own flesh and blood, the Canadian farmer. Long distance fruits/vegetables can be inferior in the nutritional quality b/c they have to be picked early. Long distance foods also lose nutritional value during the long transportation and refrigeration. Long distance fruits often come with extra chemical exposures, such as (more) fungicides in order not to go bad during the long transportation. Local food is healthier for children.

Please support local and sustainable. Where there is a will, there is a way.

Andreea Ionescu