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2016 OPERATING BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

Toronto Public Health: Federal Government Funding for Student Nutrition Programs In the City of Toronto

Issue/Background:

- At its meeting of January 11, 2016, the Budget Committee requested the Medical Officer of Health to provide a briefing note on the Federal government's role in funding student nutrition programs in the City of Toronto including a review of commitments made; a costing out of the dollars required to have the federal government match existing City and Provincial monies; and any necessary advocacy advice.

Key Points:

- **Federal funding**
 - The Federal government currently provides no funding to student nutrition programs in Canada. Canada is the only G-8 country without a national student nutrition program.
 - The Toronto Board of Health and City Council have urged the Government of Canada to provide core funding for student nutrition programs since 2003 and annually since 2012.
- **Federal dollars required for existing, municipally-funded programs in Toronto**
 - To match current City of Toronto funding for student nutrition programs, the Federal government would need to contribute \$8.38M.
 - To match the current Provincial contribution to student nutrition programs in the City of Toronto, the Federal government would need to contribute \$8.6M.
- **Advocacy Actions**
 - Toronto City Council consider writing to the Office of the Prime Minister, with copy to the Minister of Health and Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, urging a Federal commitment to children and youth through core Federal funding for child and youth nutrition programs across Canada, emphasizing the important long-term health, learning and behavioural benefits which children and youth gain through nutrition programs.
 - Request that the Mayor, Medical Officer of Health and senior officials from various levels of government meet to discuss partnership with the federal government for child and youth nutrition.

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