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March 29, 2016

Ulli Watkiss
City Clerk
Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Re: Administrative Inquiry – Student Nutrition Program

Dear Ms. Watkiss:

This letter replies to an Administrative Inquiry under Municipal Code S27-61 submitted to the City Clerk on March 17, 2016 by Councillor Pasternak seeking clarification on policy direction of the Student Nutrition Program.

Program Oversight:

In 1998, the Toronto Board of Health and City Council established a Child Nutrition Steering Committee comprised of designates of the Medical Officer of Health, Executive Directors of the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Catholic District School Board, foundations of both Boards, and the Toronto Community partners for Child Nutrition to oversee the administration of the child nutrition program, now referred to as Student Nutrition Toronto. Roles of this partnership oversight committee include developing and establishing program policy directions, coordinating the annual grant application process, using consistent funding criteria, approving municipal and provincial grant allocations, coordinating program implementation, and ensuring the monitoring of program standards.

Over time, Student Nutrition Toronto has reviewed policy and funding priorities in order to best manage increased demands for limited funding resources. It was within the scope of policy oversight delegated to Student Nutrition Toronto in 1998, that in 2007 the partnership placed a moratorium on funding new programs in order to ensure that each funded program received an adequate amount to support the purchase of nutritious food.

Program Expansion:

In 2008 and again in 2013, the provincial government implemented an extensive expansion of its funding to student nutrition programs across Ontario applying needs based data to identify a designated list of publically funded schools for expansion.

In 2009, 2012 and in 2015, the Toronto Board of Health and City Council endorsed multi-year municipal funding plans to strengthen and expand student nutrition programs in Toronto within the context of a shared partnership funding framework. The expansion plans were aligned with provincially designated schools, which followed the Board of Health amendment to the June 2009 student nutrition program report requesting that "the City of Toronto and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services work together to coordinate funding to mutually agreed upon designated schools".

The June 2012 report *Nourishing Young Minds: A Review of the Student Nutrition Program in Toronto* also concluded that a shared partnership funding framework is critical to ensure local program stability, and municipal funding plans recognize that a viable program requires funding from both the provincial and municipal governments.

Sincerely,



Dr. David McKeown
Medical Officer of Health

cc: Councillor Joe Mihevc, Chair, Toronto Board of Health
cc: Councillor James Pasternak, Ward 10

Summary of Key Board of Health Reports:

Establishment of student nutrition program oversight partnership

August 1998: <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/1998/agendas/committees/hl/hl980915/it012.htm>

June 1999: <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/1999/minutes/committees/hl/hl990603.pdf>

Municipal plans to strengthen and expand funding for student nutrition programs

June 2009: <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2009.HL24.3>

September 2012: <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.HL16.5>

October 2012: <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.HL17.5>

October 2015: <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.HL7.2>

Nourishing Young Minds: A Review of the Student Nutrition Program in Toronto

June 2012: <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.HL15.3>

2015 Student Nutrition Toronto Service Subsidies

April 2015: <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.HL3.3>