

May 10, 2021

Councilor Joe Cressy, Chair Board  
Toronto Board of Health  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto Ontario

By email to: boh@toronto.ca

**Re: Item HL28.2 – 2021 Student Nutrition Program Service Subsidies.**

Dear Councilor Cressy and Board of Health Members:

My name is Susan Wright and I am the Executive Director of summerlunch+.

Every day, over one million Canadian students eat a healthy meal at school—until summer vacation begins. When school's out, these kids miss out. That's why I founded summerlunch+. We work to fill the gap from school food programs during summer holidays.

I am so pleased that the City of Toronto provides core funding for student nutrition programs and someday. I hope you will also fund programs like mine for the summer because children need support year-round and the cooking and learning program we deliver ensure that children return to school in September ready to excel in their academics!

I work in many schools where I have seen the value of school food programs and I am so grateful to be a resident of the City of Toronto and to live in a city where funding is available for school food programs.

I am here today as a member of the Coalition for Healthy School Food, a growing network of over 160 non-profit [member organizations](#) from [every province and territory](#). We are advocating for public investment in, and federal standards for, a universal cost-shared school food program that would see all children having daily access to healthy food at school. Building on existing programs across the country, all schools will eventually serve a healthy meal or snack at little or no cost to students. These programs will include food education and serve culturally appropriate, local, sustainable food to the fullest extent possible. See our [guiding principles](#) for what our ideal school food program looks like.

**Our vision** is a Canada in which every school aged child and youth has a healthy meal or snack at school daily.

**Our mission** is to work with partners across Canada to:

- advocate for a universal cost-shared healthy national school food program;



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- strengthen commitments from provinces and territories, local governments and school communities; and
- support replication, networking and sharing of best practices for the thousands of diverse school food programs and models across Canada.

In addition to our member organizations, the Coalition's vision is [endorsed](#) by government agencies and other organizations.

Canada is one of the only industrialized countries without a national school food program and was recently ranked 37th of 41 countries around providing healthy food for kids. A universal healthy school food program would support the health, wellbeing and education of all children in Canada.

The City of Toronto is a leader in school food programs and therefore I am here today to encourage you to make a commitment to the best programs possible.

The Toronto Board of Health can take a strong stand today that will have a big impact in the future. I hope you will add your voice to others like the cities of Vancouver and Victoria and confirm that you are in favour of a Universal, Cost-shared Healthy School Food Program and that you endorse the Coalition for Healthy School Food.

Yours sincerely,



Susan Wright

Executive Director,  
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**416-315-1150**

