

Board of Health

From: Jacinta McDonnell <jacinta@plantbasedtreaty.org>
Sent: May 26, 2024 9:40 PM
To: Board of Health
Subject: [External Sender] Addition to the Board of Health request to the Government of Canada expansion of the National School Program

Categories: Communication

Dear Amanda,

I am submitting the letter below for the Board of Health meeting Monday, May 27th.

To the City of Toronto Board of Health,

I am with the Plant Based Treaty, a global grassroots campaign to change the food system to plant-based so we can live safer and healthier within the earth's planetary boundaries.

I would like to suggest an addition to the Board of Health request to the Government of Canada expansion of the National School Food Program to provide funding for a universal program. In the recommendations by the Medical Officer of Health in section:

[HL13.4 - 2024 Student Nutrition Program Service Subsidies](#) on the agenda: please add: the recommendation includes that the nutritious meals are made using **Canada's Food Guide** specifications.

- The link to the food guide can be found here: <https://food-guide.canada.ca/en/>

The advice given includes fruits, vegetables, grains, and protein choices. You will notice that dairy is no longer a separate food group and they suggest that a glass of water is the best beverage choice to have with our meals. All children in our school system deserve to have the food that health professionals who collaborated on the CFG proposed. This aligns with the food guidelines that are one of the 40 proposals in the PBT.

- The proposals can be seen here: <https://plantbasedtreaty.org/the-pbt/>
- This is the PBT Early Childhood Education Playbook: <https://plantbasedtreaty.org/project/early-childhood-education/>

The Plant Based Treaty **Safe and Just** report section on health states: Lifelong habits often begin in childhood, making schools key to setting students up for a healthy and ethical lifestyle (Center on the Developing Child. 2010).

- Link for the **Safe and Just** report: <https://plantbasedtreaty.org/vegandonuteconomics/>

A shift to a plant-based food system is crucial. Former Councillor Jaye Robinson was the first councillor to endorse the PBT. Please consider joining Councillors Alejandra Bravo, Amber Morley, Lily Cheng, Josh Matlow, and Parthi Kendavel who support the Plant Based Treaty by signing on here as individual councillors <https://plantbasedtreaty.org/endorse/>

There are 28 cities and municipalities worldwide that have endorsed the treaty including Belfast, Edinburgh, Amsterdam, and Rainbow Lake, Alberta. Would the Board of Health review making a recommendation to city council for the City of Toronto to endorse the Plant Based Treaty?

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


Jacinta




Jacinta McDonnell

Global Team

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[Sign the plant based treaty](#)