

ATTACHMENT

Appendix 2: Summary of Consultations

Interdivisional Task Force

An interdivisional task force was created with the diverse expertise required to build a successful universal school food program at the City. The task force ensures a collaborative and unified approach across impacted City divisions. The task force includes representatives from the following City divisions:

- Deputy City Manager's Office – Community and Social Services (chair)
- Children's Services
- Economic Development and Culture
- Employment and Social Services
- Indigenous Affairs Office
- Parks and Recreation
- Public Health
- Social Development (including the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit)
- Strategic Public and Employee Communications (SPEC)

The task force will continue to meet monthly to ensure the school food program remains aligned with the efforts of each division and to facilitate ongoing knowledge sharing and collaboration.

External Steering Committee

In parallel, an external steering committee with operational oversight of Student Nutrition Ontario – Toronto (SNO-Toronto) has been established to help shape the program's vision and define long-term objectives and principles. Bringing together key interest holders from various sectors, including government, education, health, academia, business, and community organizations, ensures that the program reflects community needs and prioritizes equity, student health, and sustainable food systems. The committee's first meeting was held on April 24, and it will continue to meet quarterly.

External consultations and key informant interviews

To date, 20 distinct consultations have been conducted with a diverse range of interest holders to gather insights on school food programs. These include:

- Free School Meal Team from London, England
- Coalition for Healthy School Food
- Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba
- PROOF, University of Toronto
- Conseil scolaire Viamonde (CSV) and school board leaders from the
- Conseil scolaire Catholique MonAvenir (CSCMA)
- Toronto District School Board (TDSB),
- Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB)
- FoodShare Toronto
- North York Harvest Food Bank
- Daily Bread Food Bank
- Region of Peel

- YMCA Greater Toronto
- Urban farmers

The consultations revealed several key themes:

Theme	Description
Funding and Equity:	Funding gaps persist, with schools in higher-income areas better able to fundraise, creating inequities across the system.
Volunteer Model Limitations:	Heavy reliance on volunteers is unsustainable, especially in communities where families have limited time. Paid roles are needed, but implementation is complex.
Infrastructure Gaps:	Many schools lack basic facilities like space, cold storage, and handwashing stations, limiting program delivery.
Collaboration and Expertise:	Cross-sector collaboration and the integration of business expertise are essential for efficient, sustainable program implementation.
Equity and Inclusion:	Programs must prioritize access for vulnerable populations and be stigma-free for all students.
Sustainability:	Sourcing local food and promoting food literacy supports environmental and community health.
Social Procurement:	Prioritizing diverse, local suppliers can build community wealth.
Flexibility and Culture:	Programs must be adaptable to local needs and reflect Toronto's cultural diversity.