



Marh 19th 2025.

Ms. Olivia Chow
Mayor
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen St. W.
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
mayor_chow@toronto.ca

RE: Support for Building a Universal Student Food Program in Toronto - EX21.8

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of the Executive Committee,

I am writing on behalf of **Neighbourhood Pods TO (NPTO)** to express our strong support for the **Building a Universal Student Food Program in Toronto** and to re-emphasize our endorsement of the **Letter from the City-School Boards Advisory Committee** on this critical initiative ([Background Document](#)).

NPTO represents a consortium of **grassroots organizations, community workers, and advocates**, all dedicated to **strengthening economic livelihoods and improving the well-being of low-income individuals and communities across Toronto**. We recognize the urgent need for a **comprehensive and sustainable student food program** that ensures **no child goes hungry and every young person has the nourishment needed to succeed in their education and future endeavors**.

We urge the City to ensure that this **Universal Student Food Program extends its support to key community initiatives, such as Pathways to Education**, which actively **partner with local communities to help young people overcome barriers to education and reach their full potential**. Programs like Pathways are instrumental in breaking cycles of poverty and empowering youth, and incorporating them into the Universal Student Food Program will **broaden the program's impact and reach those who need it most**. Ensuring **nutritious, equitable, and accessible food options** for students is not just a social responsibility but an investment in **the health, education, and future of our city**. We urge you to champion this initiative, secure sustainable funding, and collaborate with community organizations to **build a model that supports all students equitably**.

We appreciate your leadership and commitment to tackling food insecurity and advancing student well-being. We look forward to seeing the City take meaningful steps in implementing a **Universal Student Food Program that leaves no student behind**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Walied Khogali Ali".

Walied Khogali Ali

Coordinator

Neighbourhood Pods TO (NPTO)
