



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

June 15, 2018

The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor

Federal Minister of Health

House of Commons

Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

SUBJECT: Endorsement of collaboration with the Coalition for Healthy School Food

Dear Minister Petitpas Taylor,

At the most recent Annual General Meeting of the BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA), our membership passed the following resolution:

That BCSTA:

- (a) endorse the Coalition for Healthy School Food's national Universal Healthy School Food Program campaign;*
- (b) Ministry of Health and the provincial Ministry of Health provide new money to invest in a cost-shared Universal Healthy School Food Program;*
- (c) enter into a dialogue with the Canadian School Boards Association to support the Coalition for Healthy School Food's initiatives; and,*
- (d) advocate for collaboration between the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Children and Family Development to support the Coalition for Healthy School Food's initiatives.*

As you will appreciate, a key factor in ensuring the life-long health and success of children and youth is proper nutrition. The establishment of healthy eating habits, along with the provision of appropriate foods during a student's developmental years, is critical to building not only a base for success in school but a foundation for life-long health. Toward this end, BCSTA has endorsed the Coalition for Healthy School Food's national Universal Healthy School Food Program campaign and we now call on you to do the same.

The endorsement of a universal healthy school food program would be a first step toward ensuring children and youth across Canada receive both appropriate nutrition while at school and education regarding the need for healthy food throughout their lives. By supporting this initiative, you would be taking a significant step toward ensuring the future health of this new generation. Certainly, the benefits, both financial and personal, would be felt at both the provincial and federal levels.

BCSTA will continue to promote this program within BC and our member school districts. In order to ensure success though, we need you help. Please review the program and consider endorsing the initiative as a way of improving the current and future lives of our students.

Thank you for considering our request and we look forward to any future dialogue on this important proposal that you might consider. Your support for bringing the various federal and provincial government ministries together in support of this important initiative is critical to any future success.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G B Swan', written over a horizontal line.

Gordon Swan

President

British Columbia School Trustees Association

Cc: Hon. Rob Fleming, BC Minister of Education
Floyd Martens, *President*, Canadian School Boards Association

20. Endorse the Coalition for Healthy School Food**Submitted by:** *SD44 (North Vancouver)***BE IT RESOLVED:**

That BCSTA:

- (a) endorse the Coalition for Healthy Schools Food's national Universal Healthy School Food Program campaign;
- (b) request that the Ministry of Education, the federal Ministry of Health and the provincial Ministry of Health provide new money to invest in a cost-shared Universal Healthy School Food Program;
- (c) enter into a dialogue with the Canadian School Boards Association to support the Coalition for Healthy School Food's initiatives; and,
- (d) advocate for collaboration between the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Children and Family Development to support the Coalition for Healthy School Food's initiatives.

Rationale:

The Coalition for Healthy School Food is a group working at a national level to advocate for the creation of a cost-shared Universal Healthy School Food Program that will enable all students in Canada to have access to healthy meals/food at school.

It is not a secret that students come to school hungry every day and that only a third of children in Canada eat the recommended daily servings of fruit and vegetables. School food programs have been shown to: increase children's consumption of vegetables, fruits and other healthy foods and decrease the consumption of unhealthy ones; improve students' mental health, inducing reductions in behavioural and emotional problems; improve cognitive skills; and increase scholastic success.

The Coalition for Healthy Schools Food supports and recognizes the autonomy of individual school districts to implement a universal school food program within the guidelines of a national framework.

This is an action motion and does not change or contradict any existing Foundational or Policy Statement.

This motion relates to Policy Statements 4.2.2P (Health Promoting Schools) and 4.6.1P (Coordination of Services).