



Health
Canada

Santé
Canada

Health Products
and Food Branch

Direction générale des produits
de santé et des aliments

JUL 17 2018

Gordon Swan
President
British Columbia School Trustee Association
zjovic@bcsta.org

Dear Mr. Swan,

Thank you for your correspondence sent on June 15, 2018 to the Minister of Health, regarding British Columbia School Trustee Association's endorsement of school food programs. I am responding on her behalf.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the work of the British Columbia School Trustee Association and Coalition for Healthy School Food to improve school food environments. While the responsibility for the provision of food in schools rests with Provinces and Territories, Health Canada recognizes the important role that schools, communities, and organizations like yours play in supporting the nutritional health of children.

As you may know, in October 2016, Health Canada launched the multi-year Healthy Eating Strategy as part of the Government's vision for a healthy Canada. The Strategy aims to help make the healthier food choice the easier choice for all Canadians. These initiatives include revising Canada's Food Guide, strengthening labelling and claims, restricting the marketing of unhealthy foods and beverages to children, and improving the nutritional quality of foods by reducing sodium and trans fat. Healthy Eating Strategy initiatives such as revising Canada's Food Guide and restricting the marketing of unhealthy food and beverages to kids will help organizations, like yours, support schools to create healthier food environments.

Health Canada recognizes that it can be challenging for many Canadians to make healthy food choices. Foods and beverages that are high in calories, fat, sugars, and sodium are widely available and advertised. Health Canada will use every tool at its disposal—legislation, regulations, updated dietary guidance, and education—to help make the healthier choice the easier choice for all Canadians. More information on the Strategy can be found at <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/food-nutrition/healthy-eating-strategy.html>

.../2

To receive updates regarding Healthy Eating Strategy initiatives, please sign-up on the CSIMS registry here: <https://csims-sgici.hc-sc.gc.ca/csims/login.html>, if you have not already done so. At the "Areas of Interest" screen, select: "Food Safety and Nutrition" and "Canada's Food Guide / Nutrition".

We appreciate the time you have taken to share your views.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hasan Hutchinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'H'.

Hasan Hutchinson
Director General, Office of Nutrition Policy and Promotion
Health Canada
LCDC Building 6, Address Locator: 0603C
100 Eglantine Driveway, Tunney's Pasture
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9
Hasan.Hutchinson@canada.ca