



November 3, 2022

Ref: 281515

Carolyn Broady, President  
British Columbia School Trustees Association  
**Email: [cbroady@bcsta.org](mailto:cbroady@bcsta.org)**

Dear Carolyn Broady:

Thank you for your letter of May 31, 2022, requesting that the Ministry of Education and Child Care create new funding for universal food programs at all public schools in British Columbia.

We share a common goal that all students in British Columbia are properly fed to support their learning each day. As you are likely aware, the [mandate letter](#) issued to me by the Honourable John Horgan, Premier on November 26, 2020, includes a commitment to work with BC school districts to create more local school programs and to increase local food sourcing. The Ministry of Education and Child Care is working in partnership with the Ministries of Health and Agriculture & Food on this important item.

We are pleased that the federal government reiterated their commitment to a national school food policy within their 2021 mandate letters and look forward to collaborative opportunities ahead.

I agree that the COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized existing food security inequities for families and students and recognize the importance of providing school districts with sustainable and equitable resources to create flexible school food programs. Ministry staff are analyzing school and district-based data, as well as engaging with community organizations to better understand the complex needs of our system. The ability to offer school food programs that meets local needs varies across the province and options are being explored to better support districts to respond to student hunger.

We were also pleased to announce the Student and Family Affordability Fund this September to reduce the burden on families. This one-time funding of \$60 million to school districts will help ensure students are fed and have the school supplies they need to be successful this year.

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British Columbia School Trustee Association is a valued education partner and I welcome the opportunity to seek your input on the future of school food programs for public schools in BC. Thank you for taking the time to write and express your commitment to the health and well-being of students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Whiteside". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Jennifer Whiteside  
Minister

pc: Suzanne Hoffman, *CEO, BCSTA*,