

January 30, 2023

Email: ECC.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Honourable Rachna Singh
Minister of Education and Child Care
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Singh,

The Mission School District (SD75) is an urban/rural district that supports the learning needs for over 6,500 students of all ages. Over the last few years, our district has witnessed a growing need for food security among the student population. We have tried to meet that need by working with non-profit organizations in our community. During the COVID-19 pandemic and recently, with increased inflation, the demand has escalated significantly. The school district is providing food programs that support approximately 1000 students. These programs include breakfast, lunch, snacks, and after-hours food programs, such as [Starfish backpacks](#). Local charities are also in discussions with the local food bank and Fraser Valley Regional District to provide additional support to the school district.

We have recently utilized the Family Affordability Funds to provide support to families as best as we can. Most of these funds are being used to support food programs. We are committed to making sure students have the nutritional supports they need to learn and grow, but the need continues to increase. Children and their families, continue to go hungry everyday.

The last year has shown us just how critical it is to make sure we come together as a community, Province, and Country to invest in families, especially in the youth. Access to a healthy food program is imperative for the students to be able to maintain mental wellness and increase scholastic success in an equitable environment.

In June 2019, the Federal Government announced that they would begin working alongside Provincial Governments and non-profit organizations towards the creation of a National School Food Program. The time to implement this program is now. The Mission Public School District requests that the Province of British Columbia and Canada work together to create a universal food program for K-12 public schools, with a commitment to provide ongoing and sustainable annual funding to support the program.

Thank you. With appreciation for your time, we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Shelley Carter, Board Chair
Board of Education, School District No.75 (Mission)

Cc: SD75 Trustees: Tracy Loffler, Randy Cairns, Jash Bains, Linda Hamel
MLA Pam Alexis, Minister of Agriculture and Food; MLA Bob D'Eith