Letter to your local candidate

Date

Mr./Ms [First and Last Name of Candidate]

Candidate for [Riding]

Campaign Headquarter Address

City, Province, Canada

Postal Code Sent by email to: email address of candidate

**RE: National School Food Program for Canada**

Dear Mr./Mrs./Ms./Miss [Last Name of Candidate]:

As a constituent in your riding I want to bring forward the need for a National School Food Program for children and youth across the country and in particular those in (electoral district, City, Province). I am writing to request a meeting in person or by phone with you at your earliest convenience so that I can let describe the exciting school food programs in our area and to seek your commitment to a National School Food Program.

The March 19, 2019 federal budget included “the government’s intention to consult with provinces and territories towards the creation of a National School Food Program.” Now school food supporters are looking to the 2020 budget for a cash investment and focused on the federal pre-election period and hoping to gain support from all five of the national parties to include a commitment to a cost shared universal school food program. I personally see this as a non-partisan issue. I hope you will agree with me that all candidates of all political parties should join in building a society that will support our children and their health, education and well-being and investing in a National School Food Program for Canada.

Children and youth of all ages come to school without food for many reasons including lengthy commutes, early morning practices, not being hungry when they wake up, busy family routines and/or household food insecurity. Research has identified a strong association between diet and academic performance, including evidence that school meal programs may help children get the nutrition they need[[1]](#footnote-1). Children and youth spend most of their day in school and this represents a crucial opportunity to help them reach their full potential by giving them access to good food.

An investment in a cost shared universal National School Food Program is an investment in our children’s health, academic achievement and success. Within G7 countries, Canada is the worst when it comes to nourishing students. The Coalition for Healthy School Food is calling for an initial federal investment of $360 million, growing to $1.8 billion annually.[[2]](#footnote-2) We can’t afford not to do this as currently our children and youth are in need of healthy school food and the return on investment for school food programs is an impressive $3-$10 for every $1 invested.[[3]](#footnote-3)

Thank you in advance for considering this important issue and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

[Your First and Last Name]

[Your Address]

1. Mcisaac, J., Kirk, S., & Kuhle, S. (2015). The Association between Health Behaviours and Academic Performance in Canadian Elementary School Students: A Cross-Sectional Study. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health,* *12*(12), 14857-14871. doi:10.3390/ijerph121114857 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The Coalition for Healthy School Food. (2018) Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of the 2019 Budget <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1N0qH3CGlL7PZFMhZEAs30hyffvB-JnnyKGsQmqgZM3Q/edit?ts=5d14ff8f> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. World Food Programme. (2016) Cost-Benefit Analysis: School Feeding Investment Case. Retrieved from

   <http://www1.wfp.org/school-meals> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)