

April 22, 2024

Serge Cormier - MP Acadie-Bathurst
220 St-Pierre Blvd West, Suite 314
Caraquet, New Brunswick E1W 1A5

Dear Mr. Cormier:

Re: Private Member's Bill C-322 – National Framework for a School Food Program Act

We are writing to you today to confirm our strong support of your Private Member's Bill C-322, National Framework for a School Food Program Act. We hope that your caucus colleagues unanimously consent this Bill in support of children and youth across Canada.

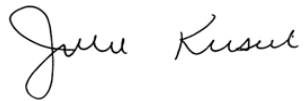
We were heartened to hear of the \$1 billion investment in a National School Food Program over five years, which was announced on April 1. This is a step in the right direction, and we believe more can be done. Our school board has been following the process of this Bill with great interest. It is heartening to see that the Bill has passed second reading and has been sent to committee. However, it will still need the support of those on the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities. We fully support the concept of a universal national school food policy and program for all public schools with certain requirements as described below.

Given the widespread need across Alberta and Canada, and the extraordinary diversity of approaches school divisions take in forming partnerships to support those in need, there is a strong need for the federal government, in partnership with provincial ministries and school boards, to commit to a National School Food Policy that reaches every publicly funded school. A national policy would set a standard both for securing food for schools and ensuring it is delivered consistently, sustainably, and within a context of transformative action to end poverty, improve students' health and achievement outcomes and build cultural and economic success.

On behalf of Edmonton Public Schools, we look forward to continued engagement on this critical issue for children and youth and hope to see Bill C-322 passed very soon.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly by email at trustee.julie.kusiek@epsb.ca or by phone at 780-429-8087 should you have any questions.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Kusiek". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Julie Kusiek
Chair

