

December 14, 2023

RE: School Food and Nutrition Policy SAC Survey Report

Dear School Administrators and School Advisory Council Chairs,

Thank you for sharing your thoughts on school food and nutrition in NS public schools. The information and advice you provided about your school food environment was combined with other feedback to create a first draft of a revised School Food and Nutrition Policy.

Your input will continue to be referenced as the draft undergoes revisions during additional engagement this fall. The goal is to release the policy to the education system in early 2024 and have it implemented at the start of the 2024-25 school year.

Attached please find a report back that outlines the responses to the survey and the key themes that emerged. These include:

- 1. Food should be affordable and accessible.
- 2. There are challenges related to the capacity of schools to deliver food programs.
- 3. Increased community engagement would be welcome.

If your SAC has any additional thoughts related to the school food environment this fall, please contact <u>Sharlene.whelan@novascotia.ca</u> or <u>Joanna.mcdonald@novascotia.ca</u>.

We appreciate your on-going support in creating healthy school food environments for students and staff.

Thank you,

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Dr. Chris Boulter Executive Director, Education, Innovation, Programs, and Services Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development