

**Ministry of Children,
Community and Social
Services**

Minister's Office

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**Ministère des Services à l'enfance et
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127-2023-9852

November 28, 2023

Ms. Nancy Crawford
Chair of the Board of Trustees
Toronto Catholic District School Board
c/o paola.botticella@tcdsb.org

Dear Ms. Crawford:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Toronto Catholic District School Board about the Student Nutrition Program (SNP) and for taking the time to raise your concerns.

The Ontario government funds a range of services to support vulnerable children, youth, and adults in Ontario. This includes programs such as the SNP, which brings together partners in communities across the province to provide meals and snacks to children and youth in schools to support them to learn, develop healthy eating habits, and feel a sense of belonging at school. The SNP is delivered by lead agencies such as the Toronto Foundation for Student Success.

These partnerships include charitable funders, corporate donors, local businesses, community fundraising and local volunteers who all contribute to the success of the program.

The ministry also funds the First Nations Student Nutrition Program (FNSNP), which is a First Nations-led program that helps provide nutritious meals and snacks in more than 145 sites in First Nations communities.

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Nancy Crawford
Chair of the Board of Trustees
Toronto Catholic District School Board

The government announced an additional \$5 million in October to support the SNP and the FNSNP in 2023–24; this was in addition to the \$1.1 million announced in May 2023.

To build on the government's investment in the two programs, the province is partnering with the Arrell Family Foundation, the Breakfast Club of Canada, the Schad Foundation, the Grocery Foundation and Student Nutrition Ontario to launch the Healthy Students Brighter Ontario campaign, the first province-wide fundraising partnership of its kind. These organizations will work with local groups and businesses to encourage community involvement and fundraising to reach a combined goal of \$10 million, which includes the government's \$5 million investment in October.

I want to thank you again and acknowledge your efforts in serving the community by providing nutritious food to Ontario's children and youth.

I appreciate your taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael Parsa", with a stylized, flowing script.

Michael Parsa
Minister

c: The Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education