

THE COALITION FOR HEALTHY SCHOOL FOOD



BC

vancouver
foundation



Public Health
Association of BC

May 27, 2021

Samantha Gambling, BC Chapter Coordinator
BC-CHSF is administered by the Public Health Association of BC

Agenda



1. The issues
2. A solution: School food
3. About the Coalition
4. Ways to support this work

The issues

Children have trouble
accessing nutritious food (food
insecurity)

Low food literacy rates

Children & youth consume **insufficient** and
unhealthy diets, impacting:

- Physical health
- Mental health
- Academic performance

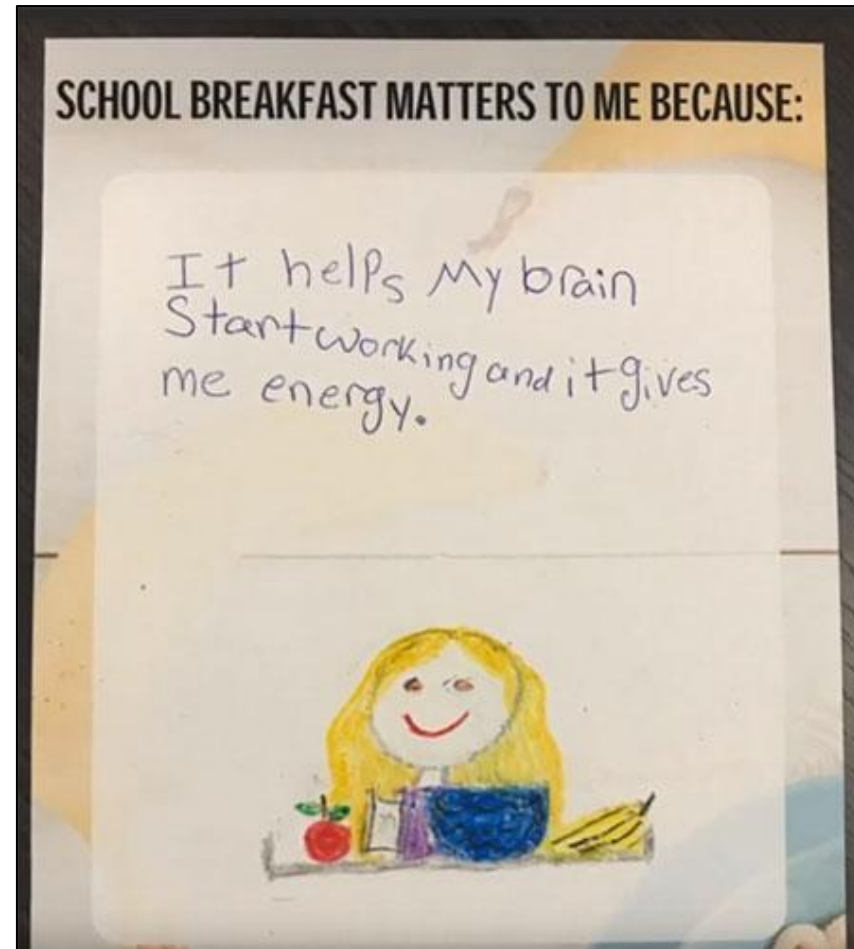
The issues

- Canada is currently ranked 37th of 41 countries in helping kids access healthy food



BC data

- 1/10 children experience food insecurity
- 15% of children eat the recommended daily servings of fruit and vegetables
- Less than 4/10 students eat three meals a day on school days

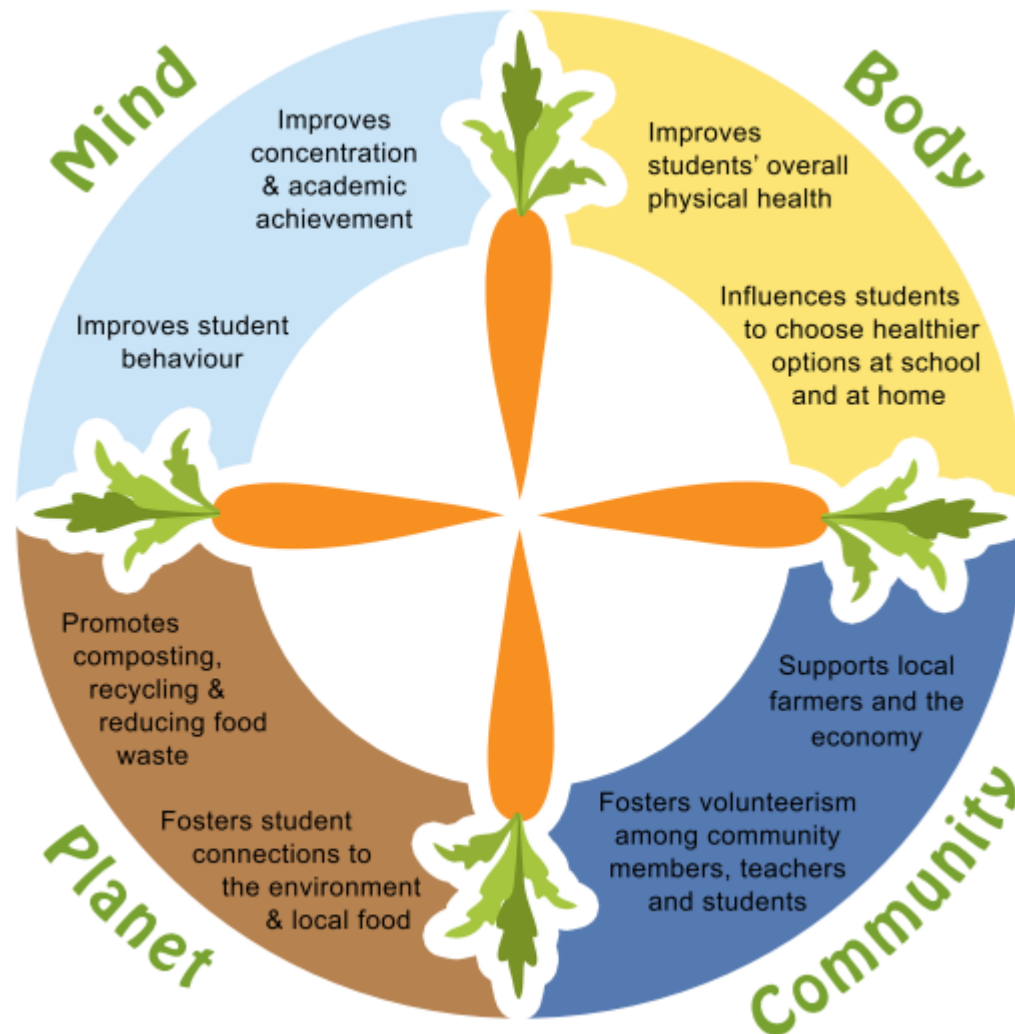


A Solution: School Food

School food programs that improve access to healthy food, achieve food literacy and healthy eating behaviours from an early age are recognized as a valuable health promotion policy



Good Food in Schools can Nourish...



School food programs



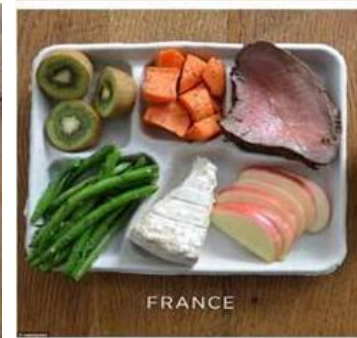
USA



SPAIN



FINLAND



FRANCE



ITALY

School Food in Canada

- Many provincially and independently funded and organized school food programs across Canada



Photo: Salad bar in Horsefly BC, via Farm to Cafeteria Canada



Photo: Kindiebuddies, via Shuswap Food Action



New
Westminister
Schools

Fuel Up!
Nourishment
Program

Photo: New Westminister School District's Fuel Up! Lunch program

The Coalition for Healthy School Food

- 160+ member organizations
- Hosted by Food Secure Canada
- Seeking public investment in a national school food program
- Outreach, advocacy, research, collaboration



Guiding Principles



- Universal
- Health promoting
- Respectful
- Connected to community
- Comprehensive
- Sustainable
- National guidelines
- Indigenous control over Indigenous school food programs

National movement, regional actors



The BC Chapter

- Over 50 member and endorser organizations
- Hosted by the Public Health Association of BC
- We conduct advocacy, outreach, and research
- Promote collaboration and consultation with diverse stakeholders across the province



Federal Advocacy



HELP CANADIAN COMMUNITIES ACCESS HEALTHY FOOD

- Critically important for a child's education is ensuring they have healthy meals before and during school. Currently, Canada has a mix of different school breakfast and lunch programs, but much more could be done. Budget 2019 announces the Government's intention to work with provinces and territories towards the creation of a **National School Food Program**.
- **Local Food Infrastructure Fund** — \$50 million over five years, starting in 2019-20, in support for infrastructure for local food projects, including at food banks, farmers' markets and other community-driven projects.
- **Buy Canadian Promotion Campaign** — \$25 million over five years, starting in 2019-20, for an advertising and marketing campaign to promote Canadian agricultural products, in collaboration with existing branding initiatives.
- **Tackling Food Fraud** — \$24.4 million over five years, starting in 2019-20, to enhance federal capacity to detect and take enforcement action against instances of food fraud.

Federal Advocacy

- Pre-Budget Consultations
- Food Policy Advisory Council
- Provincial Commitments
 - ❑ BC
 - ❑ Quebec
 - ❑ New Brunswick
 - ❑ Ontario Bill 216: Food Literacy for Students Act



Provincial Advocacy

- Multi-partisan support for school food in BC
- Pre-budget consultation submission, provincial election campaign, school food in party platforms



Directives in mandate letters

for the full work day.

- Continue to invest in new and modernized schools, including focusing on meeting seismic requirements and climate change and energy efficiency standards as set out in our CleanBC plan.
- With support from the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, lead work to put more Indigenous languages into B.C.'s curriculum.
- Build on investments into mental health supports for students and staff to better support children and youth with special needs and their families, so everyone involved in our kids' learning gets the help they need.
- To help make sure students are properly fed for learning, work with school districts to create more local school meal programs based on district data and priorities, and work with the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries to integrate Feed BC into this plan so that districts can include locally grown food.
- Continue to take the pressure off parents to fundraise while giving students safe, accessible playgrounds by expanding our government's Playground Fund to more schools.
- Deliver targeted investments to help make sure students have the classroom supplies they need to succeed, so parents and teachers don't have to pay the full cost out-of-pocket.
- Support the work of the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions to provide dedicated mental health teams in school districts.

How to get involved

#NourishKidsNow: Invest in school food

**YOU HAVE THE POWER TO
CREATE CHANGE, IT'S AS
EASY AS 1-2-3!**



GET INVOLVED

From becoming a member to receiving our email updates, you can get involved in many ways.

[Find out how >](#)



ELECTION ACTIONS

The federal elections are around the corner. Find out how you can reach your elected officials - they do want to hear from you.

[Find out how >](#)



SHOUT, SHARE, TWEET

Shout out what excites you about your school food program.

[Find out how >](#)

1. Get involved

- Join the Coalition
 - Become a Member or Endorser
 - Subscribe for updates



*Organizations are giving voting and decision-making privileges



*Organizations can simply endorse our call for the development of a National School Food Program without becoming a member

KEEP IN TOUCH!

Sign up for updates

Name <input type="text"/>	Email <input type="text"/>
Organization <input type="text"/>	Province <input type="text"/>
Message <input type="text"/>	

SUBSCRIBE

2. Election actions

- Reach out to elected officials: federal candidates, MPs, MLAs, municipalities and school boards
 - Write a postcard
 - Send a letter
 - Participate in upcoming federal election campaigns



3. Shout, Share, Tweet

- Share research and articles that build the case
- Find us on social media: **C4HSchoolFood**
- Write a blog post





Thank you

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Funding for school food in BC

- Ministry of Education supports school food programs through [CommunityLINK](#) and Vulnerable Student Supplement
 - ▣ In 2017-2018, \$13.55 million of CommunityLINK funding went to school meal programs (roughly 25%)
 - ▣ Competition with other programs and demands
- 81% of school food programs rely on additional charitable funds, which often have long waitlists for support ([Smith, 2018](#))



Jayde Davidson mixing berries at SNES

Haida Gwaii's Local Food to School Program



Vancouver's LunchLAB Program



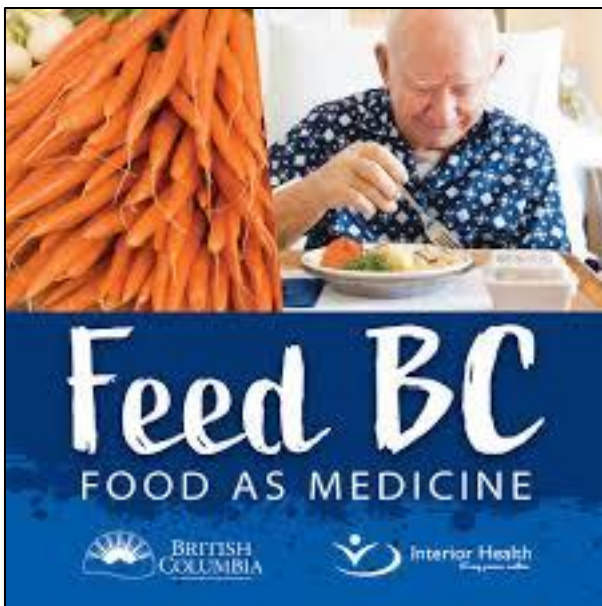
Promoting Healthy Eating and Physical Activity in K-12: An Independent Audit

May 2018

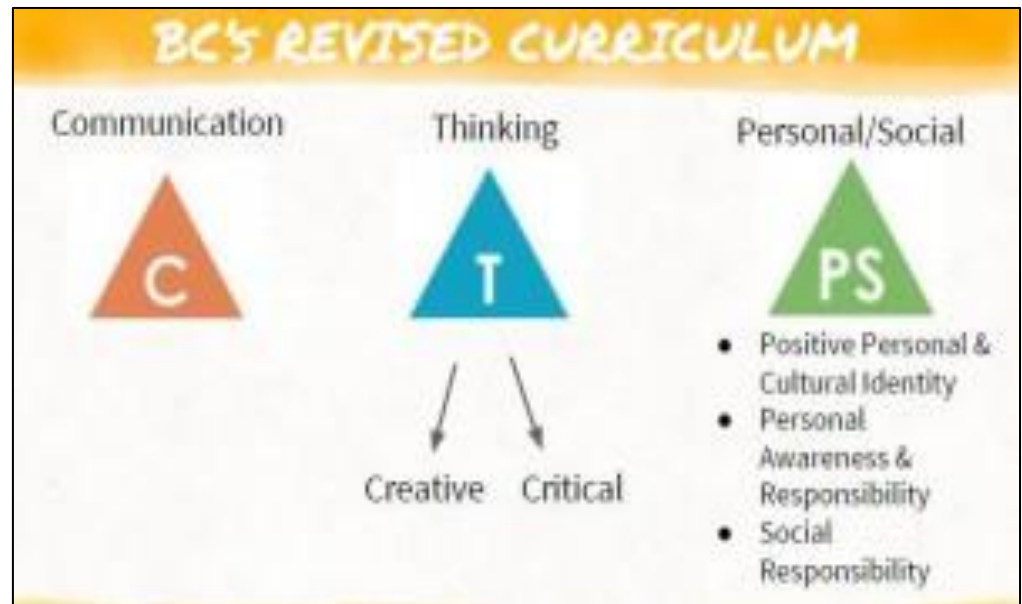
This audit looked at whether the Ministries of Health and Education were working together to effectively oversee public school programs and policies that promote healthy eating and

physical activity for children and youth in kindergarten to grade 12.

[Full report here](#)



[FeedBC details here](#)



[More on the new BC curriculum here](#)

British Columbia

Schools and community groups scramble to feed students as pandemic leads to surge in demand



One B.C. school principal drives 90 minutes to deliver food to students whose families are in need



Lien Yeung · CBC News · Posted: Apr 30, 2020 4:00 AM PT | Last Updated: April 30



School staff help pack lunches for families and students in need at Edmonds Community School in Burnaby. (Ben Nelms/CBC)

Pivoting during COVID-19



MEAL PROGRAMS

33

SCHOOL DISTRICT 33 Chilliwack

Chilliwack School District unites community to feed students. Since April, volunteers delivered 350 hampers every week to 23 school sites for pick-up by families. The hampers were prepared by the Salvation Army with help from the Bowls of Hope Society, Starfish Backpack, United Way, all Chilliwack Rotary Clubs and the Chilliwack Chamber of Commerce. Thanks to the Chilliwack School District, local students had their basic needs met!

82

SCHOOL DISTRICT 82 Coast Mountains

Meals and so much more! Every week, Parkside Secondary staff prepare and deliver homemade meals, snacks, birthday cakes, cards and work packages to over 50 students and families. They do this with help from the Rotary Club of Terrace-Skeena Valley's Starfish Pack Program and Terrace's Save-On-Foods. What a wonderful way for the community to ensure the physical and emotional well-being of students!

68

SCHOOL DISTRICT 68 Nanaimo-Ladysmith



Delivering meals and hampers to students a week are re

More examples of meal programs

More resources here



Exploring Food: COVID-19 Home Learning Lesson Plans and Resources

Below are examples of place-based, food-related home learning opportunities identified for use during COVID-19. Included are child-centered food literacy activities and resources designed to develop food skills and nurture a healthy relationship with food and body. The content builds on the principles found at [Open School BC](#).

Food-related COVID-19 Home Learning Lesson Plans

The following lesson plans connect to the BC Physical and Health Education curriculum and many other curricular areas, including Applied Design Skills and Technology, English Language Arts, Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Arts Education.

- Growing Chefs! At home: [Vegetable Explorers](#) (K to 7)
- Body Diversity Newfoundland and Labrador: [Body diversity lesson plan](#) (K to 2)
- DASH BC home learning: [pocket plants](#), [growing seedlings from cuttings](#) (K to 12)
- BCDA nutrition education: [ideas for home learning](#) (K to 12)
 - [Food Explorers home learning lesson plans](#) (K to 1)
 - [Food for Us home learning lesson plans](#) (Grades 2 to 3)

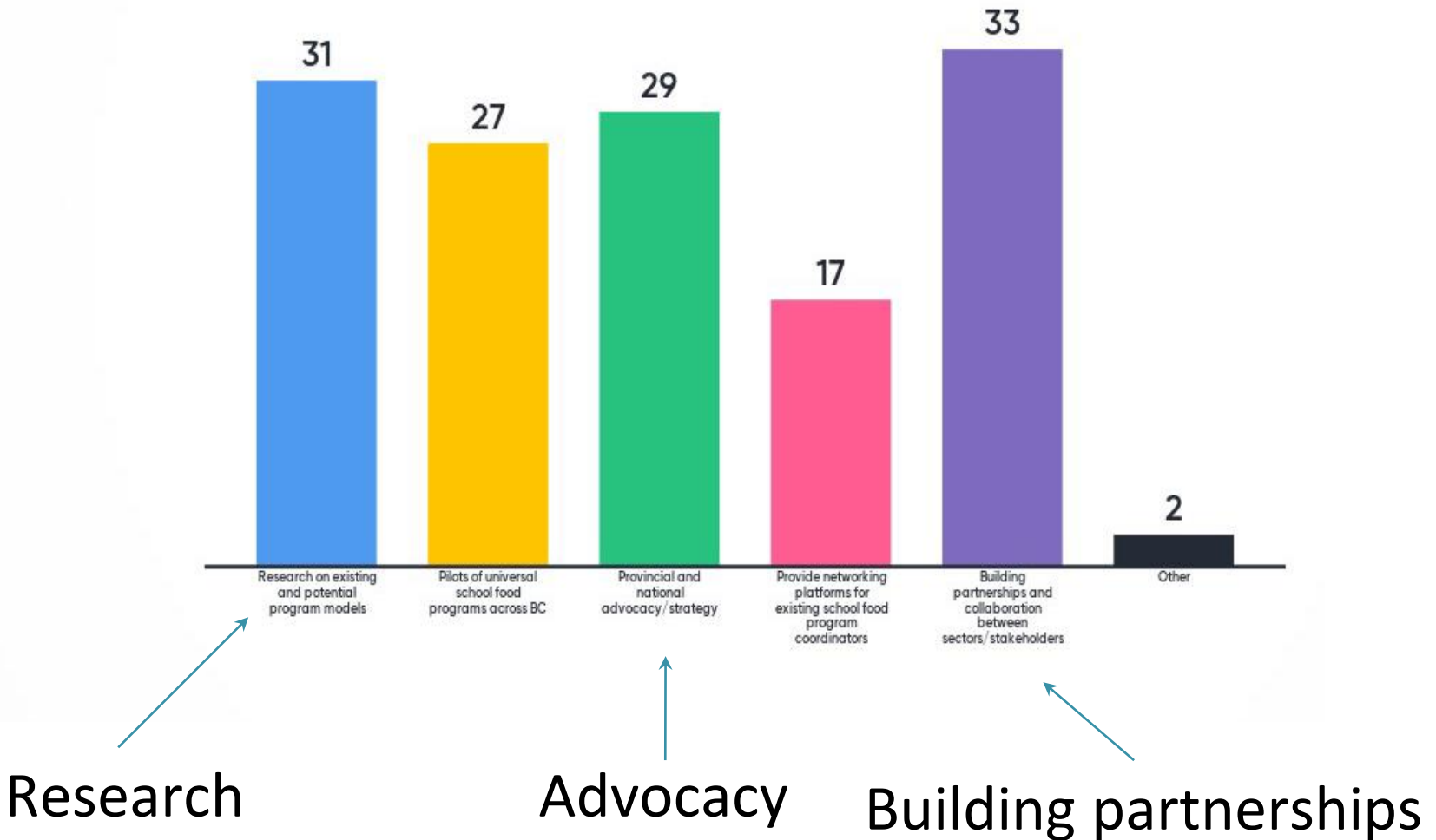


Coalition updates & opportunities

- First BC Chapter Networking Gathering & Members Meeting in November 2019



What do you think the work of a "BC Chapter" should prioritize?



Pivoting during COVID-19

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Feeding Students During COVID-19

A Report on the Impacts and Needs of BC's School Food Programs
Released: April 15, 2020



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Christina Harding, Project Coordinator, PHABC



Public Health
Association of BC

Successes: Outreach & Engagement



2021 Pre-Budget Consultation



- Invest in school food pilot projects across BC in collaboration with the Coalition
- Create a dedicated school food fund for existing programs
- Assemble a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral school food task force

Platform commitments to school food



Better child

After years of underfunding, teacher assistants are now a resource for students

- **Fast-tracking improvements to online and remote learning:** We'll invest in more computers and tablets, more training for teachers and support staff, and in new ways to improve social e-learning that promotes group interactions between students and teachers.
- **Continuing the largest modernization of schools in BC's history:** We'll continue the largest investment of schools in BC's history – with a focus on meeting seismic requirements and climate change and energy efficiency standards as set out in our CleanBC plan.
- **Bringing in local food programs in partnership with school districts:** To help make sure students are properly fed for learning, we'll work with school districts to help create local school meal programs based on district data and priorities. And just like with the hospital food program we created, we'll integrate FeedBC into this plan so that districts can include locally grown food.
- **Taking the fundraising burden off parents:** We'll continue to take the pressure off parents to fundraise while giving students safe, accessible playgrounds by expanding our Playground Fund to more schools.
- **Making sure classrooms have the resources they need:** We will deliver targeted investments to help make sure students have the classroom supplies they need to succeed, so parents and teachers don't have to



menu

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Opportunities for 2021



- Working with Ministry of Education and Ministry of Agriculture
 - Continued advocacy for a task force to inform pilot projects
- Research partnerships to address knowledge gaps

Opportunities for 2021

- Core funding for staff time and honoraria
- Increased engagement of the network. For example:
 - Creation of working groups to inform policy recommendations (pending)
 - Mobilization of regional leads to support local advocacy and projects (pending)



A multitude of benefits

