

Opportunities for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to



Through governance:

- **Collaborate with a broad range of stakeholders to develop a visionary document** that acknowledges what it will take to advance a universal Student Nutrition Program and broader school food program.
- **Work with other ministries to jointly invest in and market school food programs.**

Through funding and in-kind support:

- **Expand the Fresh from the Farm – Healthy Fundraising for Ontario Schools program.** This program is an excellent opportunity that could be expanded and used to support and provide community education about school food programs. MCYS could be brought on as a partner alongside the Ministry of Education and OMAF so that schools could fundraise for SNPs.
- **Expand the Northern Fruit & Vegetable Program** to reach all students and schools.
- **Support centralized food production and distribution opportunities** to enable Student Nutrition Programs to prepare and access high quality food at a lower cost.
- **Support farm-to-school activities**, including supporting food distribution between farmers and schools; helping to coordinate the bulk purchasing and distribution of surpluses; and bolstering the value-added processing sector to make local, healthy food ready for school consumption.
- **Support logistics and distribution** so that nutrition programs are able to serve fresh, healthy food. This could involve supporting the establishment of food distribution hubs.
- **Invest in school kitchen facilities, which could be accessed by communities outside of school hours.** These could enable communities to advance broad food skills and literacy.

Through partnership building:

- **Provide forums for stakeholders to engage**, better understand each other, and partner to advance school food programming.
- **Facilitate relationships between farmers and schools** to encourage local food procurement.

By championing school food:

- **Visit and learn about programs.**
- **Support public relations, the development of communications materials, and ongoing education** about these issues to create broader awareness.