

Opportunities for the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care to



Through governance:

- **Give public health units a bigger mandate and resources** to help schools establish a comprehensive school nutrition environment.
- Better **integrate SNPs with the purview of the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care**, in particular the role and activities of public health units.
- **Collaborate with a broad range of stakeholders to develop a visionary document** that acknowledges what it will take to advance a universal SNP and broader school food program.
- **Work with MCYS to undertake a thorough evaluation of the current SNP model** with the aim of ensuring a universal program that provides high-quality meals. Such an evaluation would explore what gaps exist using a food literacy lens, and would suggest opportunities to align the current program with a broader vision for school food.
- **Work with other ministries to jointly invest in and market school food programs.**
- **Support the development of food safety guidelines** so that school boards and schools have more clarity and a consistent understanding about how school food programs can be safely implemented and to better facilitate access to healthy food, local food options, and food literacy.
- **Support harmonization and greater clarity around the multiple nutrition standards that apply to schools.**
- **Develop public health policies that support and advance school food programming** rather than restrict options.
- **Advance comprehensive school health and healthy school food environments.** The OSNPPH's Nutrition Tools for Schools sets out a strong framework for a healthy school nutrition environment and would be an excellent model to use and expand.

Through partnership building:

- **Provide forums for stakeholders to better understand each other and work together.**

By championing school food:

- **Visit and learn about programs.** This can raise program profiles, gain media attention, and allow decision-makers to understand the range of possibilities for the programs.
- **Advocate for all Ontario schools to run a Student Nutrition Program** that is accessible to every child and youth every school day; help these programs to receive stable funding.
- **Support public relations, the development of communications materials, and ongoing education** about these issues to create broader awareness.