

Dear [recipient name and position will go here],

My name is [your name will go here], and I have an important message for [MP].

Attention: [MP]

Canada is the only G7 country without a cost-shared national school food programme. In a country as materially wealthy as ours, that's an outrage. Access to healthy food at school helps even the playing field, ensuring all students are poised for learning without distractions.

The Government's Healthy Eating Strategy and first-ever Food Policy for Canada aim to improve the food environment in Canada, making it easier to access health promoting foods. They promise to increase access to safe, nutritious and culturally diverse food, especially among vulnerable groups such as children. Yet 1.15 million children live in homes that experience food insecurity.

Student nutrition programs are currently delivered through a patchwork of nonprofits, school boards and parents. All this only reaches one in five children. We're missing far too many children through the existing system and it has landed Canada 37th out of 41 countries with regard to children's food access according to UNICEF's 2017 Report Card.

We know that school food programs improve children's nutrition, long-term health, school performance, attendance, social cohesion. They do this while contributing to local economies.

I urge you to support action around a federal investment in a universal student nutrition that would expand the impact of existing programs and improve all children's health and educational outcomes.

Sincerely,

[your name will go here] [your location will go here]