



**Education and Early Childhood Development
Office of the Minister**

PO Box 578, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2S9 • Telephone 902-424-4236 Fax 902-424-0680 • novascotia.ca

April 30, 2024

To Nova Scotia public school students and their families,

The Government of Nova Scotia recently announced our first-ever province-wide School Lunch Program. The new program is an exciting addition to the many in-school food programs that exist across Nova Scotia and I'm delighted that we will be able to launch a first phase this fall.

The first phase of the School Lunch Program is focused on making lunch accessible to pre-primary and elementary students. This phased approach ensures younger students, who are proven to benefit most both mentally and physically from nutritious meals, can access healthy lunches at school as quickly as possible.

We are designing Nova Scotia's School Lunch Program to be:

- Affordable for all, and free for any who need it
- Stigma-free with food available to every student and delivered so that families and staff do not know who pays or how much
- Supportive of the successful programs already in place in schools across Nova Scotia
- Centred around existing and new community connections and partnerships

School administrators have now received school-specific information about the first phase of the School Lunch Program. For schools participating in this phase, this information includes the suggested model to provide lunches, for example, in-school preparation or procurement through a vendor. For schools not included in this first phase, this work will start later in the 2024-25 school year.

I want to assure all families, particularly those with older students not included in this first phase, that the innovative, inclusive food programs already in place across the province will continue to receive funding and support, including the universal free breakfast offered in all schools.

Over the coming months, School Advisory Councils and comités d'école consultatif will be consulted to provide insight into the individual needs of your respective school communities. During this time, the Department will also be working with the federal government to understand the impact of the new [National School Food Program](#) announced on April 1. We will be regularly sharing updates as this work progresses.

I appreciate your continued support as we work together on this new and very exciting program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Becky Druhan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Becky Druhan
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development