

Ministry of Education

Ministère de l'Éducation

Minister

Ministre

Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2
Telephone (416) 325-2600
Facsimile (416) 325-2608

Édifice Mowat
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2
Téléphone (416) 325-2600
Télécopieur (416) 325-2608



March 5, 2008

Ms. Linda Stewart
Executive Director
Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Suite 502
425 University Avenue
Toronto ON M5G 1T6

Dear Ms. Stewart,

Thank you for your letter of support concerning Bill 8, the proposed Healthy Food for Healthy Schools Act, 2007 that we introduced on December 5, 2007. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

Our government takes seriously the health of our students. That is why we are encouraging healthier food and beverage choices in our schools, as well as more active lifestyles. Healthy living is part of what students need to be ready to learn, and part of what will lead to success beyond the classroom.

As you know, the proposed legislation would, if passed, drop trans fat from food and beverages sold in school cafeterias. There is a significant and growing body of evidence linking processed trans fat to heart disease. Dropping trans fat is our first step in developing a more comprehensive food and nutrition policy.

Our government has also committed to revising school-based nutrition standards to align with the new Canada Food Guide. As part of this review, Ministry of Education staff, along with staff from other ministries, including the Ministry of Health Promotion, will consult with education and health stakeholders and the food industry about nutritional standards for food and beverages offered in school cafeterias, vending machines, tuck shops/canteens, and other daily food services. I look forward to hearing about the outcome of the consultation, as it will help to inform me about the next steps to be taken regarding food and nutrition policies in Ontario schools.

For more information about our government's initiatives, consult the "Healthy Schools" section on the Ministry of Education website at www.edu.gov.on.ca, or click on the Healthy Schools link on the Ministry of Health Promotion website at www.mhp.gov.on.ca.

In closing, I have forwarded your letter to Ministry of Education staff so that they are aware of your offer to be consulted on school food and nutrition policies. Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen Wynne".

Kathleen Wynne
Minister of Education