



Waterloo Region District School Board

51 Ardel Avenue
Kitchener, ON N2C 2R5
T: 519-570-0003
F: 519-742-1364
wrdsb.ca

May 22, 2024

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland Minister of Finance & Deputy Prime Minister
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1A 0A6
chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Freeland,

The Board of Trustees for the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB), is pleased to see the federal government's investment of \$1 billion over five years to support a new National School Food Program.

The WRDSB sees first hand the struggles that our students and families are facing. Food insecurity is a national issue. When students come to school hungry, it is difficult for them to focus on learning.

A 2022 Statistics Canada report shows that 6.9 million people in 10 provinces, including almost 1.8 million children, lived in households struggling to afford the food they needed. The target of providing meals to 400,000 more kids every year is a promising start.

The WRDSB urges the federal government to continue to expand this program so that all students are fully prepared to face their learning day without worrying about where their next meal might come from.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joanne Weston".

Joanne Weston
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
Waterloo Region District School Board

cc: WRDSB Trustees and Student Trustees
Ontario Public School Boards' Association Member Board Chairs
Minister of Education
Local Members of Provincial Parliament
Local Members of Parliament
Region of Waterloo - Regional Chair
Local Mayors