

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NOURISH NS CREATING NOVA SCOTIA SCHOOL FOOD FUND**

**Bedford, NS – Nourish Nova Scotia is creating a special School Food Fund which will be distributed to public education partners according to enrolment numbers and need to support school food programs.** Nourish thanks Nova Scotians in advance for contributing to the School Food Fund or directly to their local school, Regional Centre for Education (RCE) or the Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial (CSAP) at this time of inflation and stretched school food budgets.

Nourish is a member of the Coalition for Healthy School Food which is pushing for a federal investment in a National School Food Program. Currently, Canada is the only G7 country without one; federally, both the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Social Development have school food on their to-do lists. The Coalition is calling on the Liberal government to include its commitment to \$1 Billion over five years in any fall Budget update or in Budget 2023.

“That doesn’t change the facts for this school year in Nova Scotia; we know that children will need nourishing food at school to learn, and that school food budgets will be tighter than ever this year due to inflation,” says Lisa Roberts, Executive Director of Nourish Nova Scotia.

Nourish Nova Scotia is a long-established partner to the provincial school system. In collaboration with nutritionists and health promoters who work in the education system, Nourish supports school food programming in many ways – including with kid-tested bulk recipes for cafeteria workers, garden lessons linked to curriculum outcomes, and training for breakfast program volunteers. Through the Nourish farm-to-school fundraiser program, Nourish Your Roots, participating schools have raised nearly half a million dollars for school food programs over the past five years, including during the height of the pandemic, while also generating revenue for local farmers.

Nourish Nova Scotia is not an emergency food organization. But as this school year begins, many generous people want to donate to school food and school food budgets will be stretched. It is in response to this need that Nourish has created a special, designated Nova Scotia School Food Fund. Together, we can ensure that children and youth are well-nourished to live, learn and play.

To arrange for an interview, please contact:

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### About Nourish

*Nourish Nova Scotia is a provincial non-profit organization providing support for school and community based healthy food programs through resources, advocacy and food education. Nourish receives core funding from the Province of Nova Scotia along with individual and corporate donations to fulfill its mandate.*

*Nourish is located in Kwipek (so-called Bedford), part of Mi'kma'ki, the unceded and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq peoples. While this is where our offices are located, we support food work from Unama'ki to Kespukwitk. As Treaty people, we strive to work under the Peace and Friendship Treaty of 1752 by incorporating Mi'kmaw values, like cooperation, stewardship of nature and sharing, into what we do, but recognize that we have much learning and unlearning still to do. If we can improve upon this statement, please contact us.*