



MEMORANDUM

TO: Community and Health Services Committee Members

FROM: Adelina Urbanski, Commissioner, Community and Health Services

DATE: June 16, 2011

RE: **York Region Food For Learning Student Nutrition Program**

York Region Food For Learning and the York Region Food Network have made a request to give a deputation to the Community and Health Services Committee on June 16, 2011. The purpose of the deputation is to provide Committee with an update on the York Region Food For Learning student nutrition program, including a video presentation, highlighting the benefits and outcomes of the program, as well as the new role that the York Region Food Network intends to take as the flow through agency for funding of the Program. This memorandum provides some background on the program.

The York Region Food For Learning Program has been in operation since 2000 and has grown into a broad community partnership dedicated to enhancing classroom learning by initiating and supporting student nourishment programs, including breakfast and snack programs. York Region Food For Learning is governed by a steering committee that includes York Region school boards, Family Day Care Services, Town of Newmarket, York Region Food Network and York Region Community and Health Services Public Health Branch, all of whom share their expertise in and concern about child nutrition and education.

The annual food costs for the York Region program are approximately \$1.2 million. York Region Community and Health Services has provided \$120,371 each of the last three years under Community Development and Investment Fund (CDIF) Renewable Funding stream. CDIF funds are designated to both York Region Public and Catholic schools where a need has been identified by each school board. The balance of the food costs are paid for by provincial funding, school-level fundraising, including donations of food itself.

These programs exist across Ontario. Universality is a key principle on which the Food for Learning programs operate. The student nourishment programs allow all students to benefit from healthy eating without stigmatizing. York Region's Food For Learning program supports this

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York Region Food for Learning

principle and has provided access to children across York Region to inclusive nutrition programs that support their learning and social, mental and physical health.

Adelina Urbanski,
Commissioner of Community and Health Services

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