



School Food For All:
Nourishing Futures



L'alimentation scolaire pour tous :
Nourrir l'avenir



Exploring Food Hub Models to Optimize the Impacts of School Food

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Équiterre



Introductions

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North York Harvest Food Bank
Senior Manager,
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➤ Student Nutrition Programs in Toronto

In June 2025, City Council adopted recommendations on a vision and strategy for Student Nutrition Programs (SNPs) where a universal morning meal program will be implemented by the 2026-2027 school year and a strategic path to a universal lunch program by 2030.

Expansion → Implementation of a Universal Morning Meal Program:

Phase 1: Winter 2025

- 23 new school communities (complete)

Phase 2: Fall 2026

- 49 new school communities (complete)

Phase 3: Spring 2026

- 77 new school communities (complete)

Phase 4: Fall 2026

- 78 remaining school communities

764 school communities
(91% of Toronto's public schools)
have access to an SNP

➤ Nourishing Students, Communities & Futures

- City of Toronto's 2026 SNP investment - \$32 million
- Decentralized purchasing model
 - Low efficiency
 - High costs
 - Increased administrative burden
- Bloomberg Mayor's Challenge 2025/2026

Vision: Every student in Toronto will have access to **nutritious, locally-sourced** food at school through a coordinated program that **centralizes food procurement**, strengthens **collaboration** among the city's school food delivery partners, and advances **inclusive economic development**.



Who is North York Harvest?

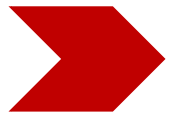
Vision

A community where all members are able to meet their food needs.

Mission

Our mission is to engage our community in meeting the food needs of northern Toronto by providing dignified food assistance, education, focused advocacy, long-term food solutions, and Community Wealth-Building





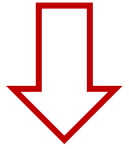
New Food Hub: A Crisis to Catalyst

- 30,000 square feet
- Expanded cold storage
- Washing & Packing
- Commercial Kitchen





How the Hub can support the scale of School Food



Cost Savings

- Reduce cost \$0.46 to \$0.43/per portion
- Delivery costs lower by 22%
- 9% savings to other City-funded food procurement programs



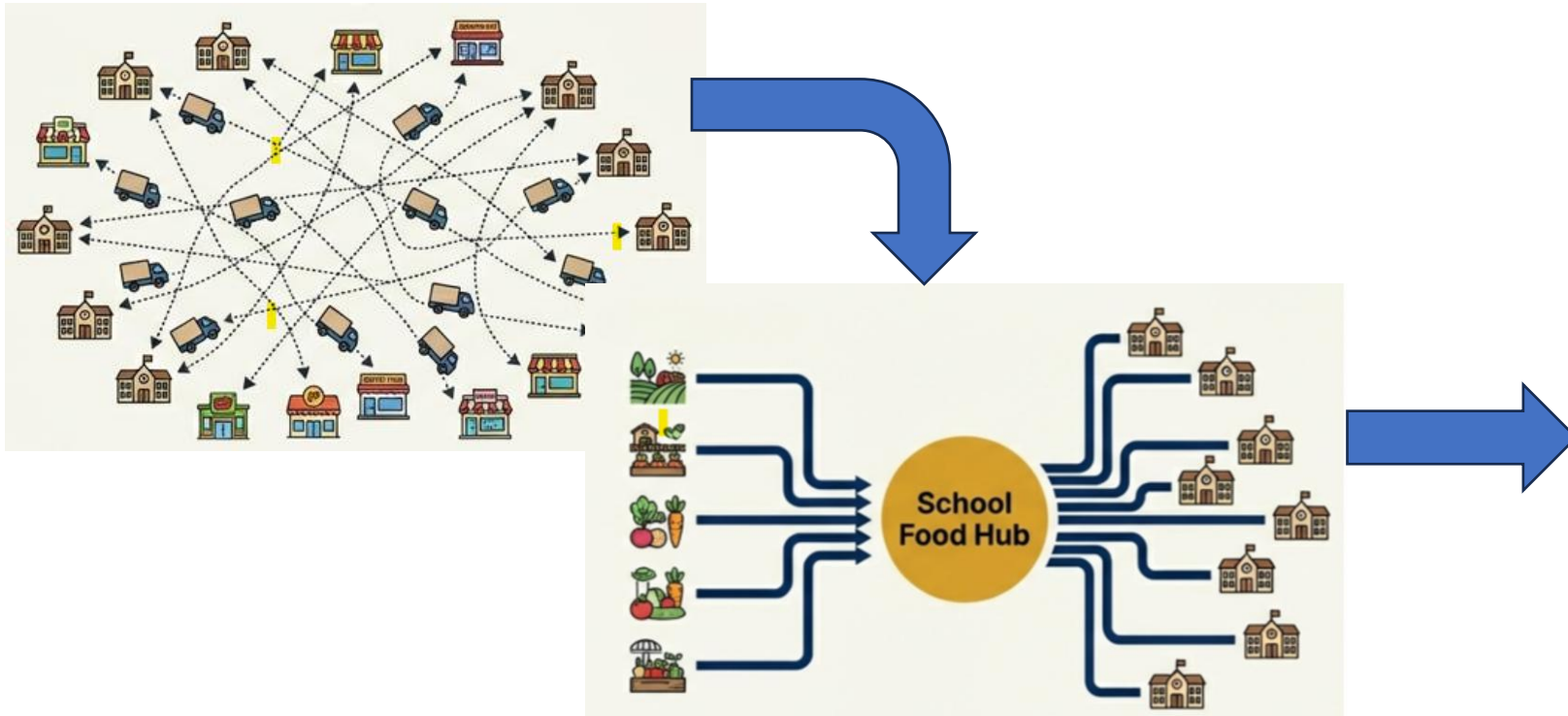
Economic Impact

- 70% of food items would be grown, produced, and manufactured in Ontario
- Universal scale would generate 110 employment opportunities
- \$1 invested in school food = \$1.12-\$1.18 in economic value



➤ Next Steps

- *Universal* Student Nutrition Program expansion → Phase 4 (Fall 2026)
- Exploring school food hubs



- ✓ Feed more kids
- ✓ Reduce administrative burden
- ✓ Support good jobs
- ✓ Prioritize local food and suppliers
- ✓ Reinvest in community

Thank you!

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Breakout Tables

1. Mapping the system in your community / asset mapping
2. A practical approach to problem-solving within school food - obstacles / opportunities
3. Sharing successes - storytelling for inspiration, including distribution and logistics