



School Food For All:
Nourishing Futures



L'alimentation scolaire pour tous :
Nourrir l'avenir



School Lunch Association Newfoundland & Labrador

John Finn, Executive Director

Nourishing Futures Forum | June 3, 2026



Équiterre





Crisis & Call to Action

The problem:

In 1988, *'Poverty — the one thing money can't buy'* revealed a crisis: children across Newfoundland were going hungry — costing them their health, education, and future.

The response:

In 1989, community leaders answered. The Committee for Hungry Children was born.



Building a Lasting Foundation

More Than Meals

School food was never just about meals — it was about well-being, equity, and giving every child a fair start.

Map for Success

Meal tracking. Financial accountability. Fundraising. Operations built for scale — a foundation designed to last.

Today's Mission

Healthy, local food. Food literacy. Community-driven care. The mission endures.

From bold proposal to lasting mission — the School Lunch Association was born

Growth and Impact

One school became a province-wide model for school food.

35+

Years of Service



Dedicated Staff

7,100 meals daily. Team members with 25+ years of dedicated service.

46

Schools Served



Nutritious Meals

Warm, balanced, locally sourced lunches meeting provincial nutrition guidelines — every single day.

Zero

Stigma Attached



Sustainable Growth

“Pay as you can” scales school by school, building lasting local capacity.

Student Participation – 2025/2026

12,917

Students Participated

72%

Overall Participation

93%

Highest
Participating School

Strong participation
proves the program
works.





Sample School Menus

Hot Mains

Macaroni and Cheese
Honey Garlic Meatballs
Goulash
Beef Taco
Chicken Quesadilla
Chicken Penne Alfredo
Cheeseburger

Sides & Salads

Garlic Naan Bread
Asian Rice
Garden Salad
Celery Sticks
Mashed potatoes
Cucumber slices
Mixed Vegetables

Fruits & Drinks

Fruit salad
Orange Slices
Mandarin Slices
Peach Quarters
Diced Pears
Milk (white & chocolate)
Water

Hot, nutritious meals served daily across 46 schools — schoollunch.ca/menus

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday


Macaroni & Cheese
Garlic Naan Bread
Mixed Veggies
Tropical Fruit Salad
Milk or Water

4

Pancakes
Syrup
Breakfast Turkey Patty
Peach Quarters
Milk or Water

5

Beef Taco
Mashed Potato
Carrot Sticks
Pineapple Tidbits
Milk or Water

6

Chicken Ranch Flat Bread
Creamy Pasta Salad
Corn
Diced Pears
Milk or Water

7

Cheese Pizza
Caesar Salad
Carrot Coins
Mandarin Oranges
Milk or Water

8

Honey Garlic Meatballs
Asian Rice
Carrot Sticks
Fruit Salad
Milk or Water

11

Goulash
Garlic Naan Bread
Mixed Veggies
Diced Pears
Milk or Water

12

Waffles
Syrup
Breakfast Turkey Patty
Mandarin Oranges
Milk or Water

13

Chicken Fajita
Fiesta Pasta Salad
Carrot Coins
Peach Quarters
Milk or Water

14

Grilled Cheese Sandwich
Mediterranean Orzo
Sliced Cucumbers
Pineapple Tidbits
Milk or Water

15



18

Pancakes
Syrup
Breakfast Turkey Patty
Peach Quarters
Milk or Water

19

Lasagna Bake
Garlic Naan Bread
Mixed Veggies
Tropical Fruit Salad
Milk or Water

20

Cheese Pizza
Creamy Pasta Salad
Corn
Diced Pears
Milk or Water

21

Meatball Sub
Garden Salad
Carrot Coins
Mandarin Oranges
Milk or Water

22

Chicken Penne Alfredo
Garlic Naan Bread
Mixed Veggies
Fruit Salad
Milk or Water

25

Waffles
Syrup
Breakfast Turkey Patty
Mandarin Oranges
Milk or Water

26

Chicken Quesadilla
Fiesta Pasta Salad
Celery Sticks
Diced Pears
Milk or Water

27

Beef Burger
Tossed Salad
Sliced Cucumbers
Peach Quarters
Milk or Water

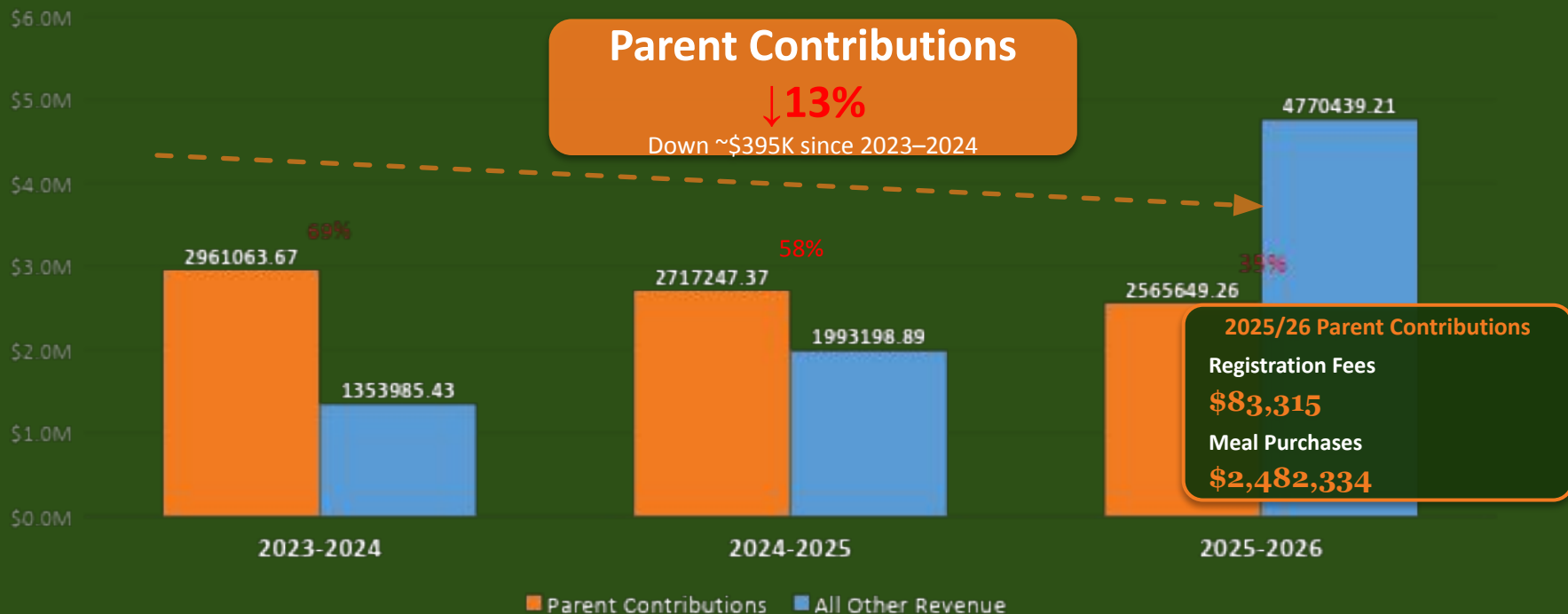
28

Sweet & Sour Meatballs
Whole Grain Rice
Carrot Sticks
Orange Wedges
Milk or Water

29

Revenue Breakdown – Year Over Year

Parent contributions vs. all other revenue across 46 schools (2023–2026)

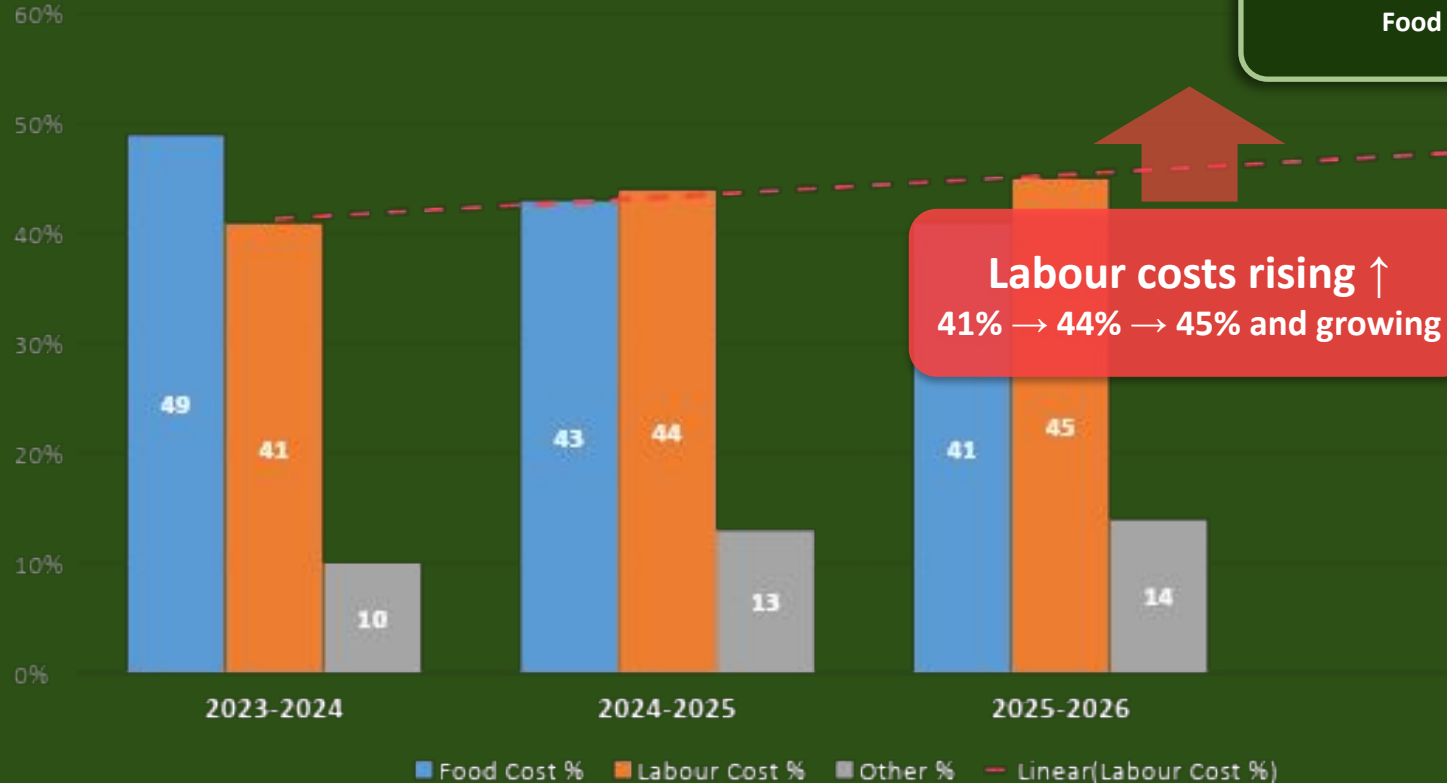


Total revenue grew from \$4.3M to \$7.3M (+70%) — driven by a \$3.4M increase in non-parent funding

Cost Breakdown: Food & Labour as % of Total

86–90%

of all costs go to
Food & Labour



Yearly Economic Impact

Avalon and Central NL

\$9.8M

Total Annual Impact

Value of meals provided to families	\$5,529,670
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Employment	\$2,189,452
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Food and beverage purchases	\$2,024,259
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Supplies	\$106,288
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Total	\$9,849,669
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Reduced food insecurity, better readiness to learn, support for working families

Priceless



Every Child Deserves a Meal

From community kitchens to a national model.

Equity, dignity, and local food — for every child in Canada.