



School Food For All:
Nourishing Futures



L'alimentation scolaire pour tous :
Nourrir l'avenir



Lunch for All: Building an Accessible School Meal System in Quebec

La Cantine pour tous
Presented by Thibaud Liné

June 3rd, 10:50am



Équiterre



Lunch for All

Building an Accessible
School Meal System
in Quebec

Thibaud Liné

June 3rd 2026, 10:50am

La Cantine
POUR TOUS



La Cantine pour tous

Responsible, healthy and accessible
food *for everyone throughout Quebec*



La Cantine pour tous is a **collective** of social economy organizations that share a desire to act together to help solve **food insecurity** and other food-related issues in their territories.

La Cantine
POUR TOUS



Together, we build strong communities
where everyone can have enough to eat



Our Collective

All our members are
non-profit catering organizations.



99 members in **15** regions



38 participating members

La Cantine
POUR TOUS



The School Lunch Program: a Collective Model

 La Cantine pour tous
National coordination



 Local Social Caterers
Prepare & deliver lunches



 Schools
Lunches reach students



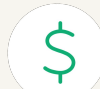
 Students
Nutritious meals, every day



La Cantine pour tous



Program
coordination



Funding &
Platform



Quality
assurance



Local Social Caterers



Meal planning
& preparation



Delivery to
schools



Food quality
& safety

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

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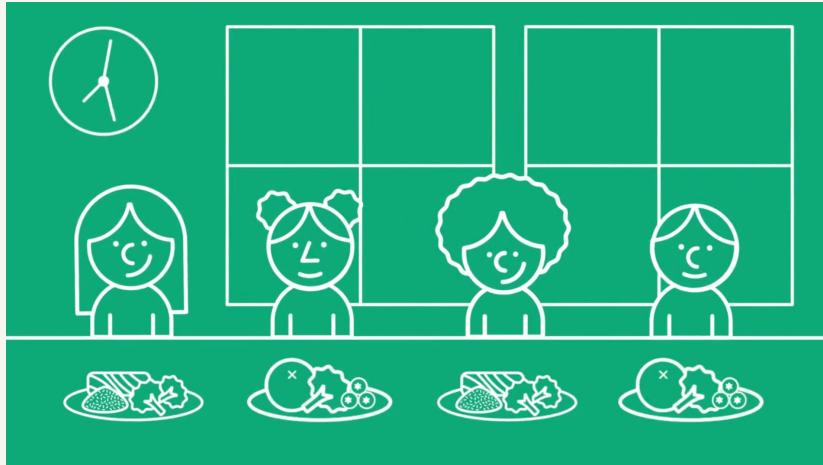
A network of local social economy organizations working together to provide **accessible, high-quality school lunches** to all students across Québec.



1 - Parents order meals online



2 - Families choose what they pay



4 - Community caterers prepare and deliver meals to schools



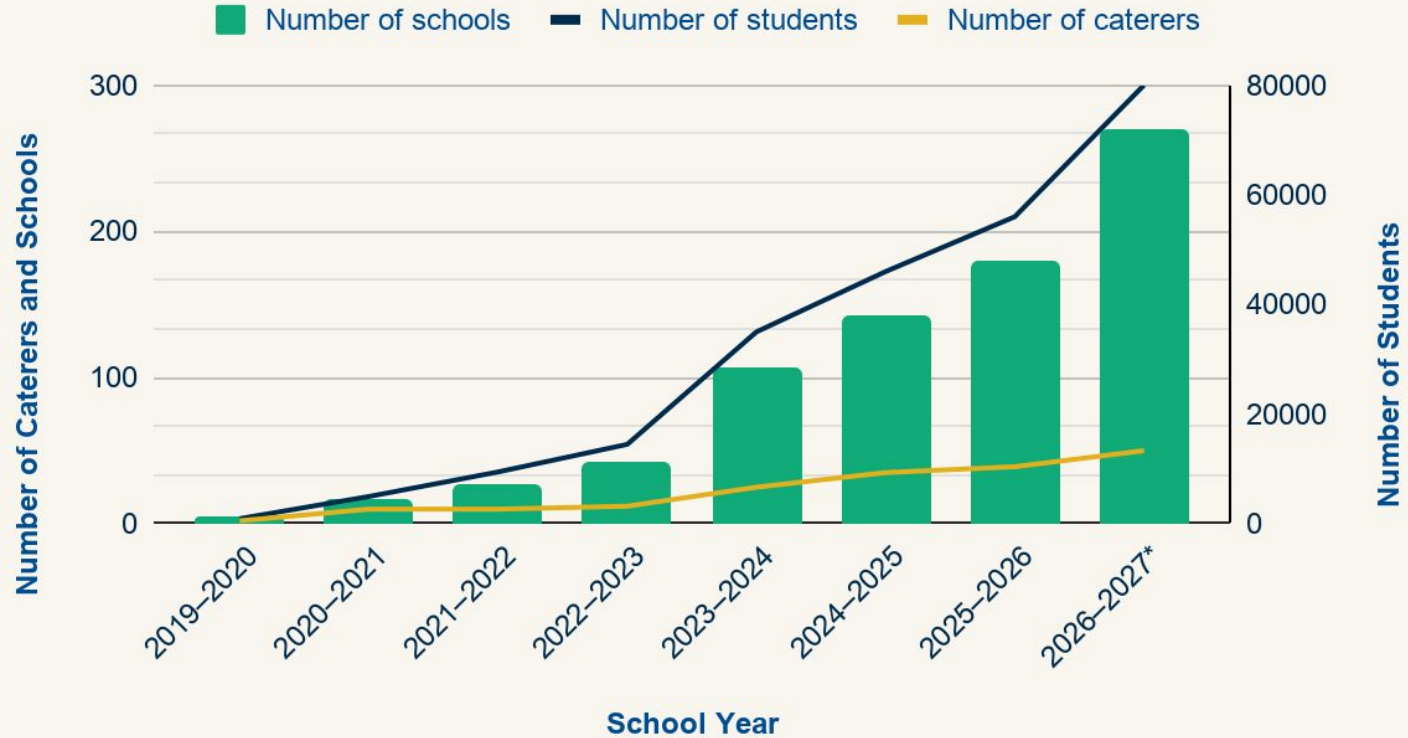
3 - La Cantine pour tous subsidizes the difference

Key Figures Evolutions



School Year	Number of Schools	Number of Students	Number of Caterers
2019-2020	3	930	2
2020-2021	15	4 970	10
2021-2022	26	9 460	10
2022-2023	40	14 480	12
2023-2024	106	35 000	25
2024-2025	141	46 000	35
2025-2026	179	56 000	40
2026-2027*	269	80 000	50

Key Figures Evolutions



Monday June 1, 2026	Tuesday June 2, 2026	Wednesday June 3, 2026	Thursday June 4, 2026	Friday June 5, 2026
Main dishes ☐ Hot chicken style chicken ☐ Veggie chicken, hot chicken style  ☐ Cold tomato pizza, hummus and raw vegetables  ☐ Multigrain chicken nuggets with sweet and sour sauce Desserts ☐ Fruit compote and social tea cookies 	Main dishes ☐ Mini neapolitan meatballs + raw vegetables and dip ☐ Neapolitan veggie meatballs + raw vegetables and dip  ☐ Cold tomato pizza, hummus and raw vegetables  ☐ Multigrain chicken nuggets with sweet and sour sauce Desserts ☐ Fresh fruit 	Main dishes ☐ Shepherd's pie with ketchup ☐ Vegetarian shepherd's pie with ketchup  ☐ Chicken Caesar salad with croutons, pita, and Caesar dressing ☐ Multigrain chicken nuggets with sweet and sour sauce Desserts ☐ Apple crumble cookie 	Main dishes ☐ Chicken burger + ketchup-mayo and raw vegetables-dip ☐ Veggie pepperoni and cheddar pizza + raw vegetables-dip  ☐ Chicken Caesar salad with croutons, pita, and Caesar dressing ☐ Multigrain chicken nuggets with sweet and sour sauce Desserts ☐ Tube yogurt 	Main dishes ☐ Turkey stir-fried rice and sweet-and-sour vegetables + plum sauce ☐ General Tao veggie chicken and sweet-sour vegetables  ☐ Chicken Caesar salad with croutons, pita, and Caesar dressing ☐ Multigrain chicken nuggets with sweet and sour sauce Desserts ☐ Strawberry cookie 

Example of a “Garde Manger pour tous” menu



All menus are reviewed according to nutritional standards aligned with:



The Canadian Food Guide



School nutrition policies



Quebec health guidelines

Menus are locally adapted to reflect regional and cultural realities

Social Pricing Model



Families choose what they can pay

Each family contributes the amount that fits their reality



No proof of income required

A trusted, respectful approach that is inclusive and non-stigmatizing



Minimum contribution
\$1 per lunch

Families can contribute any amount, starting \$1
Suggested amount: \$6

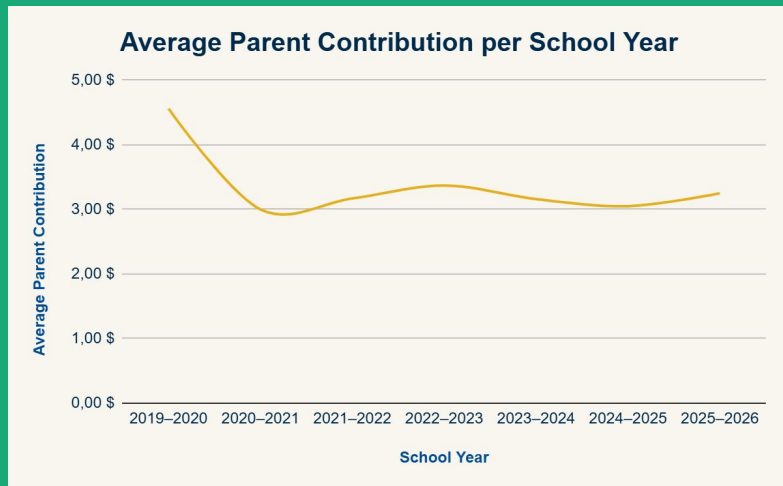


Caterers receive the full meal price

Caterers are paid a fair, full price for every meal served.



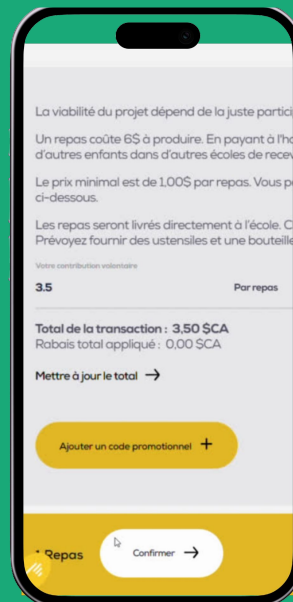
Results & Behaviour Change



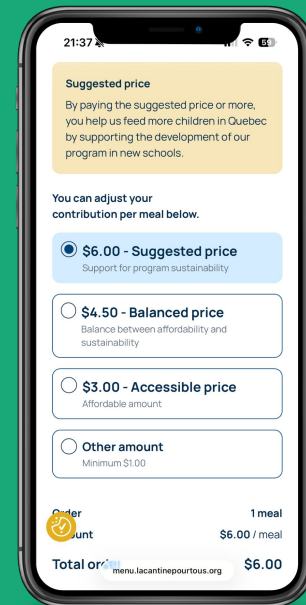
Every contribution, no matter the amount, makes a difference.

La Cantine
POUR TOUS

Before



After



Suggested contribution options help guide participation while preserving family choice.



SUCCESS FACTORS



Flexible, community based model

Builds on existing infrastructure, community partnerships, and local expertise.



Easy to scale up

Relies on a proven model that can be replicated across regions and school settings.



Centralized tools and shared services

Uses a transactional platform and shared functions to streamline operations and support local delivery.



ONGOING CHALLENGES



Dependance on school communication

Program participation relies heavily on school's efforts to inform and engage families.



Lack of funding visibility

Limited long-term funding certainty makes planning and growth challenging.



Cost of lunch supervision

Supervision during lunch remains a significant cost for parents.

Thank you!



Successes & Ongoing Challenges



SUCCESS FACTORS



Flexible model

Built on existing infrastructure and community partnerships.



Leverages local expertise

Relies on social caterers and organizations rooted in their communities.



Easy to scale up

Proven model that can be replicated across regions and school settings.



Adaptable to diverse contexts

Works in urban, suburban and rural communities, respecting local realities.



ONGOING CHALLENGES



Dependence on school communication

Program participation relies heavily on school's efforts to inform and engage families.



Erosion of contributions

Voluntary parent contributions tend to decrease over time.



Lack of funding visibility

Limited long-term funding certainty makes planning and growth challenging.



Cost of lunch supervision

Supervision during lunch remains a significant cost for parents.



Healthy Meals at Scale

Show legend

Monday
June 1, 2026

Main dishes

- ☐ Hot chicken style chicken
- ☐ Veggie chicken, hot chicken style  
- ☐ Cold tomato pizza, hummus and raw vegetables 
- ☐ Multigrain chicken nuggets with sweet and sour sauce

Desserts

- ☐ Fruit compote and social tea cookies 

Tuesday
June 2, 2026

Main dishes

- ☐ Mini neapolitan meatballs + raw vegetables and dip
- ☐ Neapolitan veggie meatballs + raw vegetables and dip 
- ☐ Cold tomato pizza, hummus and raw vegetables 
- ☐ Multigrain chicken nuggets with sweet and sour sauce

Desserts

- ☐ Fresh fruit 

Wednesday
June 3, 2026

Main dishes

- ☐ Shepherd's pie with ketchup
- ☐ Vegetarian shepherd's pie with ketchup 
- ☐ Chicken Caesar salad with croutons, pita, and Caesar dressing
- ☐ Multigrain chicken nuggets with sweet and sour sauce

Desserts

- ☐ Apple crumble cookie 

Thursday
June 4, 2026

Main dishes

- ☐ Chicken burger + ketchup-mayo and raw vegetables-dip
- ☐ Veggie pepperoni and cheddar pizza + raw vegetables-dip 
- ☐ Chicken Caesar salad with croutons, pita, and Caesar dressing
- ☐ Multigrain chicken nuggets with sweet and sour sauce

Desserts

- ☐ Tube yogurt 

Friday
June 5, 2026

Main dishes

- ☐ Turkey stir-fried rice and sweet-and-sour vegetables + plum sauce
- ☐ General Tao veggie chicken and sweet-sour vegetables  
- ☐ Chicken Caesar salad with croutons, pita, and Caesar dressing
- ☐ Multigrain chicken nuggets with sweet and sour sauce

Desserts

- ☐ Strawberry cookie  

La Cantine dans les écoles



Quality



Accessibility



Sustainability

Objectives of the School Lunch Program



Equity