



Memorandum

Date: November 15, 2024
To: Finance and Planning Committee
From: Delta Carmichael, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
Prepared by: Rhonda Ovelson, Director of Instruction – Feeding Futures
Information Item: **Feeding Futures Fund Budget – 2024/2025**

1.0 BACKGROUND

In April 2023, the Ministry of Education and Child Care announced new funding of \$214 million over three years for school districts to create or expand local food programs in schools throughout BC. The funds are to be used for purchasing food and hiring dedicated staff to co-ordinate providing meals and snacks to students. The District's proportionate share is \$2,828,440 for the 2024/2025 school year. The expectation is that this funding, along with any carry forward funds from the 2023/2024 school year, are fully spent by June 30, 2025.

2.0 INFORMATION STATEMENT

After ongoing community, school and District staff consultation, *Appendix A* provides a draft summary of how the Feeding Futures funding will be spent for the 2024/2025 school year. The summary ensures that the well-established and expanded breakfast, lunch and snack programs are sustained. The number of students accessing these food programs continues to increase as inflation and cost of living in the Central Okanagan rise. The summary of expenditures also provides schools with flexibility to partner with community, staff, students and parents to continually build and expand food programs that make sense within their local contexts.

Deputy Minister's Bulletin – Instructions to School Districts (*Appendix B*) outlines how the funding can be spent. Items include the following:

Food

- Must be towards the delivery of food programs to feed students who need it most.
- Spending may support Culinary Arts programs if the food produced by the program is provided to students in need.
- Program delivery may include the procurement of third-party food service providers, or expansion of existing contracts.

Staff

- Flexibility to hire up to one full-time staff member if needed or offset existing costs to a School Food Coordinator.
- Functions of role may include coordination and/or delivery of the program.

Other

- Small appliances or equipment to prepare, store, cook and transport food from a school with a kitchen to another school.
- Continuity of Student and Family Affordability Fund supports that improve student food security.

In addition to the "operational" Feeding Futures funding, the District received a second grant of \$150,000 of capital funding through the Minor Capital Expenditure Program. This funding can be used for such upgrades as:

- Refrigerated vehicles to support the delivery of prepared meals from centralized kitchen facilities to schools.
- The purchase and installation of new or used kitchen equipment (e.g., refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, stoves, ovens, etc.).
- Space and functionality improvements to ensure kitchens meet local health authority requirements.
- Equipment and infrastructure to support traditional food gathering and preparation (e.g., fishing equipment, smokehouses, non-fur trapping equipment).
- Food storage (refrigerated or dry storage).

This money will be used to upgrade the Rutland Middle kitchen for the purpose of expanding school food programs.

Deputy Minister's Bulletin – Questions and Answers (*Appendix C*) provides a list of questions and answers including purpose, who qualifies, how the funds can be used, etc.

3.0 SECRETARY-TREASURER/CFO'S COMMENTS

None.

4.0 NEXT STEPS

The focus for the coming year will be to support school staff coordinating the delivery of food in schools, to increase the quantity of BC grown and produced food procured, as well as, to continue to grow community partnerships to find greater efficiencies. Additional funding allocated to Indigenous Education will be shared with Indigenous Education Council and a plan will be developed to utilize these funds.

5.0 APPENDICES

- A. Feeding Futures Program 2024/2025
- B. Deputy Minister's Bulletin – Instructions to School Districts
- C. Deputy Minister's Bulletin – Questions and Answers