

Dear Food and Beverage Providers:

The Ontario government is committed to making schools healthier places for students in order to establish the conditions needed to realize the potential of all students. As such, they have introduced the *Healthy Foods for Healthy Schools Act* (2008) to address healthy eating in Ontario schools. This Act contains trans fat and nutrition standards for foods and beverages sold in schools across the province.

The Trans Fat standards (Policy/Program Memorandum No. 135) have been in place since September 1, 2008 and require schools to ensure that food and beverages that are sold in schools meet the prescribed amount of trans fat. Information with regards to this can be found at the Ministry of Education Healthy Schools Website:
http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/healthyschools/health_faqs.html.

The School Food and Beverage Policy - including nutrition standards (Policy/Program Memorandum No. 150) was announced in January, 2010 and must be implemented by September 1, 2011. All food and beverages sold in schools for school purposes must meet the nutrition standards set out in the policy. This includes food and beverages sold in all venues (cafeterias, vending machines, tuck shops), through all programs (catered lunch programs), and at all events (bake sales, sporting events, etc.).

We need your help to ensure that the food and beverages sold in schools in our district meet these standards. We are asking that food service providers who are interested in selling foods and/or beverages within Simcoe Muskoka, follow this process:

- Assess the food and/or beverages sold to schools in the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board and Simcoe County District School Board to determine compliance with the '**sell most**' '**sell less**' criteria,
- Inform each board contact identified below as to which foods and beverages are '**sell most**' or '**sell less**' items by signing, dating, and submitting the letter of compliance (see attached),
- Keep each board informed as to new or reformulated products that meet the '**sell most**' or '**sell less**' requirements by submitting a revised letter of compliance to the contacts listed below.

The Ministry of Education has provided resources and tools to support the implementation of this policy. Please refer to the following sources:

- For resources, tools and supports refer to Ministry of Education, Healthy Schools website at: www.ontario.ca/healthyschools
- Learning modules can be accessed at <http://healthy.apandrose.com/>

- For assistance with interpreting nutrition standards contact a Registered Dietitian at Eat Right Ontario 1-877-510-5102 www.eatrightontario.ca or Your Health Connection (705) 721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 www.simcoemuskokahhealth.org

Simcoe County District School Board is available to assist in any way possible.
Direct your questions to Stephanie Holden (see below)

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