

April 9, 2019

The Honourable Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
The Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Education
The Honourable Christine Elliott, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

Dear Ministers,

I write on behalf of Ontario Dietitians in Public Health (ODPH) in support of the recommendations of the Children Count Task Force. These recommendations support the health and wellbeing of Ontario's children and youth by streamlining and improving the systems that monitor and assess their health.

[ODPH](#) is the independent and official voice of Registered Dietitians working in Ontario's public health system. ODPH members apply evidence-informed nutrition information to enable healthy eating at every stage of life; advocate for and provide support to the creation of food policies and healthier eating environments; and implement and evaluate nutrition programs to improve the health of Ontario residents.

As such, we strongly support the recommendations.

The strength of the recommendations results from the broad range of perspectives, knowledge and expertise that was provided through a collaboration of leaders from federal and provincial government agencies and ministries, academics, public health units, boards of education, and non-government organizations. We believe that implementing the recommendations will provide the information that all stakeholders need to properly assess the health status of our children and youth, as well as the return on investment for related programs and services. Furthermore, implementation will result in a more efficient and improved system of collecting the data that provides this critical information. We respectfully request that the Honourable Ministers seriously consider implementing these recommendations and welcome any opportunities to consult or engage in future actions that would support this work.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



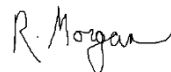
Ellen Lakusiak RD
ODPH Co-Chair Year 1



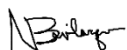
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