



August 15, 2024

Drin hq̄q families,

Re: Nitr'inkè-in Shi' Hq̄q Tr'ëtä'al (TH Nutrition Program)

As many of you may be aware, we are working on changes to our Nutrition Program and would like to inform you of what you can expect as we get closer to the first day of school.

For several years we have received funding from Jordan's Principle to support access to food for Indigenous youth living on TH Territory. Our funding is significant, and we have a renewed agreement for the coming two years. These dollars are meant to support Indigenous children from age 0 to the end of their 18th year with access to nutritious foods. In previous years we covered food-related costs at school and TH camps, events, and have delivered food programs in Robert Service School, including breakfasts and lunches for students.

One key goal of the program is the delivery of daily meals for RSS students. Unfortunately, we have run into challenges in delivering this program. We have struggled, and continue to struggle, to access an appropriate kitchen space that is properly certified for public-facing food programs, available full time, and large enough for a daily lunch program. We were fortunate to enjoy a rental arrangement with the City of Dawson for the kitchen in the Rec Centre over the previous school year. Regrettably, we were not the successful bidder on the 24/25 lease and have found ourselves without a kitchen again. We understand that there are few adequate kitchens in Dawson and those that do exist are used by programs providing essential food services to other community members, including Elders and seniors.

We have extended our rental arrangement at the Rec Centre for the next couple of months and are actively working on securing kitchen space elsewhere. **As a result, we will not be able to offer the daily lunch program at RSS during this school year.** We have every intention of reviving this critical program once the school has an adequate kitchen in place.

We ask for your patience and understanding as we rework our Nutrition Program in the coming weeks. Below, you will find information on confirmed food programs for 24/25.

We would like to take this opportunity to send a big mähshj cho to our Nutrition Program staff who have met countless challenges over the past few years with creativity and a positive attitude, and who continue to provide delicious food to our community.

Sincerely,



Jody Beaumont, Director of Education
Ashley Bower-Bramadat, Education Manager
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government

Confirmed TH Education Department Food Programming for all students at Robert Service School

Daily Breakfast at RSS: available for all students from 8:00am to 8:30am in the RSS Foods Classroom, starting on Tuesday, August 27th

RSS Snack Stations: available throughout the day for all RSS students in locations throughout the school; includes fruit, veggies, yogurt, granola bars, meat, cheese and crackers.

RSS Community Feast Days scheduled evening feasts for all students ,educators and families at RSS provided by our Nutrition Team with the support of various classes ; stay tuned for more info on our first Feast Day; frequency and schedule to be determined

RSS Land-Based Programs: funding and food prep support for land-based education including camps