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Canadian School Boards Association
L'association canadienne des commissions/conseils scolaires

CSBA Responds to 2026 Federal Budget

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The Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA) welcomes the 2026 Federal Budget and its significant investments in children and youth, particularly its commitments to the National School Food Program, First Nations education, youth mental health, and strengthening children's online safety.

CSBA applauds the federal government's commitment to protecting children and youth from online harms through Bill C-34, the *Safe Social Media Act*. As legislation moves toward implementation, CSBA is ready to partner with the federal government by bringing the perspectives of school boards, educators, families, and students to the development of effective online safety measures, digital literacy initiatives, and strong student privacy protections.

CSBA welcomes the government's commitment to the now-permanent National School Food Program. Access to nutritious food improves student health, well-being and readiness to learn. Permanent, predictable funding will help school boards and community partners build sustainable programs that reach more children in communities across Canada.

CSBA also welcomes the federal government's investments to expand access to youth mental health services. School boards see first-hand the growing need for accessible, timely mental health supports for children and youth. Continued collaboration across governments and service providers will help ensure students receive the support they need to succeed both inside and outside the classroom.

The federal investments in First Nations education, including dedicated funding through Jordan's Principle and commitments to First Nations housing and infrastructure, represent important steps toward advancing educational opportunities for First Nations learners. CSBA also recognizes the importance of continued federal investments that support Inuit, Métis, and First Nations learners. CSBA looks forward to working with the federal government to address other infrastructure challenges, including access to teacher housing and reliable high-speed internet, which remain essential to student success in northern, remote and rural communities.

"School boards must have a meaningful seat at the table as the federal government moves these commitments forward," said Shali Baziuk, President of the Canadian School Boards Association. "School boards are responsible for the education of millions of students across Canada, giving them a unique understanding of the challenges facing students, families, and educators. We are ready to contribute that experience to the implementation of Bill C-34, the National School Food Program,

investments in youth mental health and First Nations education. These initiatives will have the greatest impact when governments work alongside the people delivering public education in communities across the country."

CSBA looks forward to working collaboratively with the federal government and its partners to ensure these commitments translate into meaningful improvements for students, families, and communities across Canada.

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About the Canadian School Boards Association

The Canadian School Boards Association represents school board members through its provincial and territorial member associations. It is the national voice of democratically elected local school boards, championing strong public education and better outcomes for students.

Media Contact:

Kelly Baker, Director of Communications and Engagement
kellybaker@cdnsba.org
647-701-2203