



# NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

May 23, 2018

## **Ministries not working together to effectively oversee healthy eating and physical activity initiatives in K-12**

VICTORIA – The Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia has released a new report: *Promoting Healthy Eating and Physical Activity in K-12: An Independent Audit*.

We found that the Ministries of Health and Education have come together to develop healthy eating and physical activity initiatives for schools, but need to do more to effectively oversee this area.

“The greatest opportunity for shaping the future health of people in B.C. is through positively influencing the health and well-being of children,” said Auditor General Carol Bellringer. “Schools are an ideal setting because they can reach almost every child in B.C., and by extension, their families.”

Healthy eating and physical activity lower the risk of chronic disease, which is the largest burden on B.C.’s health care system. Chronic diseases affect one in three people and their treatment uses approximately 80% of the combined MSP, PharmaCare and acute care budgets.

Bellringer’s team looked at Health and Education’s oversight of seven healthy eating and physical activity initiatives to assess whether the ministries are working together effectively. These included programs and policies such as Healthy Schools B.C., the BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program and CommunityLINK funding for meal programs.

“The ministries have not communicated their shared, overarching direction to the health authorities and school districts to promote healthy eating and physical activity,” said Bellringer. This has contributed to many districts not prioritizing healthy eating and physical activity initiatives, which could impact the health of children and youth, increasing their risk for future chronic disease.

The report contains eight recommendations to improve both Health and Education’s oversight of healthy eating and physical activity initiatives in K-12, including maximizing access for vulnerable students, monitoring programs for effectiveness, and addressing barriers to the implementation of programs and policies.



OFFICE OF THE  
**Auditor General**  
of British Columbia

The full report is available on the Office of the Auditor General website at [www.bcauditor.com](http://www.bcauditor.com).  
Bellringer will answer questions pertaining to the report via a news conference.

News Conference Date: Wednesday May 23, 2018

Time: 11:30 a.m. (Pacific time)

Dial-in Information:

From Vancouver: 604 681-0260

From elsewhere in Canada and the USA: 1 877 353-9184

Participant Pass Code: 44848#

During question and answer period, to ask a question: Press 01

During question and answer period, to exit the question queue: Press #

**About the Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia**

The Auditor General is a non-partisan, independent Officer of the Legislature who reports directly to the Legislative Assembly. The *Auditor General Act* empowers the Auditor General and staff to conduct audits, report findings and make recommendations.

Contact us:

To speak to the Auditor General, call Emily Griffiths: 250-419-6132

For general questions, call Colleen Rose, Manager, Communications: 250-419-6207

[www.bcauditor.com](http://www.bcauditor.com)

Subscribe to receive report e-notifications at [www.bcauditor.com/reach/subscribe](http://www.bcauditor.com/reach/subscribe)