



Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation Partners with Breakfast Clubs of Canada to feed vulnerable students

Over 280 children will now enjoy a nutritious breakfast every day

Nanaimo, B.C., (May 4, 2011) – [Nanaimo – Ladysmith Schools Foundation](#) (NLSF) is pleased to announce its partnership with [Breakfast Clubs of Canada](#) (BCC) to launch full-service breakfast programs in five schools to ensure that children across the community get a healthy, nutritious start to their day.

Breakfast Clubs of Canada believes that all Canadian children should have the same chance in school and in life. Based on the successful Quebec Breakfast Club model, which has been recognized by the United Nations World Food Programme, Breakfast Clubs of Canada is now found in over 943 schools in Canada and that number grows every year.

The Nanaimo-Ladysmith constituency is among the lowest socio-economic areas in the province with many elementary and secondary school students regularly coming to school hungry which makes learning more difficult.

“This is a three year commitment from the Breakfast Clubs of Canada to help the NLS Foundation feed more vulnerable students in our district,” said Erin van Steen, Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation “We know kids learn better if they have good nutrition. We had more children needing food than we had funding for or proper kitchens out of which to run the food programs. This partnership means we can set up kitchens and start food programs in some schools with no food programs and get to the kids who need it the most.”

Three schools will start the program on May 1st, Brechin, Fairview and Park Avenue and the remaining two schools; NDSS and Forest Park will begin in September.

Good nutrition is vital to the health of children yet many young Canadians go to school on an empty stomach. Their energy levels, memory, problem-solving skills, creativity, concentration and behaviour are all negatively affected. As a result of being hungry at school, these children may not reach their full developmental potential—an outcome that can have a health impact throughout their entire lives.

School nutrition programs help to level the playing field for all children, giving them an equal chance to grow and flourish throughout life.

“Everyone at Breakfast Clubs of Canada is excited about the launch of the new Nanaimo breakfast programs, which is helping serve an unmet need in the area,” says Jody Hanninen, regional coordinator for Breakfast Clubs of Canada. “This is another example of how providing equipment, food donations, management tools and grants directly to schools allows them to develop breakfast programs that are going to make a significant difference to the lives of hundreds of children in the community.”

Breakfast Clubs of Canada is committed to its mission of ensuring that all Canadian children will have an equal chance to start their school day with a nutritious breakfast in an environment that promotes self-esteem. It accomplishes this work with the help of both individual and corporate partners, all committed to the cause of feeding our children’s future.

For information about Breakfast Clubs of Canada, or to find out how you can get involved, visit <http://www.breakfastclubscanada.org>

The Nanaimo-Ladysmith School Foundation works with School District 68 to bring programs that better the lives of students, through support programs and scholarship programs. Supplies and programs that are not covered by the school board budget can be supplemented through the Foundation. To make a donation to the Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation, please contact via www.nlsf.ca or (250) 753-4074.

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