



MEDIA ADVISORY

For October 8, 2010

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700 School Children Celebrate Food, Fall Harvest at Queen's Park October 8 - Just in Time for Thanksgiving

Toronto, October 1, 2010 – Fall is the perfect time to celebrate the bounty of local fresh fruits and vegetables. With students back in school, it is also a wonderful time to showcase creative curriculum connections to food with fun activities that lay the foundation of food literacy for our students, an important building block for their healthy future.

WHAT: ***Eat-In Ontario***, FoodShare's fun-filled gathering of over 700 students on the front lawn of Queen's Park to celebrate the Fall harvest with a series of hands-on activities showcasing food literacy and nutrition programming in schools, just in time for Thanksgiving. Those attending are in the vanguard of a new movement of educators and students proving that hands-on food literacy education can be simply and easily integrated into the school day, creating the foundation for a healthy future.

WHERE: Queen's Park South (entire South Lawn bordered by Queen's Park Crescent and Legislative Building)

WHEN: Friday, October 8, 10:30am-2:00pm
→ Minister of Children and Youth Services Laurel Broten joins students from 11:30am-12:00pm
→ Synchronized apple crunch (FoodShare's Great Big Crunch) at 1:45pm, dignitaries + 700 students

WHY: How children eat when they are young lays the foundation for life-long patterns, and yet many students arrive at school hungry, unable to learn and participate, and our schools do not provide the tools they need to make healthy decisions to sustain themselves. Given widespread concern around childhood obesity and diabetes, it is more important than ever before that our schools provide a healthy foundation for children, teaching students to garden, cook a healthy meal, compost and understand where their food comes from. This event is the official launch of FoodShare's ***Recipe for Change*** initiative, which aims to mobilize students, educators, families, farmers, policy-makers and key decision-makers to become involved in integrating cooking, gardening, composting, nutrition and food literacy into the provincial curriculum and school practices from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12.

WHO:

- 700 school children, Junior Kindergarten through Grade 12
- Ontario Minister of Children and Youth Services Laurel Broten, representing the Premier of Ontario
- Representatives from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, Ontario Trillium Foundation, FoodShare Toronto, Sustain Ontario

VISUALS: Diverse and excited students engaging in fun activities: Apple Dance Party, Composting Family Feud, Pollination Patrol Relay Race, Plant Art, Vegaquarium, File-a-Sprout, Schoolbus Kitchen, Harvest Tastings, with the day culminating in a synchronized local apple crunch at 1:45pm.

FoodShare Toronto (www.foodshare.net) is Canada's largest community food security organization. Now in its 26th year, FoodShare works with communities to improve access to healthy, affordable, sustainably produced food through community-based programs and policy recommendations, with a vision of Good Healthy Food for All. FoodShare Toronto created the model for student nutrition programs in the City of Toronto, which works hand-in-hand with our Field to Table Schools program, the educational complement that returns food education to schools through curriculum connections from Junior Kindergarten through Grade 12 to cultivate food literacy. Our "Good Food Café" is a successful healthy cafeteria, which the Toronto Star has called "the future of school lunches."