

**MAPC Resolution # 1**  
**Approved 2013**  
**Manitoba School Division Guidelines**  
**Regarding School Lunch Hour Programs Operated by Parent Groups**

*- Respectfully submitted by the Manitoba Association of Parent Councils Board of Directors for consideration at its 2013 Annual General Meeting.*

**Background**

Parents and volunteers in public schools in Manitoba are often delegated or assume the responsibility of operating school based lunch hour programs. This service aims to provide a safe and secure environment while meeting the needs of the school community and the students. The guidelines provided by local schools and divisions vary greatly.

**Introduction Statement**

Lunch hour programs are provided to accommodate families requiring supervision for their children during the lunch hour. Lunch hour programs are often a shared responsibility between parents, parental groups, schools, and school divisions.

Some schools and/or school divisions have implemented very detailed guidelines for parents and volunteers to follow, while others have few in place. Lack of clear direction and guidelines may lead to the following:

- misunderstandings regarding current practice
- equity of access for all students based on ability to pay
- confusion about nutritional guidelines
- misunderstandings about supervisory responsibilities
- safety concerns
- concerns about transparent accounting guidelines when fees are charged

Volunteers and parents often become frustrated due to the lack of clear policies and guidelines and frequently feel that they have no recourse to help address their concerns.

*While MAPC provides supports to its membership to assist with the understanding of the operation of effective lunch hour programs, we cannot encourage the use of divisional guidelines which do not exist, are difficult to find, or are open to misinterpretation or misunderstanding. This process should include a clear conflict resolution process to address problems when they occur.*

**Action Request**

Manitoba Association of Parent Councils (MAPC) strongly requests all school division leadership teams in Manitoba work in consultation with parents and volunteers to review, create, or further develop clear and effective divisional guidelines for school based lunch hour programs.