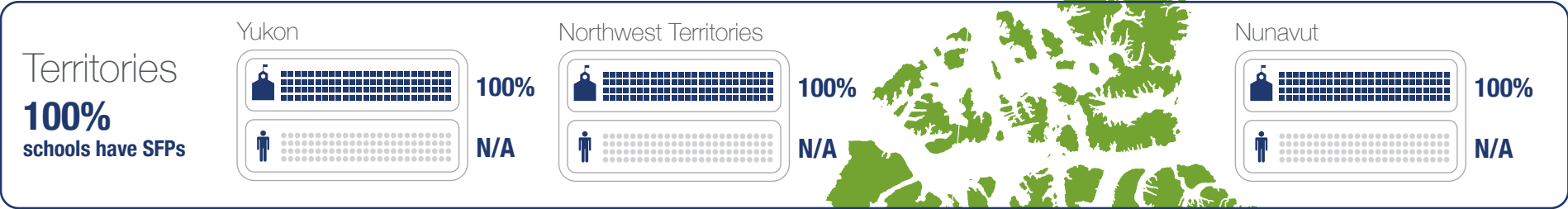
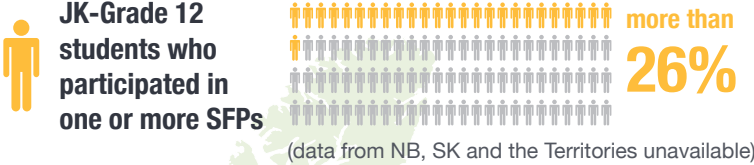



SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMS IN 2023/24


School food programs (SFPs) have operated for decades in Canada, but access varies across the country. In April 2024, the Government of Canada announced a National School Food Program, with a \$1 billion investment over five years to provide meals to an additional 400,000 children annually. Although this falls short of program for all JK–Grade 12 students, the federal and new provincial and territorial investments move Canada closer to achieving a universal program.



PROVINCIAL SFP STATISTICS MAP



Percent of schools with SFPs



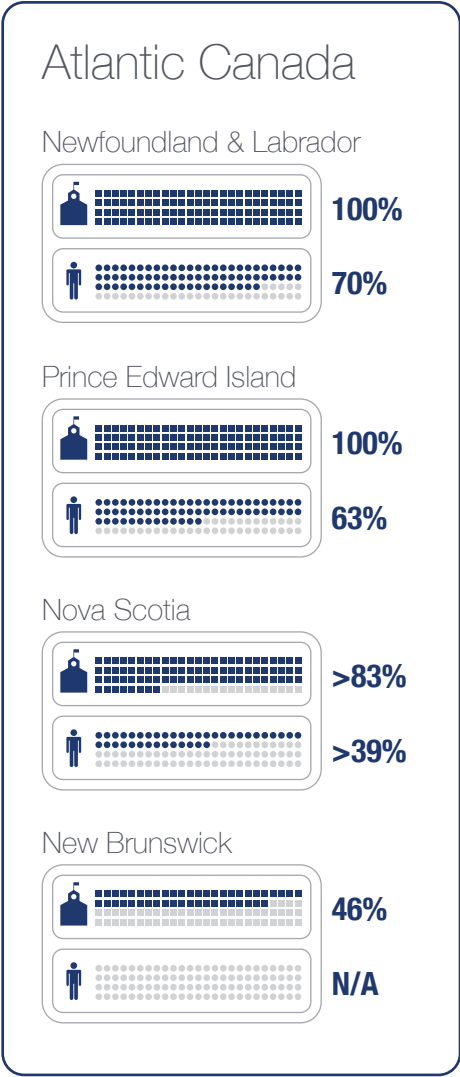
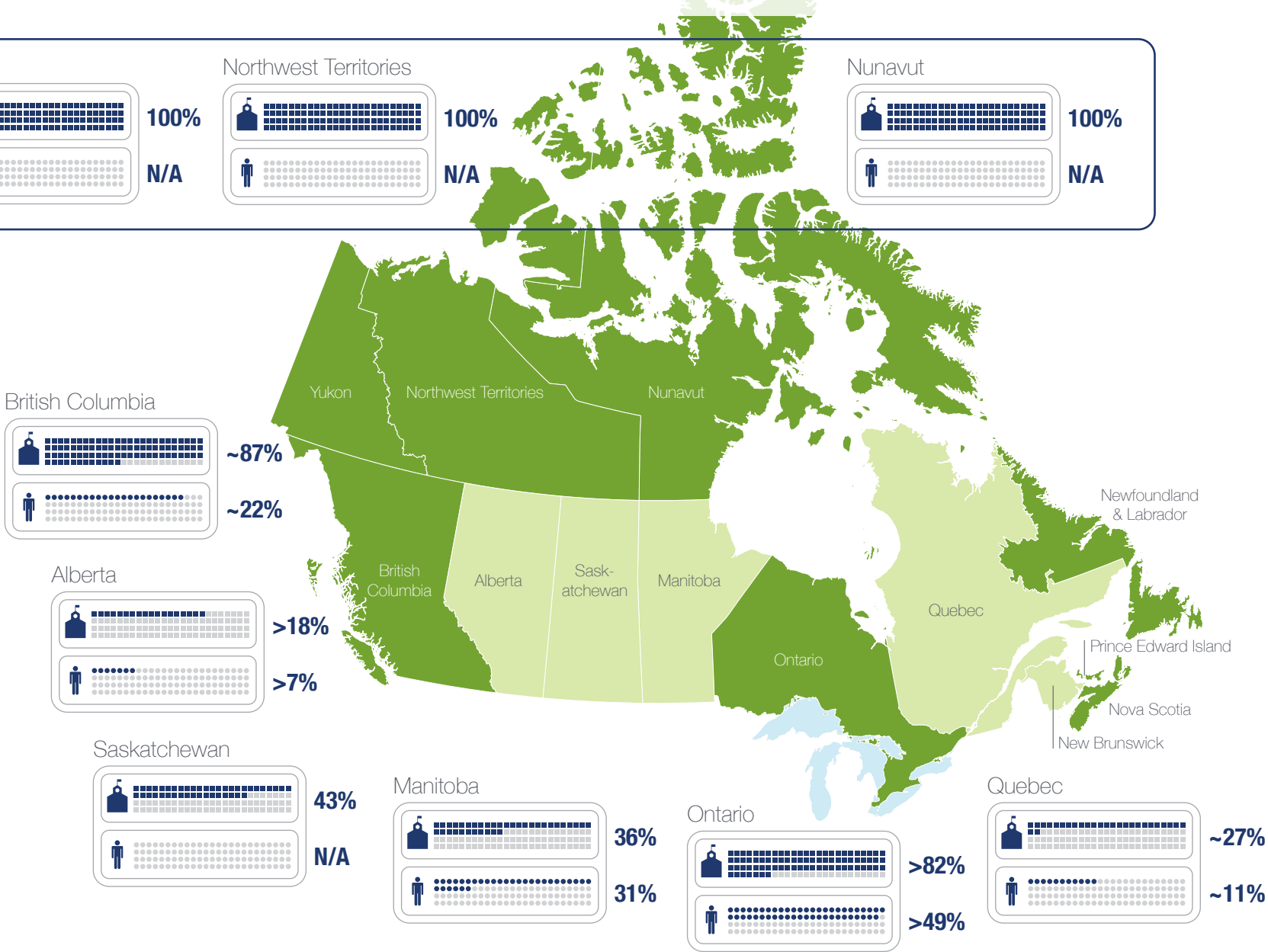
Percent of students who participate in SFPs

Level of SFP accessibility:
(% of schools with SFPs)

<50%

50-75%

>75%



THE ARRELL FAMILY
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WHAT'S NEXT?

The Government of Canada aims to finalize agreements with all provinces and territories by the end of the first year of the program in 2024-25. Agriculture and Agrifood Canada is also supporting not-for-profit organizations to invest in infrastructure and equipment to support SFPs through the \$20.2 million School Food Infrastructure Fund. Going forward, sustained long-term commitments are needed to achieve a universal SFP for all students, and expand the number of meals served.

Source: Ruetz, Amberley T. (2025). The 2023/24 Canadian School Food Program Survey. Funded by the Arrell Family Foundation.