

### Hometown dance company unveiling new production

Stouffville's Motus O dance theatre has adapted Canadian playwright Patrick Friese's *The Shunning* into a dance play. Performances take place at Stouffville's Lebovic Centre for Arts and Entertainment - Nineteen on the Park

Oct. 11 and 12. Integrating dance and text, humour and deep sadness, *The Shunning* is the story of Peter, a Mennonite farmer, who must learn how to survive after being shunned by his community for questioning its doctrines. Joining Motus O's company members on stage will be guest artist Trevor Copp.

Motus O was founded in 1990 by the company's artistic directors, James Croker, Cynthia Croker and Jack Langenhuisen. The company is known for its physical inventiveness, lightning quick action, grace, raw energy and humour. For tickets, go to <http://nineteenonthePark.com/>

# Some teachers anxious

From page 1.

The Liberal government, trying to tackle its deficit, wants to pass legislation that would freeze teachers' salaries, except for grid movement, impose three unpaid days off, reduce by half the number of sick days to 10 and stop the banking of unused sick pay.

Education Minister Laurel Broten says Bill 115, set for third reading Monday, saves education dollars to allow full-day kindergarten and smaller class sizes.

"Working together with our teachers, students and parents, we are making Ontario a global leader in education," Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty said Tuesday. "It's important to protect these gains and keep putting our students first in order to build a bright future for our children and grandchildren."

The legislation, the Liberals said, is necessary to ensure a smooth return to school.

But Mr. Clegg called that "political grandstanding" designed to confuse byelection voters in Vaughan and Kitchener-Waterloo.

The teachers always planned to resume their duties as usual this week, he said.

"I can tell you there will not be any disruption due to strike in September," Mr. Clegg said.

But as teachers grow more anxious, frustrated and angry, some are balking at extra volunteer duties, he said.

#### 'WEARING EFFECT'

Teachers have e-mailed him to say they are uncomfortable volunteering extra time in the strained environment, he said. The union is not advocating teachers opt out of extra-curriculars.

"We've told them not to do anything other than do their best," he said. "People will make their choices."

"Right now, they're going on the excitement and adrenalin of a new group of kids in the classroom, but the longer it goes on, it definitely has a wearing effect."

Mr. Clegg, former head of the provincial federation, said he fielded a constant stream of phone calls Tuesday from teachers worried about what they should do if they are sick or in an automobile accident in the coming weeks.

"We had no answers for them because legislation has not passed and it's not clearly explained in the legislation."

There are also concerns the government could claw back sick days and salary increases that came with this week's paycheques. Existing contracts expired Aug. 31, but without a new deal, were automatically rolled over Sept. 1.

Teachers are wondering what to do with that salary increase, some setting it aside in separate accounts in case the government asks for it back.

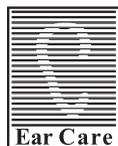
"We've told them to consider the implications," he said.

He said his union is most disturbed by statements in Bill 115 indicating no decisions made by the minister or cabinet under the act shall be questioned or reviewed in any court.

"Since when do governments in democratic countries try to pass laws that prevent judicial review?"

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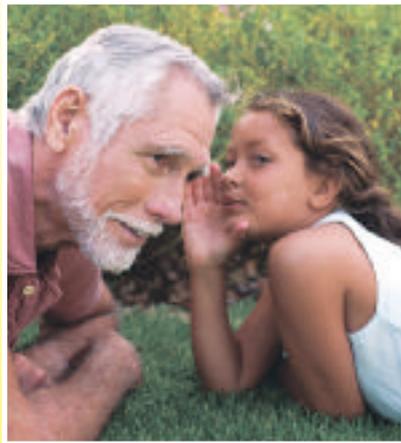
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