

No talks scheduled in teachers' dispute

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day," said Mike Walsh, chair of the teachers' negotiating team.

The 273 Ontario Secondary School teachers' Federation (OSSTF) members teach close to 4,000 students in 15 provincial schools for the deaf and blind — including Milton's E.C. Drury School for the Deaf.

The teachers also instruct students in adult correctional institutions.

They have been in negotiations with the Provincial Schools Authority since last June.

Mr. Chudleigh said he was hopeful that the sides could come to an agreement even though talks have broken down.

"There's nothing scheduled but we believe

they'll meet again soon," he said.

The special needs teachers are hoping to achieve wage parity with teachers employed by the school boards.

Talks went into high gear after the teachers threatened to walk off the job beginning at 12.01 a.m. Tuesday.

Demonstration

The day before, Milton special needs teachers rallied for a one hour demonstration outside of Mr. Chudleigh's two Main Street offices.

The teachers had hoped to speak with Mr. Chudleigh, who was campaigning in Burlington at the time.

After being informed of the protest, Mr.

Chudleigh hurried back to Milton, but the crowd had already dispersed.

Though both sides returned to the table that night, negotiations broke down at 5 a.m. Tuesday.

At press time, they had not yet resumed.

"They were it at all night, it looked like we were making some headway, then it all bogged down," said Mr. Walsh.

Though the teachers have agreed to stay on the job, the union has instituted a 'pink letter', which blacklists the provincial authority as an employer.

"We are trying to achieve a just agreement without disrupting the lives of the students and their parents," said Mr. Walsh.

Daily phone calls to the Ministry of Education have kept Mr. Chudleigh updated on the situation.

Local nurses ask where money is

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but that's the reality of a healthy economy."

Though recent health care spending announcements may sound good, the funds haven't trickled down to the front line, said Ms Blake.

"There have been lots of announcements about money but it's not happening yet. They get announced and re-announced but nothing gets moving."

Those funds have largely been allocated, with some money invested in Halton, said Mr. Chudleigh.

"Right here in Halton we have a brand new dialysis machine, a new magnetic resonance imaging unit and 650 long term care beds," he said.

"These are the kind of expenditures being made to bring health care back to Halton."

A redistribution of health care has shifted nurses away from hospitals and into community services such as homecare and long term care facilities, said Mr. Chudleigh.

"We think people are getting better and more local care," he said. "We've got a lot of examples of how money has been redistributed not to where hospitals are, but to where patients are."

Mr. Chudleigh said that while the union may have come out swinging at election time, the non-unionized Professional Registered Nurses Association of Ontario is behind many of the current government's initiatives.

"We're kind of disappointed at the way the ONA is playing politics with this," he said.

All suspects rounded up

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man. They then fled with cash.

The youth faces charges of robbery, break and enter, possession of weapons dangerous to the public peace, threatening death, assault with a weapon and breach of probation.

Another 16-year-old youth, formerly of Milton, was arrested last week in connection with the two incidents.

And earlier, a 12-year-old Milton youth was arrested in connection with the two incidents as well as another home invasion on MacDonald Crescent.

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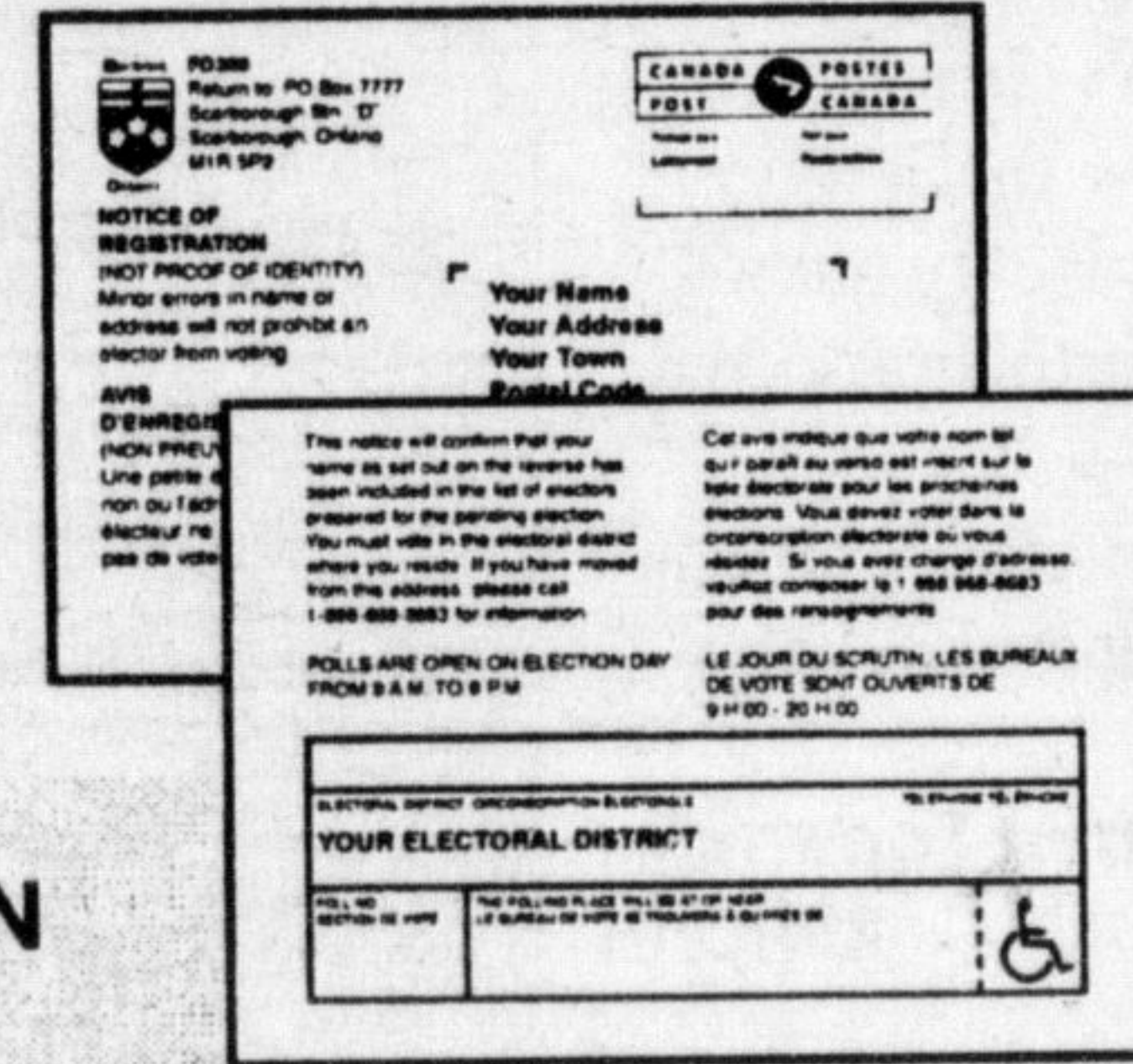
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June 3, 1999

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