Protesters continue to call on Liberals to keep Trillium School open

By Melanie Hennessey CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

A large crowd of protesters gathered outside Halton MPP Indira Naidoo-Harris' office Friday afternoon urging the Liberal government to commit to keeping the Province's deaf and demonstration schools open.

The rally brought together about 100 supporters, including the

unions representing the schools' staff, along with teachers, members of the deaf community, parents and children.

"The intent of the rally was to raise awareness about the Liberal party's failure to make a commitment to provincial schools, and to let the government know that austerity on the most vulnerable students cannot continue," Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation district

30 president David Sykes told the Champion.

Recently the Province held consultations addressing the future of five deaf and demonstration schools, including Milton's Trillium Demonstration School on Ontario Street a process that left many fearing the facilities for severely dyslexic or deaf children will close for good in the name of budget savings.

The ministry is also eyeing Sago-

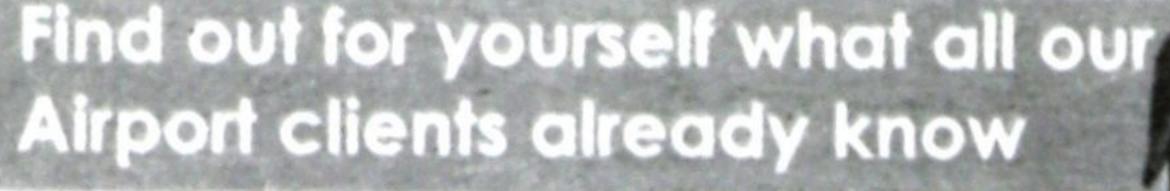
naska Demonstration School in Belleville, Amethyst Demonstration School in London, Robarts School for the Deaf in London and Centre Jules-Leger in Ottawa, which serves French students who are deaf, deafblind and/or have severe learning disabilities.

The consultations concluded last month, but the outcome has yet to be announced. In the interim, Windsor West NDP MPP Lisa Gretzky put

forth a motion at Queen's Park to 2 keep the demonstration schools open and expand their services. N Despite full support from the NDP and PC representatives, the motion — voting it down.

During the protest, Naidoo-Harris 2 addressed those in attendance and \$ spoke of her support for the provincial schools — a sentiment that □ had rally-goers asking why she **5**

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