

A message to the Parents and Guardians of York Region public school students from The York Region Board of Education

Dear Parents and Guardians:

It would appear that a strike by our elementary teachers is imminent.

Despite our best efforts to reach a new contract, the unions representing our 3,300 elementary school teachers are poised to call a halt to learning in our 105 elementary schools beginning on March 24, 1997.

This is a trying time for everyone in our community. Everyone and every institution faces financial hardship. Our board is no exception.

We appreciate that a strike places a greater burden for care on parents and guardians. Please understand that we are doing all we can to end this dispute as quickly as possible and return to providing the high quality education that has made York Region public schools famous.

You should know that, during this period, our Board is committed to:

- providing safe school and working environments for students, staff, and visitors;
- resolving the dispute as quickly as possible on terms mutually agreeable to the Board and its teachers;
- minimizing the impact on student programs;
- returning to normal school functions as soon as possible after a settlement;
- continuing to promote confidence in York Region public schools and in our teachers while the labour dispute is being resolved;
- maintaining positive relationships with all employees; and
- endeavoring to maintain ongoing communications with our public and employee groups.

We will be sending further information home to you by Wednesday of this week to help you prepare and to let you know what you can expect. For regular information updates, please call (416) 969-7170 Ext. 2899, or (905) 727-0022, Ext. 2899.

Providing quality education is a community responsibility -- yours, ours, and our teachers'. Thank you for your patience and support.

Sincerely,

Bill Crothers
Chair of the Board

