

# Children used as pawns in teacher dispute: Reader says

Dear Editor,

On Tuesday, March 4 my daughter came home from school with a letter addressed to parents and guardians, from Bill Crothers, chair of the York Region Board of Education. Because of the contents, I returned this letter to Mr. Crothers accompanied by a brief note.

My son, who attends a different school in York Region, came home with an identical letter on Wednesday, March 5. This prompted me to write to you.

The letter addresses the impending strike in the York Region Board of Education. After reading the letter, I became outraged that my children were used as pawns to convey a very biased message. Mr. Crothers states that the board has put forth its best efforts to reach a new contract. It is my understanding the courts found the board to be bargaining in bad faith.

I find the statement, "teachers are poised to call a halt to learning" very prejudicial.

Mr. Crothers also says that financial hardships are faced by the board. He neglects to mention that teachers also face hardships caused by cost cutting measures. Examples are increased class sizes and pay cuts.

Most teachers have a three or four year Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Education, and additional qualification courses which teachers pay for and take in their own time.

Other professionals, with a comparable education usually earn much more than teachers.

In his letter, Mr. Crothers gives advice on how to best cross a picket line.

By doing this, is Mr. Crothers also encouraging people to cross a picket line?

Parents entrust their children to teachers for the major part of their children's day.

Teachers are a very caring group.

Many people choose to be teach-

ers because they truly like working with children. In this difficult time let's support our teachers.

Letters

Lynn Crymble  
Stouffville

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