

Pitch-In Canada campaign ready to clean up

A massive campaign to clean up Canada from coast to coast to coast is being planned by Pitch-In Canada, a national voluntary organization which promotes individual responsibility for keeping Canada beautiful.

The non-profit organization has mailed out more than 30,000 letters to schools, local governments, Scouts, Guides, Women's Institutes, Chambers of Commerce and many others inviting them to help clean up Canada during national Pitch-In Canada Week to be held May 5-11,

1997, local weather conditions permitting.

"Millions of Pitch-In volunteers will be bending down, picking-up and pitching-in," says Allard van Veen, a founding member in 1967 and President of the non-profit organization.

"Keeping Canada clean starts with us when we participate in action programs which improve our environment. It's that easy!"

Municipalities, businesses and service clubs have been encouraged by Pitch-In Canada to provide free garbage

bags and recognition to local Pitch-In volunteers.

"More than 50 cities, districts, counties and municipalities, including Edmonton, Windsor, Hamilton, Kamloops and Hay Lakes, are already 'on-board', providing free Pitch-in bags. B.C. Hydro has also re-committed their support of the program in British Columbia and we hope that other Canadian companies will help out as well," added van Veen.

Any companies that wish to help out can contact him at (604) 290-0498.

To register a project for Pitch-In Canada Week, contact Pitch-In Canada on the internet at www.Pitch-In.ca or send a self-addressed, postage paid envelope to Pitch-In Canada Week, P.O. Box 45011, Ocean Park RPO, White Rock, B.C. V4A 9L1.

"Our web site has all the information you need to join in," comments van Veen, who started "pitching-in" when he was a teenager.

Pitch-In Canada is one of the first voluntary organizations to go "on-line" to enable volunteers to register their

project via the internet and obtain supporting information as well as recognition for local volunteers.

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It's Disappointing!

York Region Board of Education trustees have rejected the final offer from the unions representing its 3,300 elementary school teachers.

Why?

The Board has asked each of its employees to acknowledge its collective financial hardship -- provincial cuts of more than \$20 million -- without having to cut programs or their jobs.

And yet, the unions are asking for major enhancements to their collective agreements that are clearly beyond our financial ability.

For example, the unions:

- demand 200 minutes of preparation time within a newly defined 5-hour day;
- want an early retirement incentive plan;
- demand the mandatory hiring of extra teachers for any new programs;
- want upgraded dental benefits;
- demand part-time teachers automatically receive full-time jobs after five months;
- want a lower pupil-teacher ratio;
- demand the elimination of teacher supervision while students eat their lunch; and
- want major changes to contract language that severely restrict the Board's ability to manage in a new economic environment.

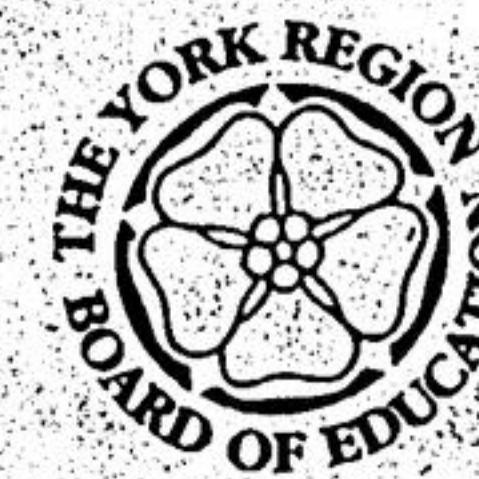
The unions' final offer adds costs to the Board and to community taxpayers. Tell the union leaders for York Region's elementary school teachers what you think about their taking teachers out on strike.

Phone:

The Federation of Women Teachers Association (905) 727-7014
or the Ontario Public School Teachers Federation at (905) 895-8988.

Quality public education is a community responsibility -- yours, ours, and our teachers'.

Thank you for your patience and support.



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