



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release
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Implications of Elementary Job Action in Grand Erie and Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show

Brantford ON: The Director of Education, Brenda Blancher, held a conference call today with the Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show organizers to provide details on the current state of job action by the Grand Erie Elementary Teachers' Federation (GEETF) and the implications for the Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show.

Young Canada Day, held this year on October 6, has been a long-standing tradition as a Community Event Day for the Norfolk County schools. The Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario made it clear that teachers, including members of GEETF, will not participate in field trips.

In Grand Erie, a Community Event Day is similar to a field trip and requires the presence of teachers. The Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show cannot be designated as a Community Event Day in light of the current job action and therefore, October 6 will be a regular instructional school day for elementary students and transportation will run as normal.

"We remain hopeful that the negotiated provincial agreements with all of our employee groups will be reached," said Carol Ann Sloat, Chair of the Board. "In the event a provincial settlement is reached and the job action sanctions are lifted prior to Young Canada Day, we will resume business as usual."

Today's conference call with the Fair organizers was an attempt to articulate the position that Grand Erie District School Board is in and the implications of the current elementary job action.

"Grand Erie District School Board places a high value on our community fairs and the educational and engagement opportunities they present for our students," said Brenda Blancher, Director of Education. "We regret the implications of the current job action as it relates to Young Canada Day at the Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show and thank the Board of Directors and organizers for their understanding."

Secondary teachers are not impacted by the elementary teachers' job action and secondary students will fully participate in Young Canada Day activities.

For more information, please visit the Labour Update section at www.granderie.ca.

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