



The Northwest Catholic District School Board

555 Flinders Avenue, Fort Frances, Ontario P9A 3L2
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Jackie Robinson
Director of Education, Secretary to the Board

November 2, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian;

Re: Schools Closed to Students (School-Aged Children) effective Friday, November 4, 2022, until further notice.

Please be advised that all TNCSDB schools will be closed to students beginning on Friday, November 4, 2022, unless a resolution to the contract negotiations is found between the Ontario Government/Trustee Associations and CUPE before that date.

Please do not send your child to school beginning Friday, November 4. TNCSDB will advise families when students may return to in-person learning.

As you may be aware from news reports, the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) has given notice of full withdrawal of services beginning November 4, 2022.

CUPE members employed by TNCSDB in our schools include the following:

- Education Assistants
- Early Childhood Educators
- Custodial and maintenance staff
- School administrative assistants (secretaries)
- Child and Youth Workers
- Information Services (IT)

CUPE staff provide critical supports to students and help to ensure our schools and systems operate safely. Without student support and supervision and safe, clean buildings, TNCSDB must close schools to school-aged children for in-person learning.

We understand that closing schools is difficult for families, students, and our staff. We pray for a quick resolution to the labour issues between CUPE and the Province. At this time, we must make this difficult decision as we cannot ensure the safety of our students and staff without our CUPE employees present at work.

Until we have an understanding of how long CUPE will be withdrawing services, the following will apply:

- Children will be provided with learning activities to be completed at home. Teachers will be sending 1 day of learning activities with your child at the end of day Thursday. Subsequent lessons will be provided or a decision to pivot to online learning will follow if the strike action goes beyond November 4. Further information will be sent to parents/guardians next week, if applicable.
- All **Community Use of Schools** permits will be cancelled beginning Friday, November 4. TNCDSEB will advise user groups and keep them updated on a weekly basis.
- Before and After School Programs and sports/clubs will be cancelled beginning November 4 until further notice.
- Daycare centres housed in our schools may still be open. Please wait for communication from your child(ren)s Daycare Centre for further information.

TNCDSEB will communicate with families when their child(ren) may return to in-person learning. Please continue to monitor your email and our Facebook Page/Website for updates.

Sincerely,

Jackie Robinson
Director of Education

Kathy Bryck
Board Chair

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