

O.S.S.T.F. District 4 Teachers Bargaining Unit

347 Sherbrooke St. – Suite 207

North Bay, Ontario, P1B 2C1

Cell: 477-2839

Glen Hodgson, President

district4osstf@gmail.com



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For Immediate Release

Pink slip rally planned for Wednesday

The union representing the 114 secondary teachers declared redundant by the Near North District School Board will be holding a rally in front of Vic Fedeli's office in North Bay on Wednesday, May 8th beginning at 4:30 P.M. Teachers who were handed their layoff notices will be joined by their colleagues as well as members of the community in an effort to show the MPP the human side of the job losses that Mr. Fedeli has claimed were not going to happen.

“My members were devastated by the job loss and even more upset by the continued confusion and lack of clarity on funding for our school board”, stated Glen Hodgson, President of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation in the Near North. “There is no doubt that the current government has thrown our education system into chaos and there is also little doubt that the Near North is being disproportionality affected by these cuts”

The late announcement of annual provincial budgets for schools, coupled with the cancellation of several programming grants, has caused chaos at the school board, since staffing and timetabling is usually complete by this point in the year. With the current government's lack of clarity and transparency, it appears that it will still be weeks before the Near North has a full understanding of the funding priorities under which it will have to operate.

“We also know that this uncertainty and loss of decent jobs will affect the local economy in all of our communities, and it places programing and schools at risk” reiterated Hodgson.

Members of the public are welcome to join the really in solidarity with the educational workers.

More information or request for interviews can be directed to:

Glen Hodgson

President, District 4, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation

705 477 2839

waubeek@hotmail.com