



MEDIA RELEASE

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Halton District School Board declares 154 secondary school teachers potentially redundant

Today 154 Halton public high school teachers received letters telling them that they are potentially redundant, meaning they may not have a teaching position in September. This is a direct result of the Ford government's proposed increase in average class size ratios from 22:1 to 28:1.

"This is an unprecedented number of potentially redundant teachers for the Halton District School Board," said Cindy Gage, Teachers' Bargaining Unit President in District 20 of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF). "Despite government claims that letters such as these are part of a routine process at school boards across the province, there is absolutely nothing routine about numbers this high in Halton. This is not business as usual."

In recent weeks OSSTF members have met with Halton MPPs Jane McKenna, Stephen Crawford, Parm Gill and Effie Triantafilopoulos, and have told them that the government's proposed cuts will have a devastating impact on student learning.

"We asked our MPPs to oppose these cuts and to deliver our message to Queen's Park," said Gage. "But the provincial budget confirmed that the government plans to move forward with its changes. Clearly the concerns of frontline educators in Halton and elsewhere were simply dismissed."

"Enrolment in Halton is growing and the school board should be hiring teachers, not pondering layoffs," continued Gage. "But thanks to the government's plan, student learning will suffer. Class sizes will balloon, students will receive less individual attention, and the availability of some courses will be impacted. This is very bad news for students in Halton Region."

OSSTF/FEESO District 20 represents Teachers, Occasional Teachers, Professional Student Services Personnel and Office Clerical and Technical staff employed by the Halton District School Board.

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