

Ministry of Education

Deputy Minister

Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Sous-ministre

Édifice Mowat
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Toronto ON M7A 1L2

MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education in English Public School Boards
Chairs of English Public School Boards
Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)

FROM: George Zegarac
Deputy Minister

DATE: January 10, 2013

SUBJECT: **Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario threat to take an illegal strike**

As you know, the government is responding to the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) threat to take an illegal strike tomorrow. Collective agreements for ETFO are in place across the province. Under the Labour Relations Act, strike action by a union while a collective agreement is in place can be addressed through the OLRB. The Putting Students First Act allows the Minister of Education, if she is of the opinion that it would be in the public interest, to take an application to the OLRB and that is what we have done.

An application was filed last night with the Ontario Labour Relations Board seeking a decision to prevent the ETFO's threatened illegal strike activity and asking the OLRB to order the union to cease and desist counselling an illegal strike.

Please find attached a ruling from the OLRB on timing. The hearing will take place at 3pm today. The government and ETFO will have an opportunity to bring forward arguments. It is our hope that a decision will be reached quickly by the OLRB in order to prevent an illegal strike from happening on Friday.

In the attached decision, the OLRB has directed that we "take all reasonable steps to bring this decision to the attention of any employee or union official who may be affected by the situation under reviews, or the remedies which the applicant seeks."

That is why I'm asking you to please make every reasonable effort to share this memo along with the OLRB's decision with your affected employees. In addition, in the interest of stability and certainty for parents, I'm asking that you please share on your website or through your other communication channels to parents and students.

We will continue to keep you updated about the status of the hearing so you are aware that a decision will be coming shortly.

I expect you to have a protocol in place to be able to quickly communicate any further developments to employees and parents.

Please keep in touch with us through field services branch with any questions and we will do our best to provide you with answers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Zegarac". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G'.

George Zegarac
Deputy Minister

Attachment: Ontario Labour Relations Board