

## **PRESENTATION TO THE DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

**Thursday, September 14, 2006**

By Tina DiVona  
President  
CUPE 2026

Thank you once again to the Board of Trustees for this opportunity to speak with you again about the impact of budget difficulties. This is the third time in two weeks that I have come before you to try and stress the importance of the impact this proposed Plan A or B or C if implemented. They say that three times is the charm ... and my prayers are that this will be the case tonight.

You have demonstrated through Plan A and B, and verbally, that the impact to your employees will be by attrition or by job freeze. When did the members of this local, some now facing layoffs become the sacrificial lambs? On Monday, I showed you the 20 people that would be affected by a layoff. Tonight I would like to show you the dominoes effect it will have. They are carrying white candles as a sign of unity. I like to quote from the bible - Romans 15 "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Jesus Christ".

We have all made a promise to keep our Catholic Education alive. With each and every candle that is not lit, it represents the darkness that our Catholic Faith will endure.

Ask yourselves - What can be accomplished by the layoffs of 20 employees? Is the layoff of 20 of your employees going to have a serious impact on the current budget difficulties? I don't believe so.

We have paid the same heavy price as anyone else to date. When this board of trustees decided to run a postcard campaign called "Mr. Premier help us, don't hurt our schools" I ask, Mr. Ferreira, Ms. Abbruscato, Mr. Peters, Mr. Adamson, Ms. Zanella, Mr. Pascucci, Mr. Casuga, Ms. Thomas, Mr. Iannica, Ms O'Toole, Mr. Di Cosola - who were the employees that gave you the extra time to make sure that delivery and collection was done in a matter that would guarantee you successful campaign! We have supported you in many ways during, before and after work in all your endeavours - therefore I ask you -WHY are only the members of Local 2026 been targeted for layoff? Why are the children of a lesser God!

As mentioned by John Kostof on Monday night we are already well below our counterpart Peel District School Board in our ratios. By reducing vital staff, job quality and students safety will be in danger

We have a government in Ontario that made a promise to us.  
Tonight you are called upon to say "NO" no to the funding policies.

**By saying “No” you are also delivering a message that you will not be guilty by association. Your actions tonight will assure the parents, students and employees that you are their voice - you are the leaders and not the followers!**

**Dalton McGinty is using you as the scapegoat to their empty promises; take a stand and be accounted for!**

**Make them accountable for their empty promises. Make them keep their promises to our children. Stand up for Catholic Education.**

**Say NO, NO, NO – stand up to the liberal government!**

**We have much to learn by the actions of the Trustees from other boards who have welcomed a supervisor in their system. Don’t be afraid, Jesus carried a cross for us, now it is our turn to carry it for our children.**

**May the light of Christ strengthen our sense of purpose.**

**Thank you,**

**Tina DiVona  
President  
Local 2026**