



Mark Fisher, Director of Education and Secretary

2019 October 3

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On October 2, members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) announced a full withdrawal of services (legal strike action) in Ontario schools beginning on Monday, October 7, unless progress is made at the central bargaining table with the Ministry of Education and the trustees' association.

After thoughtful discussion and considering all options, Thames Valley District School Board has decided to close schools for all students effective Monday, October 7, unless an agreement is reached before that time. If a settlement is reached, we will communicate with families as quickly as possible when students may return to class.

We recognize the significant impact this has on families, staff and our school communities.

Thames Valley will not be able to ensure student safety as more than 3,400 of our employees are CUPE members who will not be reporting to work if an agreement is not reached. CUPE staff include custodians, early childhood educators, educational assistants, school and central clerical, technical support (IT) and maintenance.

Due to anticipated school closures for an indefinite period of time, families are strongly encouraged to make alternate arrangements for children.

Our valued CUPE staff are critical front-line employees of Thames Valley District School Board. We respect the negotiation process and remain hopeful that an agreement can be reached at the provincial bargaining table.

Updated information will be posted on www.tvdsb.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M Fisher". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Mark Fisher
Director of Education

Thames Valley District School Board - Organizational Support Services

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We build each student's tomorrow, every day.