

An open letter from Upper Grand District School Board custodians to parents, teachers and concerned citizens



CUSTODIANS DESERVE RESPECT TOO

We are the 230 custodians, maintenance and tradespeople that clean 70 elementary and secondary schools in your area.

Everyday, we come to work proud to do our part in your children's education. Our part is to keep schools clean and safe for students and teachers.

Each custodian cleans over 19,500 square feet of school hallways, classrooms, washrooms and yards a day!

Through years of budget cuts and increasing workloads, we have struggled to do more with less. Meanwhile, our wages and benefits have not kept up.

We get paid over \$1.50 less an hour than custodians in schools across central and southern Ontario.

Sick leave provisions are so restrictive, that they are often not taken. When they are, there are not enough custodians left to pick up the extra work.

We don't get the respect that we deserve in the workplace and enough is enough.

Upper Grand District School Board's Human Resource manager offered us an embarrassing half of one percent wage increase. That's half of one percent!

Teachers and school support staff both received 3% wage increases in their most recent rounds of negotiations.

Our contract expired on December 31, 2003 and the board doesn't take our negotiations seriously.

Please help us reach a fair settlement that keeps our schools clean, safe and open and our work respected.

Both parties will be meeting with a Labour Ministry appointed conciliator on March 31, 2004. Please call your trustee to say, "custodians deserve respect too".

We all deserve respect in the workplace. Help us get ours.

Please take a moment to call your school board trustee and tell them to get their thinking caps on!

Remind your Trustee that:

- Clean and safe schools are a critical part of our children’s education.
- Each custodian cleans over 19,500 square feet a day. They are doing their part.
- Our school custodians deserve a fair wage increase and decent sick leave provisions.

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Robert J. Borden	Orangeville	846-0288
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Marty Fairbairn	Guelph	824-1703
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Susan Moziar	Guelph	837-3742
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