



East Central Alberta Catholic Separate School Division
Serving the Communities of Castor, Provost, Vermilion, Wainwright, Stettler

March 5, 2025

To Parents/Guardians of Pre-Kindergarten Children (Little Steps),

We want to provide you with an important update regarding your child's Pre-Kindergarten (Little Steps) program.

On February 21, 2025, CUPE Local 5352 applied to the Alberta Labour Relations Board (ALRB) to conduct a supervised strike vote, which took place on March 2 and 3, 2025. **Members voted in favor of a strike, and the ALRB has certified the results.** As a result, CUPE Local 5352 is now in a legal position to issue a 72-hour strike notice and withdraw services in schools.

Should CUPE Local 5352 provide a 72-hour strike notice, all Pre-Kindergarten (Little Steps) programming including morning, afternoon, and full-day programs will be **suspended until further notice.**

We understand that this situation may create uncertainty and challenges for families, and we sincerely apologize for any disruption this may cause. As a Catholic school community, we are called to face challenges with **faith, patience, and unity.** We deeply value the work of our support staff and recognize the essential role they play in the education and well-being of our students. We remain committed to working toward a resolution that reflects our shared values of **fairness, respect, and care for one another.**

Your child's school principal will provide further updates specific to your school. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to them directly.

Thank you for your patience, prayers, and understanding as we navigate this situation together.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Jim Taplin
Superintendent