



**From the Student Trustees of York Region**

Dear Members of York Region Council,

We are the elected Student Trustees of the York Catholic District School Board and the York Region District School Board and collectively represent all 180,000 students in publicly-funded education across York Region.

We write this letter concerning a meeting held on November 16th, 2017 whereby York Region Council voted to eliminate public holidays for retail workers in every city and town in the Region. Despite a request by Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti to allow one month of public consultation, the decision was advanced through Council in one sitting. Public holidays allow students the time to spend with friends and family, take part in hobbies, worship, catch up on school work or simply enjoy their communities.

Many retail workers in York Region are hard working students striving to save for their post-secondary education. These students spend six hours a day stimulating their minds in class, while also working part-time jobs. In the education sector, we constantly hear about the importance of mental health and well-being for students. Students need time to be with their friends and family, and time to enjoy recreational activities and participate in volunteer opportunities. Your decision limits these opportunities. Moreover, students across York Region are working hard and value their time off to revitalise their mental energy.

We firmly believe a full public consultation should be conducted before finalizing a by-law that will affect thousands of York Region students and residents.

On behalf of all 180,000 students in York Region, we urge all Councillors and Mayors in the Region to revisit this decision as soon as possible. We ask that you consider the effects this will initiate for student retail workers, as well as the strain this puts on their families.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Smith".

Ben Smith  
Student Trustee  
YCDSB

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sophia Trozzo".

Sophia Trozzo  
Student Trustee  
YCDSB

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Rico".

Stephanie Rico  
Student Trustee  
YRDSB

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. H".

Mingze Hong  
Student Trustee  
YRDSB