

Lakehead University will move ahead with its proposed four-day shutdown the week before Christmas, despite strong opposition from the institution's faculty association, who say the plan violates members' collective bargaining agreement. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology



Fraud charges in Quebec

According to the Ottawa Citizen, Quebec Provincial Police have charged 25 individuals with fraud over \$5,000 and using false documents in an alleged \$2-million to \$3-million student loan fraud at Night Hawk College, a private computer training school based in Gatineau.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Workology in brief

OTTAWA CUTS FIRST NATIONS DENTAL SCHOOL BUDGET: According to the Regina Leader-Post, the federal government is cutting the \$2-million budget of the National School of Dental Therapy, a Prince Albert-based First Nations dental school, arguing it does not fit with its mandate. The school, overseen by the First Nations University of Canada, supplies Aboriginal dental hygienists to dozens of reserves and northern communities across Canada, and there is concern the cuts will have a potentially devastating effect. Government, schools, and First Nations officials are expected to meet this month to discuss the school's future.

\$53 MILLION FOR WATERLOO: According to a new report from the University of Waterloo, donations to the institution in 2008-09 totalled \$53.3 million.

GLOBE AND MAIL RATES MED SCHOOLS: Last week, the Globe and Mail featured a special section on Canadian medical schools. An increasing number of students are opting pursue to careers as general practitioners, due in large part to measures implemented by medical schools in recent years. Despite a doctor shortage across Canada, seats at medical schools are extremely limited because of caps set by the government. To get into med school today, applicants must show they can handle a full workload and be involved in their communities.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

York students give back

Annual party helps out single parents during the holiday season

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada



Providing for children can be trying enough when you're a single parent on a budget living in one of Toronto's at-risk neighbourhoods, let alone worrying how to afford gifts for your kids during the holiday season.

But a growing annual event hosted by the York University Student Centre continues to take the pressure off single parents, if just for one night, by providing a free festive evening for kids, with holiday gifts for both them and mom or dad.

The 6th annual Single Parents @ York Holiday Party takes place at York's The Underground Restaurant tomorrow. It's organized by the Single Parents Committee, which consists of the Student Centre, The Underground and other York offshoots including the Lee Wiggins Childcare Centre, Student Community & Leadership Development and the Centre for Women and Trans People.

Alina Ciobotea helped found the event when she was a student at York Uni-



Once a year, the York University Student Centre helps take the pressure off single parents with their Single Parents @ York Holiday Party.

versity. Now an alumnus, she remains active while working as a project coordinator at Verdier Development Corporation, one of the event's chief sponsors along with Greenwin Property Management and Forum Equity Partners Inc.

Last year the event brought in more than 100 children and 60 adults, figures Ciobotea expects may double or even triple this year. "At the beginning, a lot of them were York University students," she said. "Now, we've expanded to

surrounding at-risk neighbourhoods like Jane and Finch, which is very close to York University."

Ciobotea said the party aims to promote opportunities for children surrounded by crime and violence. "We're trying to create safety for the children, to teach them there are better things out there in the community. If they strive and do well in school, they can do better things for themselves."

The night unfolds at 6 p.m., starting with a holiday

dinner, complete with turkey, followed by a holiday film screening, and magic show. Then, Santa Claus himself visits to hand out gifts tailored to each child and gift packs for parents with practical presents including gift cards for food and toiletries.

By hosting the party, Ciobotea said the committee doesn't just want to extend a hand to families in need, but also pass down a bit of the holiday spirit to kids. "Because we're providing them with a good exam-

You can help too

- To register to attend the event, call the York University Student Centre at 416-736-2100 X: 20299 or visit yorkstudentcentre.com/singleparents.
- To make a financial or gift donation, call Alina Ciobotea at 416-486-4270 X: 2215 or e-mail her at alina@verdiroc.com.



ple, we're hoping when they get older, they can help someone else too."



Improve your English

Our ESL courses help you develop your English language skills for work and for life in Toronto.

We offer basic, intermediate and advanced ESL courses. Plus, you can take courses in conversation, pronunciation, writing, reducing your accent and more.

We hold all of our ESL classes at our Casa Loma campus (near the Dupont subway station), and they take place in the evening or on the weekend. Best of all, the instructors are professional, patient and kind.

Take just one course, or complete the English as a Second Language (ESL) Certificate.

For more information, visit our web site at coned.georgebrown.ca/esl, or call 416-415-5000, ext. 4831. Most classes start the week of January 12.

Not sure which class to start with?

Drop by the Casa Loma campus, near Dupont subway station at 1 Dartnell Avenue, Building D (CLD), room 309, December 14 or 15, from 5 - 7 pm, for help and assessment.

Register now at coned.georgebrown.ca/esl.

