

Ministry of Labour

Office of the Minister

Ministère du Travail

Bureau du ministre



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Petition 191

Petition relating to Picketing of Group Homes (Sessional Paper No. P-191)

Tabled by MPP McDonell on May 9, 2017

Thank you for your petition.

This government has a great deal of respect for the collective bargaining process as a mechanism to resolve labour disputes. The Ministry of Labour's role in this context is to promote a stable and constructive labour relations climate and foster productive workplace relationships.

Ontario has an excellent record of dispute resolution. In fact, 98% of all agreements are reached without strikes or lockouts. However, in the limited situations where a strike or lock-out occurs, all parties need to be respectful of group home clients.

If a lawful strike occurs, and if and when any wrongful conduct takes place, the employer may have several options available to address the situation, including:

- negotiating a picketing protocol with union leaders,
- contacting the local police service,
- seeking assistance through the courts – including an injunction; or
- contacting the local municipality to ensure picketers are adhering to local municipal by-laws.

It is important that we encourage a stable labour relations environment in which parties are able to negotiate with each other in a spirit of mutual respect and trust.

During labour disputes, it is the responsibility of the employer and the union to resolve their differences at the bargaining table. The best agreements are those reached at the negotiating table.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Flynn".

Kevin Flynn  
Minister