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Protest for holiday pay at Earl Rowe park

BY STAFF July 16, 2009 13:07

Visitors to Alliston's Earl Rowe Provincial Park this weekend will be greeted by more than just the giant trout at the park gates. Student protestors who work at the park during the summer will be handing out information leaflets in their fight for vacation pay and holiday pay from the provincial government.

The students are upset at the government's decision to no longer pay its 3,400 student employees for vacations and holidays. Students who work statutory holidays, as they are required to in the provincial parks, will receive no extra pay beyond their hourly wage.

The government's decision to no longer give students 8.16 per cent pay in lieu will cost each student parks employee an average of \$450 over the course of the summer.

The government doesn't have to follow the same labour standards as all other employers in the province. The Employment Standards Act, exempts the Crown from a number of minimum labour standards, including compensating workers for vacation and statutory holidays.

More than 3,000 students work for the Ontario government each summer at provincial parks, tourist attractions, travel information centres, on ferries and for many other programs.

Many of the government services that Ontarians enjoy in the summer rely largely on student labour.

Students at Earl Rowe Provincial Park will leaflet cars going into the park Sat., July 18, from 9 a.m. to noon at the main entrance to the park, north of Highway 89, just west of Alliston on the 7th Line of Adjala Tosorontio

In addition, action is being taken at other parks in the province this weekend. Students from Wasaga Beach Provincial Park will leaflet the main beach area in town on Saturday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Students at Sibbald Point and Six Mile Lake Provincial Parks leafleted cars entering those parks last weekend.



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