

OSSTF Limestone District 27

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Memorandum

To: Executive Members
From: Steve Newstead, District and Teachers' Bargaining Unit President
Date: 1/18/2010
Re: Information Items – C/PAC

The National Farmers Union and partner organizations have been taking actions and building a broad, national campaign to:

- Demonstrate the extent of support for the prison farm program
- Urge the federal government to reverse this short-sighted decision and immediately halt the dismantling process
- Revitalize and re-orient the program toward sustainable farming that will feed the inmates in the long-term, and train them to participate in the sustainable local food systems that will feed our communities in the future
- Connect this issue with the need for the Government of Canada to carry out a comprehensive review of all policies on farming and food. Canadians want food that is healthy, as local as possible, supports farm and food sector incomes, and is sustainable in light of climate change, peak oil, water scarcity and global population growth
- New Democrat MP Malcolm Allen claimed that the inmates who work on these farms are six times less likely to re-offend. He explained, "If we weigh that cost against the cost of maintaining that farm, just for the rehabilitative benefits, it's cheap. And when you also see that the community as a whole is benefiting, that's another positive aspect."

Prison Farms Town Hall with MP Malcolm Allen

Location: Chernoff Hall Room 117

Time: 6:30 p.m. Thursday, January 21st

People of Kingston Against Proroguing

Date: Saturday, January 23, 2010

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Market Square, behind City Hall

Description

Help us peacefully rally together to tell Stephen Harper and our entire Parliament to return.

For those interested, there will also be a one-hour public information meeting inside City Hall during which two noted experts on the Canadian parliamentary system (professors Keith Banting and Ned Franks) will give a 30-minute presentation, followed by 30 minutes of questions and answers. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 12 noon, so that those attendees who want to join in the demonstration will emerge both warm and better informed on exactly what it is they are demonstrating against.

Canadian Civil Liberties Association Petition

I encourage you all to consider signing the petition on the Canadian Civil Liberties Association website calling for an inquiry into the transfer of Afghan detainees. The website for the petition is: http://www.facebook.com/lb7a5a;ccla.org/?page_id=2927