

# Internet safety session in Potton



## THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

On Saturday, Nov. 16, Sargent Steeve Cote from the Quebec Provincial Police was invited to animate an information session on internet safety for youth and parents at the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN) youth centre. The event was organised by the Mansonville Chapter of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) with the support of members of the youth centre staff team, Ethan Ball and Eleanor Cote.

Without doubt, the internet has brought many benefits, but it has also

raised some safety concerns and potential red flags as the potential for crime and predators. It is imperative that children attain safety skills to assure that their Web experience is rewarding and beneficial. Parents, educators and those working with youth must have a clear understanding of where youth go, what they do and the safety issues they may face. Knowledge is power and making youth aware of the potential danger in regards to their actions in a variety of situations is vital.

The Quebec Provincial Police department has put together some valuable videos and discussion materials for officers to share with youth to provoke dialogue and instill a note of caution when communicating with others on the web. Statistics were shared by Sargent Cote and as an officer who has developed a real rapport with kids, it took him little time to have many of the young people present sharing their thoughts and experiences.

"We need more sessions like this," said Ken Clifford, one of the parents in attendance. "Having an officer come to

our community to talk in an intimate setting with our kids allows for them to open up and discuss their thoughts and concerns."

The youth present as well as the parents were impressed with the short videos as they got to the point and made potential danger in exchanging online with someone unknown a very clear concern for the youth. The expressions on the faces of those in attendance as an all too familiar email exchange took place and they watched a variety of outcomes made it evident that the topic gave them a lot to think about.

"This was not the original topic that we had asked Sargent Cote to speak about," shared Ethan Ball, a member of the YC staff team. "Officer Cote felt that this was a necessary discussion and he was right; the youth were onboard immediately."

Cote explained that he has been of-

fering these types of sessions in local schools in both French and English and that the subject and content of the presentation has had an impact on both youth and adults.

In his gentle way, Sargent Cote took questions, listened and reminded the youth that their safety is of the utmost importance. Encouraging the youth, if approached on line or if asked to do something that they feel is wrong, to speak to an adult they trust to get help. He also reminded the youth that their own actions must sometimes be checked assuring that what they are doing is appropriate and in accordance with their parents expectations and rules as well as assuring that they are not breaking the law.

For more information about the Missisquoi North Youth Centre programming, visit [www.cabmn.org](http://www.cabmn.org) or call 450-292-3114.



COURTESY

## CN strike

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Priority has been given to health centres and retirement residences that rely on propane heating as well as farms, which use it to dry grain and heat barns and greenhouses.

"We could lose a lot of animals, a lot of food. We're in an emergency," Legault told reporters in Quebec City. "Honestly we can't draw out this strike for a long time."

The premier expressed hope for a settlement between CN Rail and the union, but called on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the opposition parties to pass back-to-work legislation if necessary ahead of Parliament's scheduled return on Dec. 5.

Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe said Ottawa should signal it is willing "to take swift and urgent action" like enacting a back-to-work bill.

While binding arbitration could avert the need for the legislation, "we're talking hours now, not days," he told reporters Thursday.

Moe said he's spoken to Transport Minister Marc Garneau and Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland about the toll the strike will take on jobs and profits in agriculture, energy and mining. Legault also said he's been in touch with the new cabinet.

Alberta's energy and agriculture ministers have gone slightly further, unconditionally asking Trudeau to reconvene Parliament and pass a back-to-work law.

Canadian Propane Association CEO Nathalie St-Pierre says that six-hour truck lines for propane have already formed in Sarnia, Ont.

"It's having a huge impact. We're very concerned, because propane infrastructure relies heavily on rail," St-Pierre told The Canadian Press. "There's no pipeline that brings propane to Quebec."

About 85 per cent of the province's propane comes via rail, the bulk of it from refineries in Sarnia and some from Edmonton — the country's two propane trading hubs.

The fuel is critical to powering min-

ing operations and heating facilities from water treatment plants to remote communications towers, though "people only think about it as barbecue," St-Pierre said.

"There are some farmers that are being told they will not have access to propane to dry their crops, because there are priority applications that need to be taken care of," she said. "You're going to have to choose between chickens being alive in a barn versus drying crops."

Parts of Atlantic Canada may face a shortage as well. "Everybody's going to start feeling it...It's going to be more and more critical."

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business called for MPs to reconvene in Ottawa if the two sides can't reach a deal by early next week.

Canadian Federation of Agriculture president Mary Robinson said the strike comes at a "devastating time for farmers" following a delayed grain crop and early snows.

"Farmers do not receive payment for their products until they reach the port, and the rail strike makes this impossible. This will create huge cash flow problems for farmers, who require these payments to pay off their loans, invest in their operations and prepare for the new year," Robinson said in a statement.

Conductors, trainpersons and yard workers took to the picket lines early Tuesday morning, halting freight trains across the country.

The railway workers, who have been without a contract since July 23, have said they're concerned about long hours, fatigue and what they consider dangerous working conditions.

Talks were continuing around the clock, Christopher Monette, a spokesman for the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference, said Thursday afternoon.

The last CN Rail strike occurred in late 2009 when 1,700 engineers walked off the job for three days.

## Slow down

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