

# The Pioneer

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Photo by Suzy Willig

A man walks along Bridge Street West on Wednesday morning. Many residents were forced to walk on the road this week after a heavy snowfall that left sidewalks covered with deep snow.

## Weather causes Quinte closures but college decides against it

By Zachary Shunock and Jessica Campbell

Heavy snowfall in the Quinte region yesterday resulted in multiple closures of schools, businesses and roads throughout the area.

Some students and faculty at Loyalist College said they were surprised the school remained open Wednesday, after the college's decision to cancel classes Monday.

"It's ridiculous... today is way worse than Monday for road conditions and snow. Highway 401 is closed in both directions. I don't understand how they expect students to get to school in this weather," said Megan Fenton, a first-year pre-health student.

Kristy Henderson, a first-year radio and broadcasting student, made it clear that she was upset over the school being open.

"I'm pretty mad. People have to drive here in this and it could get worse while they are here, so they are risking their lives twice."

President Maureen Piercy sent out an email to all students and faculty early Wednesday, saying decisions to cancel classes or close the college are based on current and predicted adverse weather and road condition information.

If unable to travel to the campus or to the clinical or other placements, students are asked to communicate with their professors and their placement organization, and staff are asked to communicate with

their supervisors.

"I want to emphasize that the safety of our college community, students, staff and visitors is always a top priority," said Piercy in her e-mail.

While the college remained open, major highways including the 401 and highways 62 and 33 in Prince Edward County were closed as a result of the weather. The Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board made a decision to close all schools in the area.

The OPP posted warnings advising drivers to stay indoors because of the unsafe road conditions.

Cst. Gina Giouroukos of the Belleville Police offered some advice and information to drivers in the Quinte area.

"The subzero temperatures, heavy snowfall combined with high winds cause changes to roads and road conditions so it's always important to remember to drive for the road conditions. Give yourself plenty of time and space between you and other vehicles."

Gerrard Forestell, who has been a driver for Blue Bird Taxi service for 15 years, said "The driving conditions are terrible. The city is plowing the roads and just started plowing the sidewalks, but there is no salt or sand down yet so the roads are extremely slippery and some of the roads are even impassable at this point."

Another challenge with this week's poor weather is the condition of parking lots on campus.

In the winter, plowing in the parking lot doesn't begin until during the day,



Photo by Mandy Larade

Students at Loyalist College walk to the Kente building from the parking lot Wednesday morning through the snow and cold weather.

when students and staff are trying to get to classes or meetings.

Loyalist students and staff are required to purchase a parking pass, on top of the

tuition fees paid to attend the college, ranging from \$125 for an annual pass, to \$470 for an annual reserved spot.

"I could barely get in the parking lot,

let alone out of it. It's crazy how we pay all this money and the lot isn't even plowed during school hours," said Hayden Vaughan.

## Communities show support for Ukrainian cities

By Michelle Heshka

Communities around Canada are showing their support to Ukrainian citizens, demanding that Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich step down.

Following the deaths of three protestors allegedly shot by police during the demonstrations in Kiev, hundreds of Ukrainian-Canadians rallied outside Toronto City Hall on Sunday to commemorate those who lost their lives.

Ukrainian-Canadians who attended the rally called the situation a grave injustice to the citizens of Ukraine.

Dmitriy Kuzakov, who attended the Toronto rally said, "If the whole situation could be presented in a role-playing fashion, the government would play the bully and the beautiful people of Ukraine,

the victim. People broke out in hopes of justice, therefore this chaos and conflict manifested."

While Ukrainians said they feared a state of emergency because of rising violence, President Yanukovich made a concession to protestors, offering to scrap the anti-protest laws.

On Tuesday, the Ukrainian parliament held an emergency debate. Parliament voted 361 to 2 to repeal the anti-protest laws. With the decision also came the resignation of Ukraine's Prime Minister Mykola Azarov.

On Jan. 27, Yanukovich released a statement that said, "A political decision has been made to abolish the laws adopted on Jan. 16 that caused multiple discussions."

According to a statement made by Ukraine's Justice Minister Olena Lukash,

### Update

**Ukraine's President, Viktor Yanukovich, announced today he is taking sick leave due to an acute respiratory illness and high fever. No indication was given about how long he might be away, and what role he'll continue to play in the country's ongoing unrest.**

part of the agreement to abolish the anti-protest laws is amnesty for arrested protestors. The proposed amnesty would only be offered if protestors agreed to leave the buildings they were occupying.

"Eliminating the laws would be a substantial concession to the opposition. But it does not meet all their demands, which include Yanukovich's resignation," said

Lukash.

After Yanukovich's anti-protest laws were implemented on Jan. 16, anti-government protestors intensified their demonstrations.

The protests began in Kiev on Nov. 2013 after Yanukovich refused to sign a political and economic association pact with the European Union in favour of financial aid from Russia. Over the past three months, Ukraine has seen the biggest demonstrations since the 2004-2005 Orange Revolution, when Yanukovich was denied his first attempt at presidency.

On Jan. 16, Yanukovich banned the unauthorized installation of tents, stages or amplifiers in public places, and any gathering involving more than five vehicles in convoy. The ban included provision to arrest protestors wearing masks or helmets, stipulating fines or jail time for

breaches of law.

The demonstrations started peacefully in central Kiev in November, and have occasionally been broken up violently by police, but never to the extreme witnessed in the last few weeks.

Since the anti-protest laws were put into effect, there have been many altercations between protestors and police. Violence has been at an all-time high.

Ukrainians continue to control key parts of Kiev's city centre, including its main Independence Square, and three major buildings, including City Hall.

Kiev police reported that only three protestors have been killed during the demonstrations. According to the EU Observer, Yanukovich's security forces are suspected of killing six additional people.