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MICHAEL IVANIN / SPECIAL TO THE BEAVER

RIDING FOR REFUGEES: Two of 96 cyclists leave King's Christian Collegiate Sunday in the RIDE for Refugees (R4R), an annual fundraising 10, 25, 50 and 100-km bicycle tour to benefit refugee projects and services in Canada and overseas. The event is sponsored by International Teams Canada, a non-profit organization. To learn more about the RIDE for Refugees, visit www.rideforrefugees.com.

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- Up to 7.5 hours on one charge
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Catholic board approves two teacher contracts

The Halton Catholic Board put its stamp of approval on agreements with its elementary teachers and occasional teachers at elementary and secondary schools at Tuesday night's meeting.

Both agreements are good for four years, from Sept. 1, 2008-Aug. 31, 2012.

The agreement — between the board and the Halton Elementary Unit Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA) — covers the board's more than 1,000 Catholic elementary teachers and provides a three-per-cent wage increase during each year of the four years, as well as non-monetary and housekeeping changes to the current collective agreement.

An agreement between the board and the 625 Catholic occasional teachers of the Halton Elementary and Secondary Units of OECTA sees a three-per-cent wage increase during each year of the four years, as well as an additional 3.5 per cent increase effective Sept. 1, 2008.

There were also non-monetary and housekeeping changes to the current collective agreement.

The terms and conditions of the provincial framework were reached between the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association and the OECTA for the renewal of teacher agreements, which ended on Aug. 31, 2008, with Catholic district school boards in the province.

The provincial framework discussions were initiated and facilitated by Ministry of Education officials to assist in providing labour stability at Ontario school boards for the next four years.

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