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Premier fumes over Family Day question

BY LEE GREENBERG

TORONTO • Like a frustrated father, Premier Dalton McGuinty mused sarcastically Wednesday about eliminating Family Day, the mid-February holiday he created as an election promise in 2007.

"I guess maybe the question is, instead of most Ontarians being able to participate in Family Day, maybe we should have no Family Day, because that way, nobody would be able to participate," McGuinty said after being reminded that large swaths of Ontarians work on the holiday.

In 2008, the Human Resources Professionals Association of Ontario estimated that 40 per cent of Ontario workers would miss out on Family Day because they were already given more than the nine holidays required by provincial labour law.

A large number of collect-

ive agreements in the province include floater days that take employees above that threshold.

Because such a large number of workers didn't have the day off, many parents scrambled to find child care.

While McGuinty initially responded with sarcasm, he ultimately added: "I don't buy into that logic, obviously."

"In an ideal world, every single family, every mom and dad and child would be able to come together ... on Family Day," he continued. "But we don't live in that world, we live in this one and sometimes we have other responsibilities that infringe on ... Family Day. And that's the way it is."

It is unclear whether fewer Ontarians will be working on Family Day this year than in 2008. A government spokesman said the Ministry of Labour does not track that information.

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