

Letters To The Editor

Premier's Letter to National Post:

McGuinty responds
National Post
Saturday, September 1, 2007
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Section: Letters
Byline: Dalton McGuinty

Re: It's A Matter Of Fairness, Rabbi Reuven P. Bulka, Aug 29.

My good friend Rabbi Bulka suggests that by not offering to divert tax dollars to private religious schools, I -- and my government -- have "taken the road of divisiveness rather than the road of inclusion." Nothing could be further from the truth. The Ontario Liberal Party has been working hard to bring Ontarians together. As a government, we've focused on what Ontarians have in common rather than on what divides us.

The Conservative approach to government was to sow strife and opposition. That divisive approach to leadership turned our classrooms into battlegrounds and cost our kids 26 million school days lost to strikes and unrest -- and caused private school enrolment to skyrocket. Now, the Conservatives are at it again. Just as our public schools are getting back on their feet, they want to take half a billion dollars out of public education.

I believe that Ontario cannot afford to go backward now. Instead, our party will be asking Ontarians to keep moving our province forward.

Dalton McGuinty

Premier of Ontario and leader of the Ontario Liberal Party, Toronto.

Tory plan harmful

The Ottawa Citizen
Sunday, September 2, 2007
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I can't believe John Tory and the Conservatives want to take money out of public education just as Ontario's education system seems to be landing on its feet, recovering from the last mess a Conservative government made of education. The Conservative plan to fund private religious schools will result in two simple things: less funding to the existing public system and the possibility of more schools shutting down.

Has Mr. Tory told us how much it will cost to take over maintenance of private religious school buildings, or to build new ones to accommodate new students?

Has he told us what will happen when more students move out of existing public schools in favour of newly funded religious ones? How many public schools does he estimate will be forced to close their doors?

The Conservative plan is riddled with holes. It will hurt schools in the existing public system and, as a result, hurt students.

Mary-Rose Brown

Ottawa

Public schools will be big losers

The Toronto Star

Friday, August 31, 2007

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Faiths unite to back Tory plan to fund their schools Aug. 29 Funding of faith-based schools without increasing the provincial education budget means one thing: less funding for public schools. If Progressive Conservative Leader John Tory tries to tell us otherwise, he is being disingenuous at best.

How will his plan help reduce class sizes? How it will help build a tight-knit community, regardless of religion? How will it continue to improve the quality of our public education system? The answer is, it won't.

Public education has finally begun to recover from the havoc created under the Mike Harris government. But instead of continuing to build on the progress that's been made, Tory wants to go back to the days of cuts and disrespect for the public school system.

Clearly he hasn't learned from his party's mistakes.

Andrew Block

Toronto