

Dear Mario Racco,

I am sending you this email to let you know that I, like many other Jewish people in Ontario, appreciate the Liberal party's position to continue to have religious schools not paid for through taxes. I feel that it is a mistake to give such priority to religious teachings, at the expense of good education. I feel that it is divisive to have more and more children attending schools exclusive to those with their religious background, and spending a good part of their day learning religious doctrine. I would hate to see secularism devalued, and the public school system further eroded by having to share funding with religious schools, and having the school day cramped with the addition of religious teaching. I feel that parents can choose to send their children to after-school programs or to pay for religious based schooling.

While I very much support the United Jewish Federation as an organization, I do not agree with its position on this matter. I think it is important to let you know that there are many Jewish people like myself who do not agree with the UJA's position.

While I have had doubts at times about the current Liberal Party's ability to take a strong stand if an issue is contentious, this stance has given me more confidence that the party will stand behind positions because they are right.

I would further hope that the Ontario government will continue to inspect all schools (frequently) whether private or public to ensure that children are not taught hatred for others (though not a concern of mine with Jewish schools) and that the Ontario school curriculum is well-covered.

Thank-you for taking the time to hear my views on this issue of importance.

Sincerely,

Bev Behar