

“The Constitution” is no more of an obstacle to a merger of the public and Catholic school systems than Ontario politicians wish it to be.

Denominational school “rights” can be rescinded through a straightforward bilateral amendment between Ontario and the federal government. Yet at the time of printing this pamphlet, only the Green party supported this course of action.

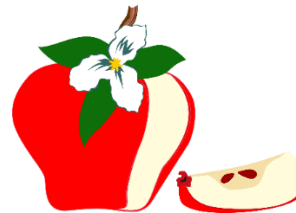
What can you do?

- Let politicians and candidates know you support one school system for each official language. Ask that they do likewise.
- Ask unsupportive politicians and candidates why they do not support fairness and fiscal responsibility in the school system. Tell them they cannot hide behind “the Constitution”.
- Sign up as a supporter at www.OneSchoolSystem.org. Join the Facebook group linked from that page.
- Tell others about this initiative. Together, we have the power to bring about positive change in Ontario’s school system.

Thank you for your support!



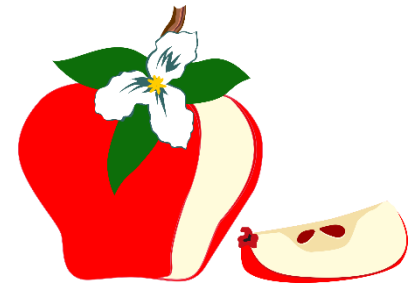
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Revised May 23, 2014.



Education in Ontario today:

- Over \$1 billion per year wasted on unnecessary overlap and duplication in the school system, while our truly essential services suffer inadequate funding, civil servants face wage and benefit austerity, and hydro rates soar out of sight.
- Hundreds of thousands of children bussed past their nearest publicly funded school each day to attend another one farther away – often in another community. Many of these children have never attended a school in their own community. Many parents and children on the same street never get to know one another.
- 416,000 surplus pupil places system wide (2014-15 projection). Over \$400 million per year spent heating, cooling, and maintaining empty space in schools and classrooms.

- Segregation of Catholic children from those of other faiths in Catholic separate schools. Racial and ethnic segregation invariably follow religious segregation.
- Religious divisions mean too many communities have low enrolment high schools that cannot achieve the critical mass for the better program selection found in larger high schools.
- Too often, special needs children fail to receive the supports they need and deserve.
- Split grade classes far too commonplace compared to provinces with less segregated school systems, as the unnecessary religious divisions in our school system make it more difficult to form single grade classes in many areas.
- Widespread religious discrimination in admissions in publicly funded Catholic schools from JK to grade 8. “Open access” for non-Catholics applies only in grades 9-12 of Catholic high schools.
- One third of all publicly funded teaching positions – those in Catholic system – are essentially closed to two thirds of the population – the non-Catholics.

- Publicly funded Catholic school boards have opposed abortion, resisted legislation promoting acceptance of gay children, and resisted potentially lifesaving HPV vaccination programs for girls.

We can do better ... much better.

“OneSchoolSystem.org promotes the merger of Ontario’s public and Catholic school systems into a single, secular, school system for each official language (one English, one French).”

Benefits of one school system include:

- Savings that can be reinvested in education, other essential services, or deficit reduction.
- An end to cross bussing. Kids will attend schools in their own communities – many of them for the very first time. Strengthened sense of community.
- More children walk to school. Average commuting distance reduced for remaining children.
- Fewer surplus pupil places. Fewer costly under-enrolled schools.

- True community schools that better reflect the religious, racial, and ethnic diversity of their communities.
- Better course selection for more high school students.
- Special needs children better served.
- Fewer split grade classes as splits in adjacent under-enrolled public and Catholic schools are combined.
- Publicly funded school boards no longer use public funds to oppose the policies of democratically elected governments.
- Fundamental equality rights take their proper precedence over unjustifiable, non-fundamental, and exclusively Catholic denominational “rights”. Canada complies with international human rights norms.

