

# **McGuinty Disagrees with the United Nations**

October 1, 2007

The Ontario 2007 election campaign has been dominated by one issue – Faith Based School Funding.

John Tory has stated that he wants a truly Public School system in Ontario that will only be achieved by bringing ALL schools under the 'Public' umbrella. Under this umbrella, schools would be accountable to the Government of Ontario and be bound to teach a curriculum approved by that government.

McGuinty's original argument was that funding for all faith based schools would allow extremists to teach our children and this would create division within our communities. If this were to be true, it would only be so if the faith based schools, now brought under one public school 'umbrella' were not required to follow a government approved curriculum in order to receive government, or rather, public funding. This would then assume that currently, students in these 'publicly unfunded' schools ARE being taught radical ideas and are potentially a danger to our society.

McGuinty stated that the reason we do not have racial violence is that we bring everyone together under one public system. McGuinty tells the story around the world that the reason we don't have racial riots, with all our racial diversity in our cities, is because we have such a great public school system.

So how come he's so opposed to bringing other faith based schooling, other than Catholic, into the public school system?

McGuinty was brought up in the Catholic school system and his wife teaches in the Catholic school system. Since McGuinty's expressed view is that faith-based schools produce this extreme element that creates riots, does he believe his own faith-based schooling caused him to be extreme or that his wife's work is producing people who will riot in the streets? Of course he doesn't, so he must believe that Catholic education is far more tolerant than Jewish, Muslim or Charismatic. It appears that is exactly what he is saying.

Catholic faith-based schools have demonstrated they produce citizens who are both tolerant and productive. Why then does McGuinty tell people around the world that other faith-based groups cannot do the same?

It would appear that McGuinty believes that only the Catholic school, as a faith based school, can teach children without the extremist element. Of course, McGuinty says that the Catholic school system is really a Public school system, so does that mean, according to McGuinty, that the Catholic school system is NOT a faith based school system? Tell that to Catholics, that Catholicism is not Faith and see how far you get!

Ontario is the only province that fully funds Catholic only faith-based schools, as part of a public school system, in Canada. Five other provinces provide funding to faiths other than Catholic. McGuinty repeatedly claims the Constitution forces Ontario to do what it is doing and he states that by funding other faith-based schools it would create a constitutional crisis. However, why has this constitutional crisis not occurred when 5 other provinces started funding other faiths? Why is Ontario suddenly bound by a Constitution in such a way that other provinces are not?

## McGuinty Disagrees with the United Nations:

On November 4, 1999, the United Nations Human Rights Committee (the Committee) supported a complaint filed by Mr. Arie Waldman, a Canadian citizen and a member of the Jewish faith, claiming that public funding for Roman Catholic schools in Ontario, but not for Jewish schools, constituted a violation of his rights under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

The Government of Canada used McGuinty's argument before the Committee that the question was decided by the Supreme Court of Canada when they held that the funding of Roman Catholic separate schools could not give rise to an infringement of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms because the province of Ontario was constitutionally obligated to provide such funding. Canada's 1867 Constitution sought to protect the existing rights for denominational schools and required Ontario to maintain a publicly funded Roman Catholic system.

The Committee rejected Canada's argument that the preferential treatment of Roman Catholic schools is non-discriminatory because of its constitutional obligation. The Committee noted that the differences in treatment between Roman Catholic religious schools and schools of the author's religion, which are private by necessity, cannot be considered reasonable and objective.

However, despite the Committee request that, within 90 days, the Government of Ontario provide it with information about the measures which will be taken to give effect to the Committee's views, the Government of Ontario is not bound by the decision. The Government of Ontario has clearly stated that it will not change its education system. [\[link\]](#)

## Ontario Government is already funding non-Catholic faith-based schools:

Now we find out that Ontario does fund other faith-based schools. In Niagara Falls we have a Brethren High School [\[link\]](#) and the Protestant Separate School Board of Penetanguishene. [\[link\]](#)

### The Protestant Separate School Board of the Town of Penetanguishene Statement of Financial Activities For the Year Ended August 31, 2006

	Budget August 31 2006	Actual August 31 2006	Actual August 31 2005
<b>Revenue</b>			
Local taxation ✓	\$ 337,674	\$ 305,511	\$ 320,309
Provincial grants - student focused funding ✓	1,646,161	1,670,735	1,668,371
Provincial grants - other ✓	-	61,785	51,732
Other fees and revenue	75	6,152	8,381
School fund raising and other revenue	113,393	99,894	94,270
	<u>2,097,303</u>	<u>2,144,077</u>	<u>2,143,063</u>

So it appears that the Ontario Government is willing to fund Catholic, Brethren and Protestant schools, but not other faith-based schools.

Does McGuinty have a problem with Jews or Muslims?

Why is it okay to fund Christian schools but not Jewish schools?

Why do the Liberals suddenly reject United Nations decisions?