

All for One Non-sectarian Education (All4One) today condemned John Tory's Conservatives plan to extend public funding to religious schools. It's chairman, Dr Bryan Kerman, said in a press release, that Mr Tory's plan is nothing but one mistake on top of another.

'The public funding of Roman Catholic schools in Ontario has been repeatedly criticized by the United Nations on human rights grounds and expanding the problem doesn't solve it'.

'What Ontario needs to do is follow Quebec's lead of 10 years ago - eliminate public funding to religious schools'.

'It is ironic that Ontario only has Roman Catholic schools because Quebec forced them on Ontario 150 years ago, and now even Quebec recognizes that a modern state is strengthened when the state doesn't segregate its children by religion.'

'Why can't Ontario eliminate 'educational apartheid'?

'How can we expect to advise others to eliminate segregation when we can't'.

'Our Education Minister talks of preserving our heritage. If she would only tell the people what a sordid story of political failure it really was, Ontarians would recognize how they have been had for a century and a half.'

'And it is the height of folly for Mr Tory to introduce former Premier Bill Davis, as a moderator of the Conservative's vote buying plan, when Mr Davis' poor judgement on public funding of education is a matter of record.'

'What Ontario needs is a full and open discussion of how we got into the sectarian funding mess and how we can get out of it', Dr Kerman said.

'Only the press can do this for Ontario because there is a conspiracy of silence amongst the three parties to debate only the superficialities of extended funding and not the civil rights abuse of preferential public funding.'

'The historic, unofficial pledge of Ontario, 'Opportunity for all, favouritism for none' is on the line, and it's not coming back if Ontario lets the Tory Tories start picking who qualifies for government funding and who doesn't.'

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