



## All for Ontario Non-sectarian Education

### AI14 ONE

#### *Political Action to End Public Funding of Sectarian Schools in Ontario*

All4ONE asks the questions:

1. *Why, if special privileged public support to any religion is not needed in Quebec anymore, is it needed in Ontario?*
2. *What new modern state form ed in the last decades has offered special privilege funding to one sect of one religion?*
3. *Why are there not any political voices in Ontario speaking for non-sectarian public education?*
4. *Why, when the United Nations Human Rights Commission, a body Canada explicitly promises to uphold, has said it does not support state funding of religious schools, is such a situation allowed to continue without political debate in Ontario?*

#### **Political Reality in Ontario:**

The people of Ontario have never voted to accept or reject sectarianism in their school system. Unanimous Legislative support for special Roman Catholic privilege has stifled political debate for just over 20 years. However the issue has taken a new life with the ruling of the United Nations Human Rights Commission on the fairness of Ontario's denial of public funding to religions other than Roman Catholic in Ontario.

The UN Panel said - and it is important to understand exactly -

1. *It does not support public funding of religious schools*
2. *BUT if Ontario was to persevere in funding one religion's schools, it should extend funding to all religious schools to be fair.*

A group known as the Multi-Faith Coalition (MFC) (fundamentalist Jews, Sikhs, Muslims and Christians) has been formed to carry the second part of the UN judgement to the political arena. Recently the John Tory Conservatives have voiced the same truncated, half-true argument in support of using public funds for private religious schools. Both the MFC and Ontario Conservatives **IGNORE** the first part of the judgement because that would nullify their entire argument.



### **The Options:**

Ontario is faced with which option for public schools it wishes to adopt as it views its future. Citizens wishing to make a decision on what school system they want need to make two decisions

1. *Does Ontario want or need publically funded religious schools?*
2. *If it does, does Ontario want one or many denominations of religious schools?*

### **The Position of All4One:**

To us the option which is fair and free of hypocrisy is that

1. *Ontario should distant itself from the human rights violations that the UN has noted*
2. *Ontario should abide by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms - and not offer public funding to any religious schools.*
3. *And Ontario should offer a referendum to allow the people to make that decision.*



## What Can be Done?

All4One has been established to find ways to achieve a political solution for the establishment of a single non-sectarian school system, with branches in each official language, in Ontario. Our plan is to

1. *Support candidates who wish to stand on the one school system issue in the next provincial election in mid October 2007.*

*Note: The Green Party of Ontario is on record as supporting OSS.*

2. *Seek political support from any political party or individual MPP now in the Legislature who may have the courage to stand with us*
3. *Seek political support among the only real defenders of public education in Ontario, our Public School Trustees.*
4. *Seek opportunities to run candidates in high profile election races this fall.*
5. *Seek help from groups affected by public school closings and cut-backs and job-losses*
6. *Mobilize concerned citizens to act effectively by contacting both those not supporting us and those that should be supporting us as it is their cause also*

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