

Re: Apologize, Jewish groups tell McGuinty, August 31, 2007

To "segregate" is to "to separate or set apart from others or from the general mass" (Merriam-Webster Dictionary). The definition of the word also describes "segregation" as the separation or isolation of a race, class, or ethnic group into separate educational facilities, whether by enforced or voluntary means. Seems to me that in suggesting extended religious school funding would bring segregation, Premier McGuinty is just stating the obvious -- something no one should have to apologize for.

If there is anything Mr. McGuinty needs to apologize for, it is for maintaining that only those of his own faith should enjoy additional publicly funded education options and related employment opportunities. Perhaps he might also apologize for allowing wasteful duplication to continue while valuable programs are being cut and school infrastructure crumbles. History is no excuse and the Constitution, which can quickly be amended through a bilateral agreement with Ottawa, is no obstacle.

For as long as Ontario continues to fund Catholic religious schools exclusively, other religious groups will have a very convenient political lever with which to try to extricate their own state funding. Someone should take that lever away from them before they do irreparable harm to truly inclusive public education. The surest way to do that would be to rescind denominational school rights and move to a single public school system.

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