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**The Ottawa Citizen**

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Re: Kids used as pawns, Oct. 12.

I am just wiping away my tears after reading Chaim Moykopf's letter objecting that the government is not going to support faith-based schools. Government support for the Catholic school system is not only unfair but undemocratic.

When my parents came to this country from Europe they faced the same hardships that all immigrants face, but one of the joys they experienced was that their children were encouraged to go to school -- a public school open to all and not restricted -- and I was then able to go on to university.

The quality of a single secular public school system is a magnificent basis for all to be living and working together. Religion is a private matter, not a public one. It's time to recognize and implement our democracy for what it should be not dragging worn out divisive issues from the past.

Mr. Moykopf may wish to wear a yarmulke but the majority of us don't, except when attending synagogue or in our homes, where one can conduct oneself as one wishes. We are not going back to the ghettoized times of old shtetl life of Europe -- we are Canadians living and moving forward in a modern democracy that is still evolving and we will speak out for fairness and justice, not for retrograde ideas.

David Wiseman,

Ottawa