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DAVID GORMAN

Now that the Liberals have been re-elected in Ontario it will be interesting to see how they deal with the debate over the funding for other faith-based schools since the door has been opened.

Today, with a more diverse population, there is more call for government and religion to remain separate, that the preferential treatment given to Roman Catholic schools be stopped or that other faiths be treated equally.

One option is the abolition of the Catholic system and integration of those schools into the public board.

I attended Catholic schools from kindergarten through high school, and I found that religion was not integrated into subjects other than those directly dealing with faith. Both boards follow the same curriculum, so aside from teaching religion the only other difference is that the students in Catholic high schools have a uniform, which I think should be used in the public high schools as well.

While the cost of implementing those changes can be huge, in the long run they would be cheaper than creating other boards and schools for other faiths. Every religion has somewhere its adherents can congregate, be it a church, temple, mosque or other facility. Let these be the places where people teach their children about their faith and let our schools be only used for education. A school teaches knowledge, a church teaches faith, and a family teaches life incorporating them.

Why do we want to find more ways to segregate our kids? This could be a great opportunity to integrate our kids and teach them understanding and acceptance. Send them all to the same school and give them faith at home and their place of worship.

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