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The One School System Network stands solidly behind the Canadian Civil Liberties Association's call for an end to public funding of religious schools in Ontario.

The call by the CCLA represents a major step in associating the current system of funding to Catholic schools and the proposal by the John Tory Conservatives to extend funding to other religious schools to a civil rights problem.

Their action is consistent with their stand before the Supreme Court in the case of Adler (1997) in which they argued that Ontario was under no obligation to extend funding beyond Catholic schools. Their action is consistent with the judgement of the Supreme Court, and subsequent public statements by the Chief Justice, that on the basis of civil rights violations alone Catholic schools could be eliminated. Their action is consistent with a call by the UN to end all religious funding in Ontario.

However the consistency of CCLA has not been enough to convince two political parties, carrying the historically significant labels of liberal and democratic to cease their support of a situation involving civil rights violations of the majority of Ontarians.

True liberals and social democrats cringe at the current hypocrisy promoted by these parties in their defence of continued public funding of Catholic schools.

The One School System Network (www.onessn.org) is a coalition of progressive trustees and civil rights, education equality, political action, moderate Muslims and Hindus and Christians, humanists and free thought advocates. It is non-partisan and volunteer.

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