

National Post

School plan may cost Tory core support

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I was not surprised to read that religious school funding may cause Progressive Conservative Leader John Tory to lose core support. I was surprised that his party decided to adopt a policy of funding all religious schools when the polls tell us that the majority of Ontarians do not want public funding for religious schools.

The PCs haven't learned from past mistakes. They were thrown out of office in 1985 largely because of Bill Davis's decision to provide full funding for Catholic schools. That poor decision ended a 40-year Tory dynasty in Ontario and put the party in the political wilderness for eight years.

Here we are again, 22 years later, and the Tories look to be headed for electoral disaster. Maybe next time they will read the polls and advocate for one school system for all Ontarians. It's what the majority of voters in this province want, and so far only the Green party has the political smarts to adopt a policy of eliminating funding for separate schools.

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