

# Parents should shoulder the cost of all faith-based education - Catholic included;

Posted 9 hours ago | Updated 3 hours ago

Re: Legitimate education rights of all people are being ignored, The Standard, Sept. 14.

Parents who insist on religious education should be responsible for the cost, regardless if it is Catholic or any other religious faith. According to statistics, about 16 per cent of Canadians are listed as having no religious affiliation and should not have to contribute to any religious educational systems. Religion belongs in houses of worship and the homes of children and has no place in publicly financed schools in the 21st century.

Today, scientific knowledge and reason should be the only priorities and ancient unproven creationism cannot be taught in public schools as an alternative to the facts of evolution. At least that is what the Ontario Progressive Conservative leader wants, should he win in the coming election - an idea that would take Ontario education back to the 15th century, when the Catholic church ruled in Europe and elsewhere, when advanced science was unknown and often forbidden if it did not agree with the scriptures.

Today, we have thousands of scientists and researchers around the world uncovering more facts on evolution and biology almost daily. Why would anybody want their child deprived of this knowledge and taught ancient religious hearsay anyway?

If parents insist on it, the cost of Catholic or other religion-based schools in the present century should be the parents' responsibility only and a unified school system now would be good start. As a secular humanist, I believe in full separation of religious faith and public education and politics - and religion is faith, not fact.

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*Article ID# 703223*

