

We must set students up for success

When we are trying to make a lot of mistakes, big ones, like ones, and ones that can be life altering.

Optimistic one can lead to successful progress in business. Drug and alcohol abuse can do permanent harm to a growing body and lead to life-long addiction.

These are human mistakes, and to make as few as possible, they are important to be taught against, particularly for young people whose judgment may not yet be refined.

Clearly, we should not design a school system that also provides a lot of permanent harm to well-meaning young people who make a bad choice in setting their academic course.

The curriculum change in 2003 which followed the end of the Ontario Academic Credits was intended to end teacher classroom with the addition of applied and academic learning, but as a consequence, in some schools, this change has effectively led a trap for students.

The elimination of a 100 per cent high school, along with a cap on credits the province will fund (24 in the standard series, the least expensive), essentially left the hands of a student to negotiate ahead. If a student did this only to receive new academic courses for the apparently easier applied courses, upgrading later may be hindered by bureaucracy.

As Anne Kibben, founder and executive director of advocacy group People for Education, said in an interview on this issue, we need to allow for the best use of change that happens to young people.

The group's report, *Applied or Academic? High Impact Decisions for Ontario Students*, surveyed Ontario schools and found only 20 per cent of schools were giving 7 and 8 credit required having a guidance counsellor on staff, and most of those positions were part-time. If a student in Grade 9 does have the opportunity to combine their life after school, then provisions need to be put in place to give these young minds the right support, or the right sign.

The Ministry of Education has heard from several boards wanting the applied and academic systems to be merged to create a, to give kids a level playing field in their first year, then they can decide how to move forward.

It would be desirable to offer options and opportunities even from students just as they are getting started.

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Letters to the editor

Grits inherited fiscal mess from Tories

MI-WP Michael Chung is wrong.
 If Michael Chung were at all serious in his criticism, he would note that the changes being made in Ontario are due in part – or in whole – to the fiscal mismanagement of the past 10 years. This was done before his time, not after. It is not necessary to bring in his message but, nevertheless, it was the party that he is currently attacking the leadership of. This is not the first time among the signing leaders in the current Conservative cabinet, with such strong right-of-centre views, authority would normally be making attempts to bring the party together with new and bold ideas that might keep them from taking a long, just-well-meaning walk in the political wilderness.

As to the article's implication that the changes the Liberals are planning to make in the electoral process are an

improvement without a referendum, this is nothing more than words and spin-words being peddled by the living party. None one of the five parties in the 2011 election had electoral reform as part of their platform. Together, those three parties garnered nearly 50 per cent of the votes cast. One can tell that the Canadian mood change in the way they elect Members of Parliament.

As an MP, it is his job to study and vote on changes to Canadian laws. His elected voters would tell him the candidate, despite Mr. Chung's previous attempts to confuse the change as being one of a constitutional nature (Jan. 28, 2014, *constitutional* [url] and Jan. 11, 2014, *Why don't we need to put off his job as his own mission?*)

After a great any possibility of *Headlock* about it followed the obvious course to pass?

It is just more words of the party line, as they always have. The number of supporters is laughable.

OMB hearing on hold

The Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing of the Frederick Windsor Quarry case has been adjourned indefinitely.

It is expected that the province will be making a final application to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) for a zoning amendment under the new zoning by-law that became effective on Sept. 1. This case seems to be a good example of an opportunity for the expansion of growth by the mayor, councilors, regional officials and residents of L2C, Eglon, W8, Milton and Halton Region who have been co-operators of L2C. It is also to ensure a proper review based assessment of the potential impact of the proposed zoning on the environment and the residents reflecting the environmental sensitivity and planning criteria detailed in both provincial and regional legislation and public law.

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Mark Gault
 Linguist