



OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Teachers are acting obstructively in gang-up on Tory government

Dear Editor:

Recent news items are to the effect that teachers aim to oust Tories.

If you were in charge of a powerful corporation with billions of dollars in assets, how would you use such resources? Would you use them constructively or obstructively? Would you use them to serve your customers or yourself?

Faced with clear evidence that Canada's students are not educated as well as they need to be, what are Ontario teachers' organizations doing to address constructively these two critical problems -- education quality and education costs?

What we hear from them is 100 per cent obstructive. They oppose all government efforts to improve. They object to the establishment of the Teachers College, the Education Quality and Accountability Office and the Education Improvement Commission. They don't want to put in a normal work year. They most bitterly oppose initiatives such as charter schools, vehicles for better quality and lower cost education that are gathering momentum worldwide. And now they want to oust the government itself.

The organizations have the professional resources to make enormous improvements to the system, but all we hear is nay-saying.

Despite this implacable obstruction, there are teachers in Ontario who have banded together to raise standards, which seems not to be a priority of their organizations.

So there is evidence that we have many excellent, innovative teachers. It is thus doubly unfortunate that their organizations show no constructive initiatives. Do they really represent their members?

Taxpayers Coalition Halton Inc.
Hugh Doull, president

Number of truant senators add up to a lot more than a few

Dear Editor:

Canadians are angry over Senator Andrew Thompson's absence from work.

From January to October of last year, this senator attended Parliament for only two days out of 99 Senate sittings.

The Senate has acted to punish Mr. Thompson by stripping him of certain "perks" such as paid travel and having a secretary. The

Senate is in the process of taking away his salary.

The trouble, however, is that Mr. Thompson has not been the only senator absent from work.

Last year 27 senators missed 40 percent or more of designated sittings. For example Senator John Buchanan (a Brian Mulroney appointee) showed up only half the time last year.

We ask readers: what would happen if we were absent half the time from our place of work? Unlike senators, who are appointed by the Prime Minister and whose jobs are guaranteed for life, we would be fired.

We at Watchdog Newsletter have a list of the 27 truant senators and their Senate mailing addresses.

We are asking interested people to write to us for the list, and to write to some of the senators to ask them to attend all Senate sittings.

To receive our list of truant senators, please contact us at Watchdog Newsletter, 247 Leeds Dr., Fredericton, NB E3B 4S7 (or e-mail us at dmurrell@unb.ca or fax us at 506-454-8245).

David Murrell, editor
Watchdog Newsletter

What's in name? Likely confusion

People are sensitive to name changes, according to Milton Mayor Gord Krantz.

He made his point at a municipal council meeting recently when Councillor Lieven Gevaert kicked off complaints about name changes to Highway 25 and Highway 5.

"There is always a human outcry when roads are renamed," said Mr. Krantz, who cited several previous examples.

Council heard the two provincial highways have been handed over to regional control and can no longer maintain their former names. In an effort to keep things simple, Halton Region rejigged its regional road network and called former Highway 25 Regional Road 25 and former Highway 5, Regional Road 5.

The idea, according to John Matthews, Milton's director of public works, is that the numbers on the highways will not change, only the symbol surrounding the number.

Provincial highways are designated by a crown surrounding the highway number, while regional roads use a hexagon.

Mr. Matthews said it is possible to post the roads with their new names while including their old names in brackets. However, he said simply maintaining the current name is not allowed because only the province has access to the highway designation.

"What needs to be understood, is that we had no choice," said regional Councillor Barry Lee, who sat on the committee which made the name change recommendations.

"The Region doesn't want the roads. They are not trying to exercise ownership."

Councillor Wally Hunter said some business people have complained to him that truckers and those unfamiliar with the area will have difficulty finding their way around Milton.

In addition to the regional road designations some roads will also have local names.

Highway 25 south of Highway 5 will pick up its Oakville designation and be called Bronte Road (Regional Road 25) while the same highway north of Highway 5 and north of Milton will pick up its Milton name and be called simply Regional Road 25. Highway 5 will be called Dundas Street (Regional Road 5).

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<p style="font-weight: bold;">BUNK BEDS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Windsor Bunk WAS 199 NOW \$129</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Heritage Bunk WAS 299 NOW \$249</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Harvard Bunk WAS 339 NOW \$289</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Crew Quarters WAS 769 NOW \$599</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">STORAGE BEDS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Mate's Bed WAS 249 NOW \$189</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Economy Captain's Bed WAS 299 NOW \$219</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Deluxe Captain's Bed WAS 439 NOW \$339</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">6-Drawer Captain's Bed WAS 469 NOW \$379</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">SPECIALTY BUNKS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Metal Spacesaver Bunk WAS 349 NOW \$189</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Iron Futon Bunk WAS 459 NOW \$299</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Wood Spacesaver WAS 449 NOW \$319</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Bookcase Bunk WAS 459 NOW \$399</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">FUTONS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">A-Frame Futon WAS 199 NOW \$149</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">L-Frame Futon WAS 269 NOW \$199</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Iron Futon WAS 329 NOW \$249</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">3" Deluxe Iron Futon WAS 389 NOW \$329</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">DAYBEDS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Waterfall Daybed WAS 139 NOW \$88</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Jupiter Daybed WAS 199 NOW \$149</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.5em;">IRON BEDS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Christina Iron Bed WAS 349 NOW \$199</p>
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