



COMMENT

School board should re-think this policy

Halton Catholic School Board trustees should run back to the drawing board to scratch a proposed policy that could effectively put a lid on useful discussion around the table.

Disingenuously described as the School Board Operating Procedures, the policy asks trustees to be mindful of the need for a positive public perception of the board when speaking. It asks trustees to support the director of education, superintendents, principals, school staff and other board members when speaking both in public and privately.

What's more, the trustees are considering a code of ethics that would behoove them to actively participate in the Catholic Church.

These policies, if adopted, may make for a kinder, gentler school board. But they may also stifle debate. If interpreted in a way that disallows untrammelled discussion both in public and at board meetings, the policy would fly in the face of the duty of trustees, who are, let's not forget, publicly elected officials. They're at the table to speak for their constituents, not to act as cheerleaders for educational staff.

If the board is really interested in courting favourable public opinion, it should scrap this policy and get on with the issues its members were elected to tackle.



OUR READERS WRITE

Ontario Street already too congested

Dear Editor:

Behind the scenes battles are still taking place at town council regarding the E.C. Drury property. Council blew thousands of Miltonians' tax dollars on a cause it was advised it couldn't win. Now, some pouting councillors, by four to three, voted not to even negotiate the Childs Drive access with the developer as recommended by the OMB.

The only option to Childs Drive is Ontario Street, already the most congested road in Milton. Ontario Street rivals most Toronto roads in lights per mile with six of them from Derry Road to

Main Street.

How long will it take our traffic counters to insist on another light at this new intersection? Mind you Childs Drive is also a busy road which once again brings to question why our town planners recommended the building of the highest density development in the area in an already-congested locale.

As soon as ownership takes place I expect a chain link fence to go up on Childs Drive and access to the tennis club will be closed.

Patrick Kelly
Milton

McGuinty's 'peace plan' is a miniscule embarrassment in sea of wrongdoing

Dear Editor:

Re: "McGuinty says his 'peace plan' would give students gift of extracurricular activities" (January 2).

Dalton McGuinty's 'peace plan' is no peace plan at all.

It does nothing to ease the inevitable and growing conflict between teachers and government. All it does is expose children to more of the same dubious education programming and adds to the stress of a system that's already failing. Any 'peace' it creates will be more tenuous than the last 'peace'.

Mr. McGuinty, like most Ontarians, accepts the false alternative that says education must be dictated by government or dictated by teachers (and their unions). Whenever a false alternative becomes established between two groups, a little close examination reveals that both sides agree on

something more fundamental than the issues on which they disagree. In this case, both sides agree that someone other than parents should dictate how children should be educated. To them, it makes sense to put education into the hands of elected officials, who then ensure that the right experts are doing the job. If they don't, they won't be elected again. Unfortunately, the result is that parents put in little more time and effort deciding what their children's education should be, than they put into the purchase and maintenance of their cars.

Furthermore, elected officials aren't experts, and can only do what the bureaucrats beneath them suggest. Whenever those men fail, (I have written before as to the many ways our educators fail) their failure damages the whole system. In private education, a particular school may fail and its students and family will suffer, but within a

year, they can go to another school. When a province-wide system fails children and their parents have nowhere else to turn. By accepting such a system, the best guardians of the education of their children have largely made themselves powerless.

Mr. McGuinty's plan is a miniscule embarrassment in a sea of wrongdoing. The only plan parents should accept is a plan to reimburse property taxes to those parents who place their children in private schools. Voters should reject the notion that Mr. McGuinty, Premier Mike Harris, or any other panderer to public whim can help public education.

To stop our children from being political footballs, parents must learn why private education is, and always was, the best education for all.

Richard Bramwell
R.R. 3 Milton



THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Box 248, 191 Main St. E.,
Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9

(905) 878-2341

Editorial Fax: 878-4943

Advertising Fax: 876-2364

Classified: 875-3300

Ian Oliver **Publisher**

Neil Oliver **Associate Publisher**

Wendy McNab **Advertising Manager**

Karen Smith **Editor**

Steve Crozier **Circulation Manager**

Teri Casas **Office Manager**

Tim Coles **Production Manager**

The Canadian Champion, published every Tuesday and Friday at 191 Main St. E., Milton, Ont., L9T 4N9 (Box 248), is one of The Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing Ltd. group of suburban companies which includes: Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, Alliston Herald/Courier, Barrie Advance, Barry's Bay This Week, Bolton Enterprise, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, Burlington Shopping News, City Parent, City of York Guardian, Collingwood/Wasaga Connection, East York Mirror, Erin Advocate/Country Routes, Etobicoke Guardian, Flamborough Post, Forever Young, Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press, Halton Business Times, Huronia Business Times, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, Midland/Penetanguishene Mirror, Milton Shopping News, Mississauga Business Times, Mississauga News, Napanee Guide, Nassagaweya News, Newmarket/Aurora Era-Banner, Northumberland News, North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Oakville Shopping News, Oldtimers Hockey News, Orillia Today, Oshawa/Whitby/Clarington/Port Perry This Week, Owen Sound Tribune, Peterborough This Week, Picton County Guide, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Stouffville/Uxbridge Tribune.

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with a reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. The publisher reserves the right to categorize advertisements or decline.

The Milton Canadian Champion is a Recyclable Product

Pud

by Steve Nease

