



COMMENT

Oh no, Premier Mike Harris said 'R' word

For the first time since the economic slowdown began, we heard the term "recession" from our government last week.

Premier Mike Harris let the infamous 'R' word slip during an interview with a Toronto radio station. Later that day, he issued a statement saying Ontario wasn't in a recession and that he regretted giving that impression.

Whether or not he intended to say the province had entered a dreaded recession — defined as two consecutive quarters of negative growth — his choice of words carry meaning.

Sometimes, the mere mention of an existing or impending recession is enough to cause people to curb their spending.

And if a large section of the population curbs its spending, a further downturn can result.

This creates a catch-22 situation for the average consumer, who doesn't want to add to difficult times, but also doesn't want to be ill-prepared should the downturn directly impact their lives.

Several financial leaders and reporters instantly jumped on the premier's words as a sure sign of hard times. But you can't judge the economic future on a single statement.



OUR READERS WRITE

Canadian teachers' federation president offers thanks to teachers

Dear Editor:

Ask most adults to name the people who have had the greatest impact on their lives and many will say it's their teachers.

Without question, a dedicated, innovative and well-qualified teacher can make a tremendous difference in a child's education and a child's life.

Teachers have a wide and deep understanding of their subject matter and a repertoire of proven strategies for transferring that knowledge to their students. They recognize that parents want high academic standards. They understand that parents want their sons and daughters to grow up to be loving and tolerant in the ever-changing

society of the 21st century.

On all fronts, Canada's teachers have delivered.

Consistently, they prepare students to be good and solid citizens of the future and to make their way in the increasingly pluralistic society in which we live. They equip students with the tools necessary to succeed in a world that seems to change by the month.

Teachers are the cornerstones of our public education system, which in turn is the cornerstone of our democracy. They play a vital role in preparing our young people for the duties of citizenship and in their development as caring, honest and industrious

human beings.

Young Canadians are not born with knowledge and traits to be members of democratic society; they acquire them through the education Canada's teachers help deliver.

This has never been more true than in recent weeks, as students everywhere have struggled to comprehend the meaning and repercussions of the September 11 terrorist attacks that took thousands of lives in New York City and Washington.

As always, teachers, in the wake of these horrifying events, have ensured their classrooms have remained a safe haven for students who feel threatened by last month's terrorist acts. Those who recently have been victims of violence in their homelands can find in the classroom the rehabilitation and care they so desperately need.

For children bewildered by these and other violent and mind-numbing events, the public school system and its teachers are vital tools for reconstruction. Our schools and our teachers provide guideposts and sounding boards, which help children express their emotions and deal with the events they have witnessed.

By building strong minds and hearts today, Canada's teachers do their part to help ensure that incidents of hatred and violence that happened yesterday will not repeat themselves tomorrow.

If we are to create a stable and democratic society in the 21st century, our public school system must be the focal point where people can meet and learn to live together.

Learning to live side by side in harmony is one of the biggest challenges of this century. Living together today will help build the society of tomorrow.

October 5 was World Teachers' Day. It's not simply 24 hours of recognition of the people who teach our children from the international to the local levels. World Teachers' Day is a time for each of us to remember the teachers who have made a difference in our lives — the people who gave us the tools that have helped to build and shape our lives.

Thanks to teachers, Canada has one of the best public education systems in the world.

**Doug Willard, president
Canadian Teachers' Federation**

Have your say with a letter to the editor. Fax letters to 878-4943, or drop them off at 191 Main St. E.



THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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

(905) 878-2341

Editorial Fax: 905-878-4943

Advertising Fax: 905-876-2364

Classified: 905-875-3300

Circulation: 905-878-5947

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, 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

