

# OPINION

## Way too early

Governments are often criticized for not listening. But sometimes, much to our collective surprise, politicians do back down from controversial policies.

Such is the case with the Ontario government's sex education curriculum, which was slated to infiltrate public and separate schools this September.

Recently Dalton McGuinty announced the government would go back to the drawing board to redesign how educators will teach children about the birds and the bees.

Under the original proposal, children would have been introduced to sex topics as early as Grade 1. In Grade 3, (age eight), children were to learn about sexual orientation. In Grade 6, topics such as

masturbation were on the study slate, and in Grade 7, instruction would explore topics such as anal and oral sex.

In pulling the plug on the new curriculum, Education Minister Leona Dombrowsky conceded the government didn't adequately consult with parents.

That might explain the ground-swell of outrage once the proposed curriculum was quietly released by the ministry.

We applaud the government for backtracking on the proposed sexual education curriculum — a move that would have circumvented the responsibility of parents to educate their children about the birds and the bees, and force children to grow up way too early.



## ReadersWrite

Email letters to editorial@miltoncanadianchampion.com. Letters, which may be edited, must include the writer's name, address and phone number.

### Know all the costs involved before acquiring a pet

**DEAR EDITOR:**

In response to Gerald Hinatsu's concerns about the cost of veterinary care compared to human health care, I can understand how tempting it is to compare the two.

However, most people are unfortunately unaware of the high cost of human health care because most of the bills are paid by OHIP or

health insurance plans.

Veterinary health care, like human health care, is becoming more advanced every day. As a result, surgery, chemotherapy, dental treatments and other procedures are extending the lives and quality of life for our pets, where in the past euthanasia or pain management would have been the only options.

While these advances are wonderful in many ways, they also cost more.

However, pet owners can protect themselves and their pets by purchasing pet health insurance, which can cover up to 80 per cent of veterinary expenses.

Mr. Hinatsu implied that veterinarians routinely turn away pet owners who can't afford to pay for procedures. Ontario veterinarians do millions of dollars worth of free work for clients in financial need every year, and in other cases will offer payment plans for costly procedures.

The Ontario Veterinary Medical Association has also established the Farley Foundation, a charitable organization that subsidizes the cost of veterinary care for low-income seniors and disabled pet owners.

As veterinarians, we care deeply about our patients' well-being. Ensuring your pet lives a long, happy and healthy life may require a significant investment of both time and money.

I urge anyone considering pet ownership to contact their local veterinarian to discuss the cost and commitment involved before bringing a pet into their family.

**DR. JENNIFER DAY, PRESIDENT  
ONTARIO VETERINARY MEDICAL  
ASSOCIATION**

### Bylaw enforcement officers need to focus on the real parking violations in this town

**DEAR EDITOR:**

It's not surprising that there are many people who are frustrated with parking in Milton.

Based on what I've seen at Laurier Plaza, on any given day you will find several vehicles parked or stopped in the marked 'No Parking' and 'No Stopping' fire routes, even when there are available open spaces just 10 to 20 feet away.

I have seen the same occur in front of the Metro grocery store.

But I've never seen the bylaw enforcement officers out there handing out tickets, as it seems they're too busy ticketing someone who parked on their own street for longer than three hours.

I think the parking enforcement people

need to get their priorities sorted out.

Forget about the average person who has parked longer than three hours or even overnight in front of their homes, as this really poses no immediate danger to anyone's life.

Get out there and ticket and tow those individuals who feel that it's acceptable to stop or park in 'No Stopping' or 'No Parking, Fire Route' zones because they're only going to be in there for a minute.

I understand that the Town may not like this idea, as there would be a drop in the seemingly 'easy' ticket revenue, but it shouldn't take long for the word to spread, allowing the usual three-hour ticketing to get back in full swing.

**MIKE BYRNE  
MILTON**

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