

Ontarians support public funding

The Expositor (Brantford)
Wed 29 Mar 2006
Page: A8
Section: Opinion
Byline: John Vanasselt
Source: The Expositor

James Wallace missed the real surprise in the Osprey commissioned SES poll on **education funding**, "Ontarians say no to funding all religious schools," March 21. Only 60 per cent of those polled felt that public money should go to public education, armed with the knowledge that Ontario Conservative leader John Tory's proposal, like the previous tax credit for parents, in no way affected public funding for public education.

Tory is even quoted as saying his proposal does not "override our paramount obligation... to make sure that we maintain in place a quality public education system."

Tory is in good company. In Scandinavia, Europe, Australia and New Zealand, more than 40 American states, and the other five major provinces, governments remain committed to strong funding for public education even as they provide financial support for school choice. This is not an either-or proposition; it's a both-and proposition.

And while we're on the subject of public opinion polls, an Ipsos-Reid study showed that 84 per cent of Ontarians agreed that "parents have the right to choose a school for their child that best reflects their personal values and beliefs," and more than half the population (52 per cent) agreed that, "if parents could freely choose the school for their children, all schools would improve."

Now isn't that a noble aim -- giving parents support in their choice of school, and improving all schools in Ontario?

John Vanasselt

Director of Communications

Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools

Ancaster

© 2006 Osprey Media Group Inc. All rights reserved.

Edition: Final
Story Type: Letter
Length: 244 words