

PETITION TO ONTARIO LEGISLATURE TO END DISCRIMINATION

Whereas 93% of Ontario’s faith-based schools are *already* fully funded, but non-Catholic faith-based schools are excluded from funding solely because of their religion;

Whereas Ontario’s official religious discrimination in this matter violates binding international human rights law that Ontario committed to uphold;

Whereas all three parties represented in the Legislature continue to support Catholic school funding as guaranteed by the Constitution, so that the only fair and realistic way to fix the discrimination is to extend funding to the small excluded religious minorities, rather than eliminating all faith-based school funding and thereby forcing huge numbers of children out of publicly funded education;

Whereas Ontario is now the very last Western democracy that fully funds schools of one religion to the total exclusion of all others, while all other provinces except the Atlantic provinces fund faith-based schools *and* have thriving public school systems;

Whereas the cultural survival of the small affected minority groups is at stake;

Whereas the provision of funding to non-Catholic faith-based schools will benefit all Ontarians by facilitating public regulation of these schools in the public interest, and by supporting schools that excel in character education and produce responsible and productive citizens ; and

Whereas the Multi-Faith Coalition for Equal Funding of Faith-Based Schools has submitted a detailed proposal for the funding of non-Catholic faith-based schools in a manner that is fair and accountable, and protects and enhances the public interest;

We call on the Legislature to eliminate Ontario’s outdated official religious discrimination by passing legislation to provide equitable funding in respect of all faith-based schools in Ontario, without religious discrimination and without any reduction in funding for public education, with accountability requirements and standards in place to safeguard the public interest.

Print name (required) [Any Ontario resident may sign]	Address (required) [Street address <u>and</u> City]	Email (Optional – to join our email list)	Signature (required)

PARENTS FOR EQUALITY IN EDUCATION FUNDING (PEEF)

[**www.equalfunding.org**](http://www.equalfunding.org)

Please return this petition to your school ASAP, or send it to PEEF at 3219 Yonge St., Suite 145, Toronto, ON M4N 3S1