

## Separate Schools: The Funding: Part I- Who Pays

- ◆ **Many people think separate schools are paid for from the residential property taxes of separate school supporters.**
- ◆ This is incorrect. **All capital grant funding comes from general provincial government revenues.** From 2011-2015 to 2017-18, only **around 8% of operational funding for separate schools came from residential property taxes** (about **16%** of the funding for public schools came from residential property taxes).<sup>1</sup>
- ◆ OPEN could obtain this information only by paying for FOI (Freedom of Information) reports. [The online reports produced by the Ontario government, “Projected Grants for Student Needs” give one total which combines residential and business property taxes with Ontario grants.] We have emphasized recent years in this document but the figures we give for 2011-12 to 2017-18 are consistent with figures we obtained from 2002-03 to 2010-11.<sup>2</sup>
- ◆ Most of the funding of separate schools comes from general provincial revenues. And the provincial government gives more in funding from general provincial revenues per student to separate schools than public schools.
- ◆ In general, **about 72%** of the total operating revenues for separate schools for 2011-12 to 2018-19 came from provincial funding. Only about **62%** of the total operating revenues for public schools came from provincial funding.<sup>3</sup>
- ◆ To put it in dollars, the Ontario government gave about **\$1,620 more from general provincial revenues** per student yearly to separate schools than public schools from 2012-13 to 2017-18. From 2015-16 to 2017-18, English language separate schools received about \$1,260 more yearly in provincial grants per student than English-language public schools.<sup>4</sup>
- ◆ Both systems receive about 15% of their operating revenues from business property taxes.<sup>5</sup> Businesses cannot direct their taxes; if a small business is wholly owned by atheists or Baptists, their business property taxes are still assigned on a per student basis to separate and public schools in their area. (About 5% of all operating funds for both separate and public school boards comes from other sources including federal grants, school generated funds, rental revenue, etc.)
- ◆ So the answer to the question of who funds separate schools is all of us, Catholic and non-Catholic, religious and non-religious.
- ◆ But does funding separate schools cost us more money than if we had one non-denominational two-language school system. To find out see “Separate Schools – The Costs: Part II- Why Abolishing Public Funding for Separate Schools Would Save Money”.

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<sup>1</sup> *Freedom of Information Request* EDU-160070, February 2017 (2011-12 to 2014-15); FOI EDU-180020, August 2018 (2015-16 to 2017-18).

<sup>2</sup> FOI Request EDU-120041 (May, 2012).

<sup>3</sup> *Freedom of Information Request* EDU-160070, February 2017 and EDU-180020, August 2018

<sup>4</sup> FOI EDU-160070; EDU-180020.

<sup>5</sup> *Freedom of Information Request* EDU-160070, February 2017 and EDU-180020, August 2018