

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SEPARATE SCHOOLS THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT WILL NOT TELL YOU

- 1. A study has shown an estimated 1.25 to 1.6 billion dollars could be saved if we had one public two-language system.**
 - Think of all the money available for special education or repairs to schools¹
- 2. Catholic Separate schools can legally require teachers to be Catholic ²**
 - Non-Catholic teachers can obtain jobs in only two-thirds of publicly-funded schools, except in very limited circumstances
- 3. Ontario government can completely abolish all separate school funding**
 - Ontario provincial legislature would pass one-sentence act which states protection for separate schools [s.93 (1-4) of *Constitution Act, 1867*] no longer applies to Ontario; federal parliament will then pass the relevant amendment to s.93, *Constitution Act, 1867*
 - Quebec and Newfoundland abolished separate schools in similar way³
- 4. Separate schools receive, on average, around 72% of their operational funding from general provincial revenues**
 - Only about **7.5%** of the operating expenses for Catholic Separate schools comes from residential property taxes from separate school supporters.
 - **All** of their capital funding comes from general provincial revenues.
- 5. Public school supporters support separate schools through provincial grants**
 - From 2002-03 to 2014-15, separate schools received about **\$1,600 more per student yearly** in provincial operational and capital funding from general revenues than public schools (**\$1,700 more** from 2011-12 to 2014-15).⁴
- 6. In 1867, only about 25% of Catholic students, that is about 5% of all students, attended Separate Catholic schools**
 - **today, about 31% of all students attend Separate Catholic schools**
- 7. In 1864-1867, separate schools were not funded on the same per capita basis as public schools**
 - Separate schools received only about **63% as much per student** as public schools⁵
- 8. Students would go to closer, more fully-utilized schools**
 - Under one public secular system, children would not be bused as far and fully utilized schools could provide more resources for all children

¹ Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods of Ontario, *Ontario Public and Catholic School Merger Study*, March 2012;

² *Daly v. Ontario (Attorney General)*, 44 O.R.(3d) 349.

³ *Constitution Amendment, 1997, Quebec (s.93A); Constitution Amendment, 1997 (Newfoundland)*.

⁴ Information from FOI (Freedom of Information) Request EDU-120041, May 2012; and EDU-160070, February 2017 (Points 4 and 5).

⁵ *Annual Reports of the Normal... and Common Schools of Upper Canada for 1864-1867* (Points 6 and 7).