



ONTARIO ALLIANCE OF  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

## QUEEN'S PARK UPDATE

Please attach to school newsletter

September 4, 2007

### *Doing the Math*

Since the Liberal government revoked the Equity in Education Tax Credit in 2003, Christian school boards have found it increasingly difficult to balance the high cost of Christian education and the ability of parents to pay. Just last month the Lucknow District Christian School made the difficult decision not to open its doors this school year. Furthermore, an increasing number of OACS school communities have serious financial concerns going forward. It is a reality that normal, hard-working middle class Christian families are questioning how long they can continue to pay for Christian education.

On October 10th, Ontario will go to the polls to elect a provincial government. The main issue in this election is a proposal from John Tory and the Progressive Conservatives to provide public funds for faith-based schools. *It is the view of OACS that Mr. Tory's proposal is worthy of all party support.* In June OACS asked the three main parties to state their position on funding Christian schools. Only two parties responded and their positions can be found at [www.oacs.org/election](http://www.oacs.org/election).

OACS is optimistic about Mr. Tory's proposal. We have no difficulty with the three principles on which the policy will be based, and we have every confidence of being involved at the highest levels when the details will be decided.

Mr. McGuinty has told reporters he would attempt to make religious school funding the central issue of the election. He has been vociferous in his opposition to Mr. Tory's proposal, strongly suggesting that funding faith based schools would be fueling social unrest—a hypocritical position given the fact that he and his children are Catholic school grads. OACS takes strong exception to this fear-mongering, since the very focus of OACS Christian education is positive responsible citizenship.

If Mr. McGuinty and the Liberals win the election, they will be affirmed in their anti-religious school position, and the PCs won't find a leader to raise the issue after two defeats at the polls. It could take the time span of a whole generation before the possibility of funding is even considered, if then. In the meantime, Christian school parents will be faced with the financial reality of increasing costs. You do the math.

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