

Civil Rights In Public Education, Inc.

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights
UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS



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The extra annual cost to keep separate schools is between \$1 & \$1.4 billion

So spending \$1.3 billion per year on separate education is akin to building a \$1.3 billion ship, and then immediately sinking it

because neither a publicly-funded separate education, nor a sunken ship, gives any lasting value to Ontario citizens. (See page 5)



“HMCS Preserver (pictured) is, along with HMCS Protecteur, one of Canada’s two supply ships. The federal government has set aside \$2.6 billion to build two more supply ships.” The Pembroke Observer, 2013-03-02.

The root cause of some of the social and financial problems in Ontario is due to the public funding of the Roman Catholic separate school system. The continued refusal of the federal and provincial governments to remove the two-tier citizenship arrangement in Ontario, based on one’s reli-

gious beliefs, or absence of same, is disgraceful.

The blame falls full-square on a majority of politicians who, presumably, have been duped into believing that the continued existence of their particular party is dependent on their support for the public funding of the Roman

Catholic separate school system.

The lobbying of MPPs and others by separate-school supporters is masterful, but this is no excuse for elected representatives to be turned into pawns for a private organization while turning their backs on principle.

Up until 1990, the extra annual cost to support the extension of public funds to Roman Catholic high schools was public knowledge. The amount appeared in the records of all school boards. After 1990, this figure was no longer made public. Hence calculations by interested individuals or organizations became necessary.

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Calculation #1 By Gilles Arpin, 2011

Gilles Arpin was a district school trustee from 1998 to 2010. For eight of those years he served as vice-chair of Conseil scolaire Viamonde.

The background to his study notes the savings in costs made possible through the 1960s' reduction in the number of school boards; from over 3000 to about 170.

The Fewer School Boards Act of January 1997 further reduced the number of boards from 129 to 72.

As a school board trustee for some 12 years, Gilles saw reason to further reduce the number of school boards by setting an arbitrary maximum of 50,000 students per board.

More amalgamation

Only 3 of the 12 French school boards have more than 10,000 students.

And there are 14 English public boards with fewer than 25,000 students and 24 English separate boards with fewer than 25,000 students, mostly coterminous with the public boards.

It is a well-documented fact that all attempts by French-language public school boards to share school facilities with their Roman Catholic counterparts were vehemently opposed by the Ontario Council of Bishops. This same situation prevails with English-language school boards, whereby sharing of school facilities between Public and Roman Catholic school boards must be the rule, and not an option.

Currently, the occupancy level in

French schools is 52.9% for public and 57.5% for R. Catholic.

An amalgamation of the public and separate French and English school boards could rapidly and effectively be completed without difficulty because both public and separate boards cover the same territory. Such an amalgamation would reduce the number of boards from 72 to 36.

Also, records show that from the 2002-03 to the 2010-11 school years, the total secondary enrolment has declined from 2,005,478 to 1,943,442 for a reduction of 62,036 students. The loss of this number of students represents the population of about 41 high schools with 1,500 students each,

Cost savings

Cost savings would be achieved through the elimination of 288 redundant trustees, 36 directors of education, many superintendents, school operation and maintenance personnel, an efficient transportation system, senior management, support staff, board offices, principals, teachers, French & English trustee associations—and the list could go on.

To put dollar numbers to the savings, the calculations reveal the following savings from:

Administration & support personnel—	\$794,217,773
Student funding equalization adjustment—	179,197,620
Transportation adjustment—	137,722,119
School operation & maintenance—	324,408,016

Total estimated annual savings

\$1,435,485,028

Calculation #2 By William J. Phillips, 2012

William Phillips is a past-president of the Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods of Ontario, Inc. He produced a “Discussion Paper” entitled “Ontario Public and Catholic School Merger Study” in March of 2012. (The word “merger” can be misinterpreted but the meaning here is to eliminate the public funding of the R. C. separate school systems.)

Phillips wrote that the reason for the paper is because: *“Ontario voters have made it quite clear that they will not tolerate public funding for religious schools. The problems of funding religious schools for only one religion remain troublesome. It might be useful to establish a commission to study how the public and separate school systems could be combined and what savings would result from such a merger.”*

The paper begins with a listing of all of the English separate boards along with their grants for school board administration and governance which would be discontinued with their elimination. The total comes to \$164,943,666.

The French boards, which cover the whole province, have small enrolments in schools which have utilizations as low as 28% with the high being 83.5%. The obvious conclusion is that there is sufficient excess capacity to enable a reduction of the number of these school boards from 12 to 8 without any negative effects on French-language education in those areas.

The consolidation of low-enrolment schools, especially in the public boards, makes it obvi-

ous that educational opportunities will be improved.

The estimated annual savings from the elimination of four school boards and a corresponding number of schools, amounts to a combined figure for both elementary and secondary of \$38,307,767.

Savings by reducing under-utilization are derived from the ability to reduce the number of schools by making better utilization of the excess facilities.

By combining both the elementary and secondary levels, these savings could reach 7.5%, or \$169,557,725.

Student transportation grant

It will be possible to reduce the costs of student transportation by eliminating the current duplication of these services and by reducing the distances to be travelled by students. It is estimated that these savings could reach at least 20% of current costs for a saving of \$168,947,579.

(See "Transportation Savings" page 4)

Savings in capital programs

With the elimination of separate boards, *there will be excess facilities which can be declared surplus and sold. The resulting funds can be used to offset costs of new pupil places and other capital programs.*

After the change. *Capital costs should be reduced by at least 20% because there will be fewer administrative buildings needed because of the reduction in school board numbers and fewer schools to replace.*

Estimated annual savings:
\$239,348,155.

Economy of scale savings

While there are savings possible in other grant areas listed below, these are difficult to estimate with any degree of certainty.

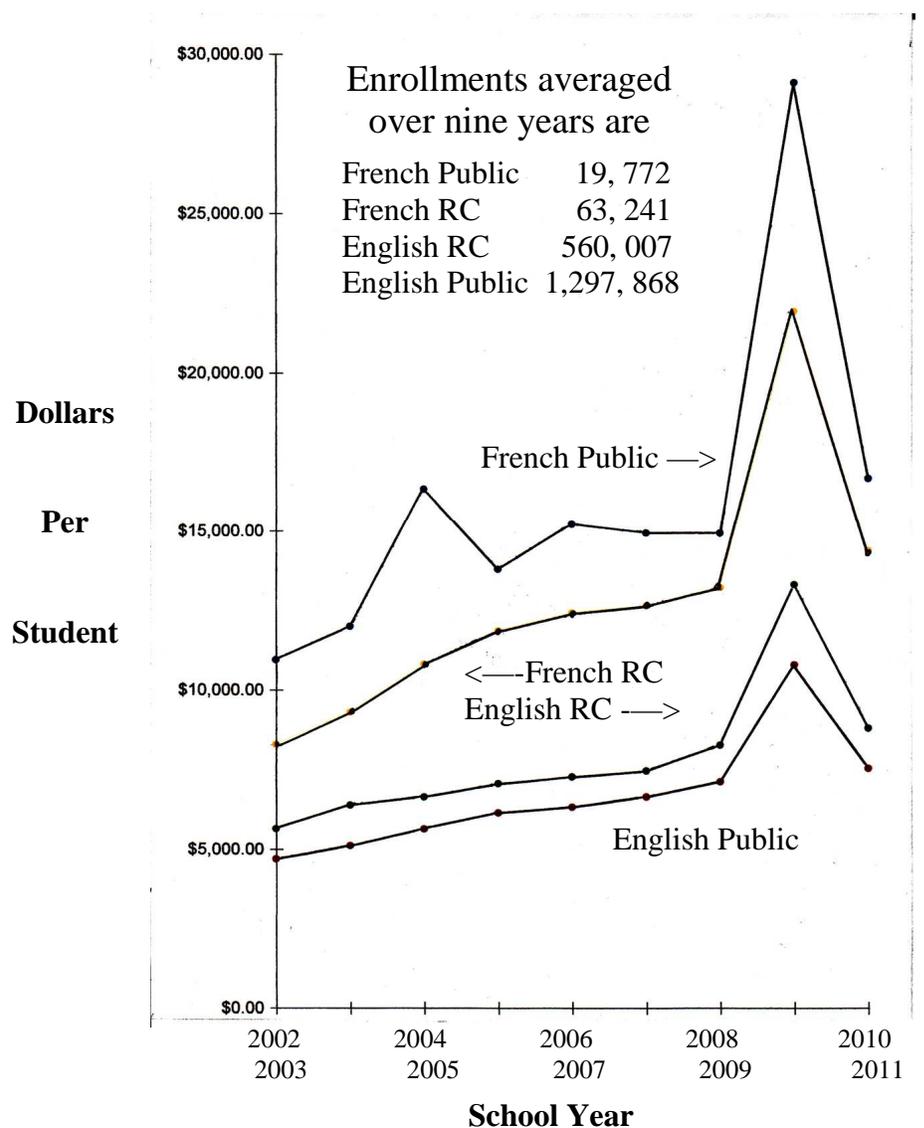
- Pupil foundation grant*
- School foundation grant*
- Special education grant*
- Language grant*
- Learning opportunities grant*

Dollars per Student Chart

In the chart below, notice the spread in dollars/student for the four systems in 2002-03 compared to the spread in 2010-11. The French Public dollars per student increased \$6,259 over those years while the English Public only increased \$2,832.

Over the same span of years, the French RC dollars per student increased \$6,081 compared to \$3,139 for the English RC.

This again illustrates the extra costs of operating province-wide systems with low enrolments.



Teacher qualification and experience grant

Economies of scale should provide at least minimal savings in these areas. Certainly the most conservative savings that could be anticipated would be from 3% to 5% reduction in costs which would yield annual savings of from \$487,938,121 to \$813,230,202.

Consider a middle figure for Economy of scale--\$650,584,162.
Admin & governance— \$164,943,666
French boards— \$38,307,767
Under utilization— \$169,557,725
Transportation— \$168,947,579
Capital programs— \$239,384,155

Total estimated annual savings
\$1,431,725,054

Transportation Savings

If there is any question about some of the savings previously noted, consider the case of the bus transportation situation in the city of Ottawa.

In the school year 2002-03 the RC board received a grant of **\$511.76** for each of its 39,120 students, or \$20,020,942.

The Public board received only **\$324.13** for each of its 72,335 students, or \$23,446,237. If the RC board had received the same per-pupil grant as the Public board, there would have been a saving of \$7,340,976.

In the 2010-11 school year, the situation improved so that the savings if the RC board received the same per-pupil grant as the Public board was only \$4,814,011. This is a graphic example as to how millions of dollars are wasted.

The excess cost for the RC board is most likely due to the fact that both boards cover the same geographic area and so have duplicate bus systems for the same geographical boundaries.

**Calculation #3
Updated CRIPE figures, 2013**

The last newsletter zeroed in on the dollars per student that we, the public, give to each of our four school systems. But Ministry figures for the French systems were misinterpreted giving enrolment figures that were too high. This time, nine school years are tracked for all four systems for more accuracy.

Again, only provincial revenues and capital grants were considered because they represent monetary values with no complications such as tax and other adjustments.

We believe that the cost per student gives an accurate picture of the expenses necessary to run a system, so these were calculated.

The average costs for each of the four systems in dollars per student over the nine-year average are:

French public—	\$15,100
French separate—	\$12,761
English separate—	\$7,872
English public—	\$6,668

The graph on page 3 shows that the larger the system — the lower the cost.

A very simple calculation to determine the total excess costs of a low-enrolment system is to move the students from a low enrolment system to the high-enrolment system. The difference between the

per-student costs represents the saving.

Calculations show that:

1) Moving all French public students to the elementary/secondary public school buildings would save \$166,717,504.

2) Moving the French, formerly separate, students to the common secular school buildings would save \$385,327,413.

This assumes that the French students will occupy the same buildings as the English students, a model previously used in many communities. In Pembroke, a section of the high school was partitioned off so the French students had their own private classroom area with its own main entrance and school name.

3) Moving the English, formerly separate, students to the common public school buildings would save \$674,248,428.

Such a re-organization would mean fewer bus systems for all students going to the same location instead of several bus schedules and routes going to four separate locations.

This would mean one primary and one secondary school building instead of a possible total of eight. The attendant savings from a consolidation would come to approximately \$1,226,293,345

Note how close this simple calculation agrees with the previous two calculations.

But if we used the 2010-11 year per student cost, instead of average, we could expect a

Total estimated annual savings
of **\$1,320,486,901**

At present, services for handicapped citizens have been reduced or are too low, because the priority of the government has been to spend over a billion dollars each year on separate schools for no social benefit whatsoever to the citizens of Ontario.

The dollars are lost just as surely as if Ontario built a supply ship for \$1.3 billion each year, and then sunk it.

When the politicians finally re-direct our tax dollars from the Roman Catholic church, to expenditures for the social good of **all** citizens, it is hoped that those presently neglected will get their fair share.

Autistic persons

Autism is a disorder of neural development characterized by impaired social interaction and communication, and by restricted and repetitive behavior. Autism affects information processing in the brain by altering how nerve cells and their synapses connect and organize; how this occurs is not well understood. (From Wikipedia)

An example was recounted in the Ottawa Citizen of February 18. When Ashley Corbett was 13, her name was put on a list for a coveted place at a provincially-funded group home. Six years later her name is still on the waiting list with 6,000 others with developmental disabilities.

At 18 these people lose their pediatricians, publicly-funded speech and language services and behavioural therapy. Depending on the level of impairment, many, with proper therapy, can complete high school, college or university.

The provincial Ministry of Community and Social Services funds

300 community-based agencies to provide services for adults with developmental disabilities, But even if one is eligible, the system hasn't the funds to support all that need help.

Families of loved ones have complained that their children are at risk of staying in a homeless shelter, or jail, if they become violent, because there is nowhere else for them to go. The caregivers, on the other hand, could be on the brink of emotional and/or physical breakdown.

Care at home can be expensive. One parent regularly borrows from her line of credit to pay a monthly bill of \$1,300 for after-school care. Caregiver parents can lapse into depression because they have to mortgage their home or go into debt to pay for the high costs of up to \$150,000 a year.

The tragedy is that some people, with autism, with enough training, could be self employed and even live on their own.

When one looks at the situation, one can't help thinking that savings made from eliminating the billion plus dollars spent for no social benefit whatsoever, (public funds for separate schools), could be used to help the unfortunate families with autistic children, or others with disabilities.

Down Syndrome persons

Down syndrome, is a chromosomal condition typically associated with mental retardation and a particular set of facial characteristics. A large proportion of individuals with Down syndrome have a severe degree of intellectual disability. (From Wikipedia)

Donna and Don Taylor, featured in a Toronto Star article of March 2, are the parents of two such adopted children, 18 and 16. They believe that their kids deserve the same opportunities as any other, and worked doggedly to put support systems in place.

However, the province changed the funding system last year leaving teens at risk of losing financial support the family counted on.

"Special Services at Home", a program to provide up to \$10,000 a year for support-worker costs, recreation programs and respite care is no longer available to persons over 18.

There is a Passport program but recipients must finish high school before they qualify. However according to the Ministry of Community and Social Services, there were 3,700 adults on the wait list.

For teens like the Taylor children it's the difference between a

life of fullness and a potential disaster. They are put at risk of days of isolation with nothing to do.

Without the financial support, it will be "like they'll fall off a cliff" said Donna, who is now 63 and left her nursing career to care for the children and co-ordinate the many services they need. Don is 69 and has no plans to retire from his restoration business. The couple fear what will happen if adequate support is not in place when they age and are not able to cope with the physical demands of their children.

Presently the children's lives are filled with routines and hobbies, but constant care is a never-ending need. One also has fetal alcohol syndrome and the other is also autistic. Their verbal skills are limited and both need help to communicate.

"Uncertainty about the future leaves Donna Taylor feeling let down by her province. She is frustrated by the millions of dollars wasted through cancelled gas plants and scandals like ORNGE, when a fraction of that money would be enough to take everyone off wait lists. Continued financial support makes 'a world of difference' to so many families who are struggling, she says. 'There has to be a better way.'" (Quoted from The Toronto Star.)

Hospital cuts

"For the next four years, they're going to be cutting \$3 billion from the health-care system in Ontario. We're calling it the austerity budget," said Nathalie Sheppard, campaign organizer for the Ontario Health Coalition which also claims that at \$1,312 per person, Ontario

already has the lowest hospital funding of all provinces. Since the 1990s, Ontario hospitals have lost 18,500 beds.

Further cuts will be coming in the form of services, such as physiotherapy, which clients will have to pay for themselves in private clinics.

By April 1st, hospitals will have to devise strategies to reduce their operating deficits. If no ways are found, it will mean more cuts to services which are already underfunded.

The Ontario government has said that savings from hospital budget cuts will be put back into home health-care services.

But Sheppard has said: "But they're not actually doing that. The rate they're putting money into home care is not keeping up with the cuts they're making in the hospitals. So that people that are going home aren't able to access the services in time and end up back in the emergency room."

This is bad, but in northern rural areas it's worse, entire hospitals are slated for closure. In Ontario, already known for some of the worst wait times, waits will be longer.

It has now reached the point where the biggest determinant of health is whether you were born rich or poor. (From rabble.ca)

NO SOCIAL JUSTICE

There is no social justice in Ontario when precious tax dollars are taken from the needy and given to a private organization in an effort support it up by providing some of its services through a separate school system.

UN will chastise Canada for the fourth time

Previously on a 5-year schedule, the United Nations now review a country's human rights record through a Universal Periodic Review conducted every 4.5 years. See: <http://www.pch.gc.ca/pgm/pdp-hrp/inter/upr-eng.cfm>

Now, for the third time, Canada/Ontario has been chastised by the United Nations for ignoring their human rights obligations to we citizens. A fourth rebuke will be issued this spring.

Misleading

A section of a Roman Catholic pamphlet entitled "168 years of success" stated that: "In fact, the UN has not made such a ruling. It was the opinion of members of one committee, and never moved beyond that committee." (Spring newsletter #103.)

In fact, UN document "A/HRC/WG.6/4/CAN/2 dated 17 December 2008" is headlined "General Assembly" with distribution "General" and contains the following, quote:

The Human Rights Committee (HR Committee) regretted Canada's continued failure to address the inadequate remedies for violations of ICCPR articles 2,3 and 26, recommending amendment to legislation at federal, provincial and territorial levels and legal system enhancement, allowing victims of discrimination full access to competent tribunals and effective remedy.

See CRIPE newsletter for Summer 1999, Year 14, Number 3 which describes the first rebuke.

The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) is finally showing signs of becoming active for one public school system

The Annual Meeting of the Provincial Assembly (AMPA) was held during the winter break, 2013, which resulted in the following Federation motions; where BIRT means "Be it resolved that".

1. BIRT that Policy 7.5 and 7.5.1 be deleted and replaced by:
BIRT that it is the Policy of OSSTF there should be only one publicly funded secular school system in both official languages.
2. BIRT that it is the Policy of OSSTF that no OSSTF jobs would be lost as a result of moving to one publicly funded secular school system in both official languages.

Resolutions 3 through 5 have been referred to a Work Group for further study as to implementation, along with recommendations as to how to proceed with the intent of resolutions 1 and 2.

3. BIRT OSSTF develop a public education campaign to promote one publicly funded secular school system in both official languages and the reasons why it is in the best interests of students, education finances and the citizens of Ontario. Cost—\$75,000.
4. BIRT that following AMPA 2013, all OSSTF lobby strategies with Ontario politicians and at political party events and conventions include the promotion of one publicly funded secular school system in both official languages.
5. BIRT OSSTF develop lobby materials to promote one publicly funded secular school system in both official languages. Cost—\$5,000.

CRIPE Comment:

It is about time that this teachers' organization recognized that their members who lack the required government test for religious affiliation are discriminated against with regard to teaching positions in the separate system and started to do something about it. Let us now hope that the other large public body whose mission is education, that is, the trustees of our public school boards, do something through their provincial body: the Ontario Public School Boards' Association—OPSBA.

Ontario's shameful head tax — \$141 per taxpayer

Canada's history has some shameful policies in its past, outlined in Chapter 1 "Maturing Ideas of Social Justice" of the Friends of Public Education in Ontario, Inc. book *Not Carved in Stone*, published in 1992. One item recalled that: "CHINESE were encouraged to emigrate to Canada to build the Canadian Pacific Railway through the Rockies. They were forced to pay an extortionate head tax for the 'privilege'".

We in Ontario also pay a head tax for the "privilege" of living in this province. The first pages of this newsletter concentrate on the exorbitant **extra** cost, in taxpayers' dollars, wasted each year to support the Roman Catholic separate school system, approx. \$1.4 billion. From census figures for Ontario there are 10,187,000 persons of taxpayer age – 15 and up. <http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/economy/demographics/projections/#s3a>

By dividing the \$1.4 billion by the number of taxpayers, we come to a \$141 head tax that each taxpayer in Ontario pays (depending on one's tax bracket) to maintain the existence of those two separate systems in which only those of the correct religious colour are allowed to apply for employment.

This calculation is an acknowledged oversimplification, but if nothing else it represents the dollars per head that could be going to aid disadvantaged persons and/or their caregiver families when RC privilege is ended.

Time to now think about an apology, reconciliation and reparations?

WHO WE ARE

Civil Rights in Public Education, Inc. is an organization composed of citizens of differing backgrounds, living in more than 155 communities across Ontario, committed to one strong public education system, which offers neither privilege nor prejudice to anyone.

OUR AIMS ARE

- To serve as advocates for civil rights in public education so that the public is informed about the issue of publicly-funded separate schools.
- To hasten the day when Ontario's education policy recognizes the dignity and worth of all children, their right to equality, and their right to freedom from religious discrimination.



OUR LOGO

Our logo is composed of a background scroll representing the charters of rights which guarantee fundamental freedoms to all individuals; the numeral "1" signifies equality and social unity in one public education system for each official language; the flame above is the universal symbol for freedom.

Poll: Support for RC funding at a new low

From the Toronto Sun, February 21, 2013.

A new Forum Research poll found that the number of Ontarians opposed to public funding of Roman Catholic separate schools has grown to **54%**. The survey of 1,053 people found that support for the separate school system had fallen to **39%**, a new low.

Those who identified themselves as NDP supporters were more likely to oppose the funding followed by backers of the Liberal Party. Conservative supporters were evenly split.

Lorne Bozinoff, president of Forum Research, said that four polls have consistently shown that Ontario citizens do not support the public funding of the RC separate system. Bozinoff also said that the findings raise questions about why the Grits, Tories and NDP continue to support the funding.

A Thought to Consider

**How wonderful it is
that no one has to wait,
but can start right now
to gradually change the world.**

Anne Frank

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**ABOVE ALL WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT NO CITIZEN OF
ONTARIO, NOW, OR EVER IN THE FUTURE, IS PRIVILEGED
OR DISADVANTAGED PUBLICLY BECAUSE OF HIS/HER
FAITH, OR ABSENCE OF FAITH.**