



Are Ontario's public schools adequately funded?

The public education system in Ontario is funded by the provincial Ministry of Education, as well as through local property taxes. Since 1998, provincial funding has been inadequate to cover the full cost of the public education system. For instance, most school boards spend more on special education than they receive from the Province to fund it. While the Province provides schools boards with funds through the Learning Opportunities Grant (LOG) intended to assist students facing socio-economic challenges, a large portion of the money is instead being used to cover underfunded operating costs. In addition, schools are increasingly reliant on fees and fundraising to fill budget holes. This reliance on private money creates a divide in educational opportunities for students attending schools in wealthier areas compared to lower-income areas.



The Province's role in education funding

The Province is responsible for funding public education, but funding is not adequate to cover the basic costs, including full-day kindergarten, maintenance, staff costs, and the costs of learning materials. Increased funding from the Province is necessary to cover rising costs and to ensure that all children in Ontario have access to quality education, regardless of their family's income.

Ask your candidates:

- How will your party ensure that public education is adequately funded?
- What will your party do to reduce the inequities that arise when private money is allowed to enter the public education system?
- How will your party ensure that the Learning Opportunities Grant is spent on students facing socio-economic challenges, as it was intended?

Resources:

Campaign for Public Education: www.campaignforpubliceducation.ca

People for Education: Annual Report 2013: www.peopleforeducation.ca

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. Hugh Mackenzie – No Time for Complacency. 2009: www.policyalternatives.ca

