



O A C S

**ONTARIO ALLIANCE OF  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS**  
617 Garner Road East  
Ancaster ON L9G 3K9

TEL: (905) 648-2100

FAX: (905) 648-2110

E-MAIL: [oacs@oacs.org](mailto:oacs@oacs.org)

WEB SITE: [www.oacs.org](http://www.oacs.org)

## FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

### News Release

Ancaster ON, April 17, 2007

### Expanding education in the public interest

Expanding education in the public interest would be good for Ontario is the message of the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools (OACS). In a statement released today, the OACS points to principles found in the 1984 Shapiro Commission Report and practices underway in other provinces as the foundations for a new education policy which would include government support for school choice.

"Balancing public accountability with the educational integrity of faith-based schools would be key in a new education policy," said Dr. Adrian Guldemon, Executive Director of the OACS. "As we did in 1984, we continue to view many of Dr. Shapiro's recommendations as constructive and helpful for expanding education in the public interest," he stated.

OACS has long taken the position that choice in education is a public good. This is demonstrated in six other provinces, over forty American states, and most of the countries in the western world, where governments maintain a strong commitment to the state system of public schools alongside support for school choice.

A new education policy should also deal with the black cloud of discrimination that continues to blanket this province. Ontario must deal with the decision of the United Nations that the current funding system violates the human rights of non-Catholic parents who choose faith-based schools for their children.

Albert Bakker, OACS board chair commented that, "a new education policy should include the principles of fairness and equity, and the recognition that government is interested in supporting the education of all Ontario's children."

To find the OACS public policy statement, *Expanding Education in the Public Interest*, go to [www.oacs.org](http://www.oacs.org) and click on "Advocacy."

OACS schools have been providing top-notch Christian education throughout the province since 1952. Currently, there are 74 schools, employing over 1000 qualified teachers, serving more than 13,000 students in Ontario.

— 30 —

For further information contact:

John Vanasselt

Director of Communications

Email: [johnv@oacs.org](mailto:johnv@oacs.org)

Cell: 905-379-1856