



QUEEN'S PARK UPDATE

DEC. 18, 2003

TAX CREDIT REMOVED ... RETROACTIVELY!

One of the few promises kept by the new Liberal government was to revoke the *Equity in Education Tax Credit*. As soon as Bill 2 was tabled, OACS went to court seeking an injunction to stop the government from passing legislation to revoke the *Equity in Education Tax Credit*. The judge agreed there was a serious issue of the government not following due process according to the *Taxpayer Protection Act*, but he was unwilling to intervene in the parliamentary process. We are presently considering a further legal option, continuing to work with supportive MPPs, and ensuring the media has accurate information about the impact of this injustice. We encourage parents to keep up contact with MPPs, sharing the treasure of Christian education with them. Regardless of how we are treated, we will not be marginalized. Christian schools are good for Ontario!

Despite pleas and arguments to the contrary from hundreds of parents, a variety of independent school groups, both opposition parties, economic think tanks, and even the liberal press, on December 17, 2003, the Liberal government killed the tax credit. Not only did they take away this small measure of justice and support, they did it retroactive to January 1, 2003, turning down a proposed amendment from the opposition that would have kept the tax credit for this year. Once again, Ontario funds one system of faith-based schools to the exclusion of others and violates treaties which Canada signed as a member of the United Nations. Once again, Christian parents are being treated as second-class citizens, and this time they have been singled out as the only group of people to pay higher taxes.

Even while the Christian school community deals with this harsh treatment from the government, we celebrate the season. Successive generations of children will continue to learn that it is not earthly governments that hold our allegiance. The Christmas story is that, "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things and in Him all things hold together." (Col. 1:15-17, NIV) Our prayer is for comfort and joy during this blessed season and the new year.

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