



# The Ontario Provincial Election and the Catholic Church

**Election Date: Thursday, June 2, 2022**

## EDUCATION

### *The Issue from a Catholic Perspective*

*“We give thanks for Catholic education, which from the earliest days of our province, has been an integral part of the educational system of Ontario. We are so richly blessed with a system in which the French and English, and the non-religious and Catholic dimensions of our whole education system work together in co-operation to make education a treasure for which all Ontarians may truly be thankful.”*

*(Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto)*

The key element of Catholic education is its integration of faith and academic development, which encourages students to realize their full potential as individuals created in the image of God. Thanks to public funding of Catholic schools, every year hundreds of thousands of students from diverse backgrounds receive an excellent education in a supportive environment.

Catholic schools endeavor to journey with our young people and strive to form leaders who are compassionate, responsible and faithful in all that they do. We celebrate how Catholic schools enrich our parishes, our communities and our province in so many ways.

As you head to the polls on June 2, please take time to consider the importance of ongoing public funding of Catholic schools in Ontario.

## FACTS

- Ontario’s first Catholic school opened in 1826 (OECTA)
- The right to Catholic education was entrenched in the constitution in 1867 (OECTA)
- There are **1,347** publicly-funded elementary and secondary **Catholic schools** in Ontario, serving **562,000** students (*Friends and Advocates for Catholic Education*)
- Ontario’s Catholic ratepayers represent approximately **one-third** of the province’s tax revenue base (OCSTA)

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION BEFORE YOU VOTE JUNE 2, 2022

- How would your community be different without publicly-funded Catholic schools?
- How can I help Catholic education thrive in Ontario?



*Over the years our Church leaders have taught us a great deal about the importance of publicly-funded Catholic education and its contribution to society. Here are some thoughts to consider as you prepare to vote in the upcoming provincial election on June 2.*

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION**

“Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth – in a word, to know himself – so that, by knowing and loving God, men and women may also come to the fullness of truth about themselves.”

*(St. John Paul II, Fides et Ratio, pg. 1)*

“Essential to the fruitfulness of [Ontario’s] diverse educational system that is such a benefit to our province is a recognition of the legitimate identity of each partner. As for the Catholic dimension, with which I am most engaged as Cardinal Archbishop of Toronto, that identity is recognized and protected both by section 93 of our Canadian constitution – for without recognition of that identity the agreement that created Canada would not have proceeded – but also by section 1 of the Education Act of Ontario. Both the constitution and the Education Act make it clear that the Catholic identity of the school must be respected.”

*(Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto)*

“The individual’s story is the curriculum and in Catholic education if each student can be valued for who they are and their God-given gifts they learn, thrive and find their place in the world. This is at the crux of our praxis in Catholic education, where we can assist individuals to see their own personal story in the light of THE story, coming to understand how their own lives are significant in the weaving together of all our stories.”

*(Institute for Catholic Education, Curriculum Still Matters: A Resource for Catholic Educators, pg. 7)*

We have a duty to be well-informed and to vote.

Learn more about the major political parties’ positions on issues of importance to Catholics.

For more details, visit:  
[www.archtoronto.org/election](http://www.archtoronto.org/election)



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