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Letters to the Editor  
The Toronto Star

The article published in today's Toronto Star (June 14) – "Catholic students can opt out of religion class" - perpetuates a misperception that all students in Ontario's Catholic secondary schools can opt out of the religious studies program. Under the provisions of the *Education Act*, there is an eligibility requirement.

Ontarians expect a Catholic learning environment in Ontario's publicly funded Catholic schools. Catholic school boards have the mandate of fulfilling that goal.

Section 42(13) of Ontario's *Education Act* sets out the relevant exemption for programs or courses of study in religious education. This section applies to students who attend Catholic schools but whose parents are public school supporters. The intent of Section 42(13) is to accommodate the students of non-Catholic families who choose Catholic high schools for their children's education.

This exemption does not in any way change Catholic District School Boards' rights to require Catholic students to take religious education courses in each of their 4 years of secondary school.

Yours truly,

Patrick Daly  
President