



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

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November 28, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairpersons and Directors of Education
- All Catholic District School Boards

FROM: Patrick J. Daly, President

SUBJECT: Progressive Conservative Election Platform 2018

On Saturday November 25, 2017 Patrick Brown, leader of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party (“PC”) released his party’s policy platform “*People’s Guarantee*”. You can read the full People’s Guarantee here: www.ontariopc.ca/peoplesguarantee

Below is a summary of the key policy initiatives impacting school boards and the education sector.

Overall Policy Priorities

Patrick Brown indicated the 5 key policy promises will be met during his first term as Premier of Ontario. If they fail to achieve these promises, he would not seek a second term as Premier. These key policy priorities are:

1. 22.5% tax reduction for the middle class, or those earning under \$100,000 annually
2. 75% refund for child care expenses, or up to \$6,750 per child adjusted for income
3. 12% further reduction in consumer electricity bills
4. \$1.9 billion investment in mental health services
5. Introduce the Trust, Integrity and Accountability Act to set performance targets for cabinet ministers, increase restrictions on lobbying and fundraising activity and return the Auditor General’s authority to oversee government advertising.

Education Policy Initiatives “Change that works for Education”

- Impose a moratorium on all school closures in both urban and rural areas
- Expand financial literacy pilot program into all secondary schools
- Take concrete steps to get math scores back on track—include math components in teachers' college courses, increase professional development by one day/year

- Appoint a task force of former teaching professionals to learn from the province's best teachers to best inform future curriculum updates
- Enhance student safety by making school bus camera systems mandatory to prevent drivers from illegally driving by stopped or signaling school buses
- Study options, including the Blind Persons' Right Act to expand the rights of people with disabilities and autism to bring service dogs to schools and public places
- Envelope special education funding to school boards and ensure that it is actually spent on special education services
- Create 100,000 new child care spaces and include a child care spaces in every newly built elementary school in Ontario
- Provide funding for all children with autism
- Extend the current pilot program of 60 minutes of daily exercise to all schools
- Allow high school students to count work in the skilled trades for up to half of their volunteer commitment credit; modernize the promotion of trades to high school students and fix the job information portal to better match students with careers of the future
- Make broadband and cellular infrastructure projects eligible under the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund and put up to \$100 million towards funding these projects directly.

Next Steps

OCSTA will continue to liaise with all political parties with regard to their election platforms and work to positively impact their policies in the best interest of Catholic education. We will update boards once we receive final election platforms from the Liberal and NDP parties.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Stephen Andrews at sandrews@ocsta.on.ca.