

June 1, 2009

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Room 281
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne,
Minister of Education
Mowat Block, 22nd Floor
900 Bay Street,
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Premier McGuinty and Minister Wynne:

As a large group of organizations committed to publicly funded education and to ensuring the success of the school system, we are writing to you, once again, to state our unanimous opposition to the current School Information Finder (SIF) website. We are respectfully requesting that the SIF be taken down so that meaningful and inclusive consultation may occur about the purpose and content of a website that provides information about our schools and our school communities.

There is no doubt that we all want our publicly funded schools to be the very best they can be, with appropriate use of research and strategies to inform the school improvement process. We are united in our belief that the SIF does not support that goal.

Over the last two months, you have received many letters from various member organizations of the Education Partnership Table, and others from the Ontario community at large, expressing grave concerns about the ongoing existence of the current SIF. To date, the responses received from the Minister of Education include her defense of the site itself and a suggestion of some form of conversation to discuss what might be *added* to the site to make it more useful.

At the Education Partnership Table meeting on April 6, 2009, Minister Wynne heard from virtually every representative present – parents, students, teachers, principals, trustees, Directors of Education, etc. – that the site has had a negative impact for the many reasons we have stated in previous letters to you. We are united in our disappointment that our request on April 6, 2009 that the site be removed pending full consultation with all education stakeholders was denied. We appreciate the removal of the “school bag” and the ability to find information on schools with fewer than 50 students but these changes alone are not satisfactory.

We feel in particular that the inclusion of the social demographic data on this site is incongruous with the Ministry's new *Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy*, launched immediately following the Partnership Table Meeting on April 6, 2009.

Your Government has repeatedly stated that there is strong support for the site. We are puzzled by your comments, considering the opposition to the site from the members of the Partnership Table and from others who have voiced their concerns, and we would like to know more about where that support lies.

Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario
Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Education

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We concur with your assertion that there are specific information items about a school that are useful to parents but we believe this site is an inappropriate method for finding that information.

In light of the growing opposition to the SIF site, we request that the site be removed while a meaningful and inclusive consultation with all stakeholders takes place.

Yours truly,

Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO)
Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes (ADFO)
Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)
Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO)
Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)
Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)
Ontario Association of Deans of Education (OADE)
Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE)
Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)
Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association (OCSOA)
Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)
Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations (OFHSA)
Ontario Principals' Council (OPC)
Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
Ontario Public Supervisory Officials' Association (OPSOA)
Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)
Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA)
Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF)
People for Education (P4E)
Parents partenaires en éducation (PPE)

cc: Ontario Members of Provincial Parliament