



THE ONTARIO FEDERATION OF HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

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Dalton McGuinty, Premier
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier,

In 1964, members of the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations, at their annual meeting, voted to adopt the following policy:

"...that schools not be closed on November 11th so that suitable Remembrance Day services can be held in schools to provide students with a better understanding of the purpose and tribute paid."

For many years, schools in Ontario were closed for Remembrance Day. While the intent may have been that students would attend local ceremonies the truth was that many spent it at play as just another day off of school. Home and School members felt that the best place for students to learn about the meaning and significance of Remembrance Day was in school (we share this opinion with the Royal Canadian Legion).

It has been our experience that the teachers and administrators in the schools of Ontario have been doing a commendable job of marking this day: through assemblies, talks by members of the Royal Canadian Legion or returned servicemen and women, artistic tributes and reading of Honour Rolls our students are exposed to a wide variety of tributes and a greater understanding of the price of war.

Home and School members would be dismayed to have Remembrance Day declared a statutory holiday in the Province of Ontario. Our military personnel certainly deserve to be recognized and the sacrifices of our forebears honoured. We feel it is best to have the people of this province pause in their daily routine to (at the very least) observe two minutes of silence together. With students in the schools we can be sure they will be part of that silence. If they are at home there is no assurance that they will be part of the silence or observe the day.

We ask you, as leader of your party, to encourage your members to vote against private members bill #129: Respect for Ontario Veterans, Soldiers and War Dead Act.

Sincerely,

Corinne Wolsey
President

Copy:
The Hamilton Spectator
The Toronto Star
The Kincardine Independent
The London Free Press
The Windsor Star