

November 5, 1998

Withhold Education Taxes From Queens Park

Motion for Toronto City Council
November 25, 1998

- Whereas** the Province of Ontario has imposed a formula for funding on the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Catholic District School Board that will result in the closure of over 160 schools, and;
- Whereas** the City of Toronto has a vital interest in the preservation of our schools in terms of:
- a) protecting infrastructure built with municipal tax dollars.
 - b) protecting the viability of our communities, local schools being the single most important element.
 - c) preserving real estate values in communities across the city, and;
- Whereas** The funding formula has been proven to be not only flawed but unworkable, unrealistic and unattainable, and;
- Whereas** The uniform provincial funding model for municipal education does not recognize the special needs of Toronto's schools and students for special programs such as English as a Second Language, special education, gifted programs; daycare and meals programs; programs that are unique but essential to the long term viability of Toronto's educational structure, our communities and the City itself, and;
- Whereas** enrollment in the Toronto school system is expected to increase by 25,000 students over the next four years while provincial funding for our schools will decline by \$362 million over the same period, and;
- Whereas** the validity of the information being disseminated in the provincial government's current \$30 million media advertisement campaign is questionable, and;
- Whereas** School boards in other municipalities such as Hamilton have refused to implement the funding model.

Therefore Be It Resolved That:

1. (i) The Mayor and Council of the City of Toronto instruct the Chief Financial Officer to withhold in ESCROW, any and all tax dollars collected in the City of Toronto for education purposes, pending various appeals and challenges to the legality, coherence and common sense behind the provincial funding formulas.

(ii) The Mayor and Council of the City of Toronto authorize the Chief Financial Officer to make payments from the above amount to the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Catholic District School Board, so long as all existing programs are funded and all schools remain open (with the exception only of such closures that Council approves.)
2. The City of Toronto request a written commitment from the TDSB and TCDSB to:
 - a) maximize the efficiency of their administrations.
 - b) continue their policies of aggressively reducing unnecessary or redundant administrative costs.