

# EDUCATION MYTHS & FACTS

## MYTH

Cuts are not affecting classrooms.

School boards were requested to reduce their budgets by 1.8% in 1996-1997.

The 30% tax cut will boost Ontario's economy.

Ontario spends more on education than the average of the other provinces.

Canadians can't afford their present level of spending on public services.

Schools are becoming less successful than they were at teaching children to read. No data exists to support this fable.

Schools and teachers are resistant to change.

Majority government may be tempted to curtail due process between elections.

Canadians can't afford their present level of spending on public services.

The dropout rate is increasing.

## FACT

Classroom learning depends on a wide variety of supports, many of which have already disappeared. These supports include: consultants, resource teachers, educational resource personnel, teacher-librarians.

Provincial grants to school boards were reduced by 9% in 1996-1997. Total funds lost since 1993: \$2.5 billion.

The province's tax cut will benefit only the rich. The rest of us will pay through user fees and massive cuts to services. Cutbacks to public sector staff will take even more money out of our communities.

Ontario ranks sixth among the provinces and territories in per pupil spending.

In 1954, corporations contributed approximately 35% of Federal revenues. In 1996, corporations contributed barely 10%.

In Ontario, this generation of students is far more literate than any previous generation.

Teachers and education workers have kept up with change. The integration of exceptional children, a new way of approaching the curriculum, and tougher policies on school violence are just some of the recent innovations.

Ensuring democracy requires vigilance. Citizens must demand to be heard. Governments must listen.

Canada's corporate income taxes are lower than those in 24 industrialized countries, including Britain and Japan.

85% of Canadian students graduate - the highest number in Canadian history and one of the highest in the world.