

EDUCATION IN ONTARIO:

## A STATE OF CRISIS

# Town Hall Meeting

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2026**
**7:00–8:00PM**

PANEL



**Erika Shaker**
Director, National Office of the
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives



**Chandra Pasma, MPP**
Ontario NDP, Education Critic



**Tyler Watt, MPP**
Ontario Liberal Party



# "YEAH, WE NEED TO INVENT A CRISIS, AND THAT'S NOT JUST AN ACT OF COURAGE; THERE'S SOME SKILL INVOLVED."

- CONSERVATIVE EDUCATION MINISTER JOHN SNOBELEN (1995)



Even with a nominal increase since 2022-23, **per student funding has declined since 2018-19 by $220 PER STUDENT**



That's a **$453 MILLION BUDGET SHORTFALL** for this year alone


Funding for school boards has not kept pace with enrolment or inflation over the last 8 years
THIS IS WHERE THE EXPLOSIVE $6.5 BILLION FIGURE COMES FROM
– the accumulated shortfall for Ontario schools since 2018-19.

# SCHOOLS ARE LITERALLY CRUMBLING.



OTTAWA CITIZEN

Sign In

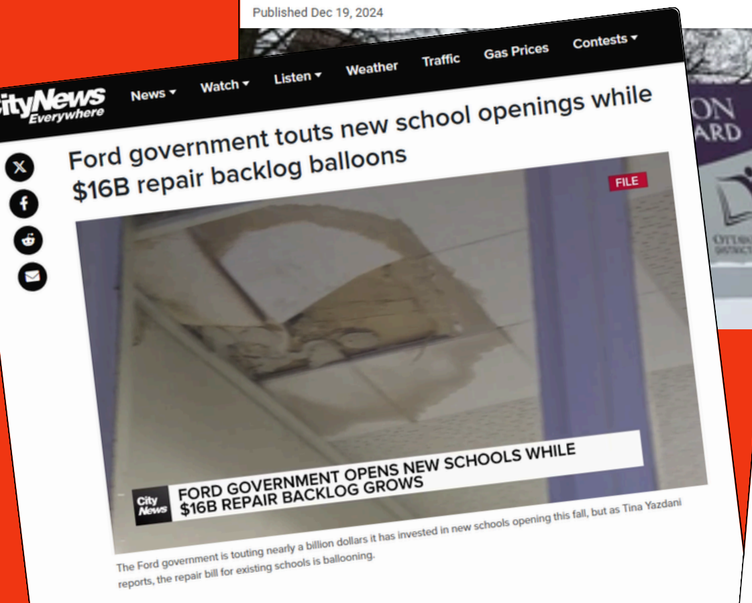
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**Nearly third of ODSCB schools below 'state of good repair,' watchdog says**

*Without increased funding, the Financial Accountability Office estimates, the percentage of school buildings across Ontario that will not be in states of good repair in 10 years will increase to 74.6 per cent overall from 37.4 per cent now.*

By Joanne Laucius

Published Dec 19, 2024



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Ford government touts new school openings while $16B repair backlog balloons

FILE

FORD GOVERNMENT OPENS NEW SCHOOLS WHILE $16B REPAIR BACKLOG GROWS

The Ford government is touting nearly a billion dollars it has invested in new schools opening this fall, but as Tina Yazdani reports, the repair bill for existing schools is ballooning.



CTV NEWS

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Ontario faces increased pressure to help fix crumbling schools

By Dario Baica - CTV Toronto

Published: February 22, 2016 at 9:29p.m. EST

With the provincial budget just days away, the Ontario government is facing mounting pressure to address the urgent need for repairs and renovations at schools across the province.

Documents obtained by CTV News in January showed that nearly a

District School Board's 591 schools

THE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE OF ONTARIO ESTIMATES THAT THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO SPEND

**$21.7 BILLION OVER 10 YEARS**

TO ADDRESS THE REPAIR BACKLOG AND MAINTAIN SCHOOLS IN GOOD REPAIR. THE CURRENT PLAN IS TO SPEND $12.5 BILLION,

**58% OF WHAT IS NEEDED.**

# EVERY YEAR, SCHOOL BOARDS SPEND MORE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION THAN THEY RECEIVE IN FUNDING.



**IN THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR, NEARLY 10% OF THE AMOUNT SPENT ON SPECIAL EDUCATION CAME FROM OTHER FUNDING ENVELOPES BECAUSE THERE SIMPLY ISN'T ENOUGH MONEY FOR ALL THE PROGRAMS SCHOOLS ARE TASKED TO PROVIDE, LET ALONE MEET MORE COMPLEX NEEDS.**

# CLASS SIZES CONTINUE TO BE A PROBLEM.

**24.5 STUDENTS** is the required average - but there are NO hard caps for Grades 4-8

In the 2025-26 school year, 3.4% — or 1,054 — of Grade 4-8 classes had **30 STUDENTS OR MORE**



IN THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR, ENROLMENT IN ONLINE LEARNING REACHED 288,330 - MORE THAN FIVE TIMES WHAT IT WAS 10 YEARS EARLIER.

THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION FUNDS ONLINE COURSES AT A 30:1 STUDENT-TO-TEACHER RATIO, COMPARED TO A 23:1 RATIO IN IN-PERSON COURSES.



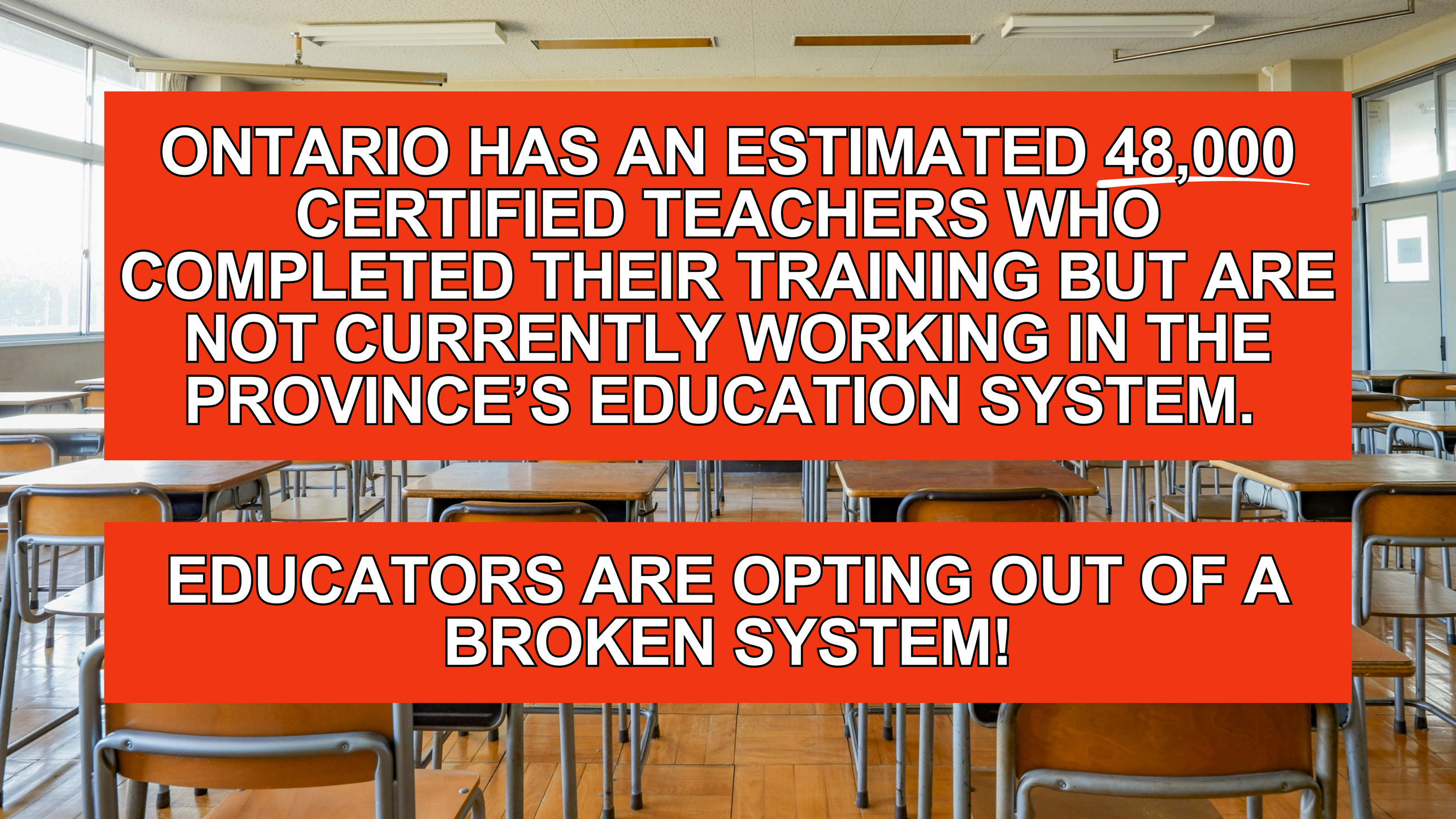
SO WHY THE PUSH FOR ONLINE LEARNING?

**BECAUSE ONLINE LEARNING IS CHEAPER.**



SINCE 2018-19, TOTAL ENROLMENT IN ONTARIO'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS **INCREASED BY 3%** WHILE THE NUMBER OF CLASSROOM EDUCATORS GREW BY **LESS THAN 1%.**

# THAT'S OVER 2,500 FEWER TEACHERS IN SCHOOLS TODAY THAN IF THEIR NUMBERS HAD SIMPLY KEPT PACE WITH ENROLMENT.


ONTARIO HAS AN ESTIMATED 48,000 CERTIFIED TEACHERS WHO COMPLETED THEIR TRAINING BUT ARE NOT CURRENTLY WORKING IN THE PROVINCE'S EDUCATION SYSTEM.
EDUCATORS ARE OPTING OUT OF A BROKEN SYSTEM!

# IN 2018-19, AROUND 10% OF ONTARIO'S 72 SCHOOL BOARDS ENDED THE YEAR IN A DEFICIT.

# THAT NUMBER HAS SINCE TRIPLED.

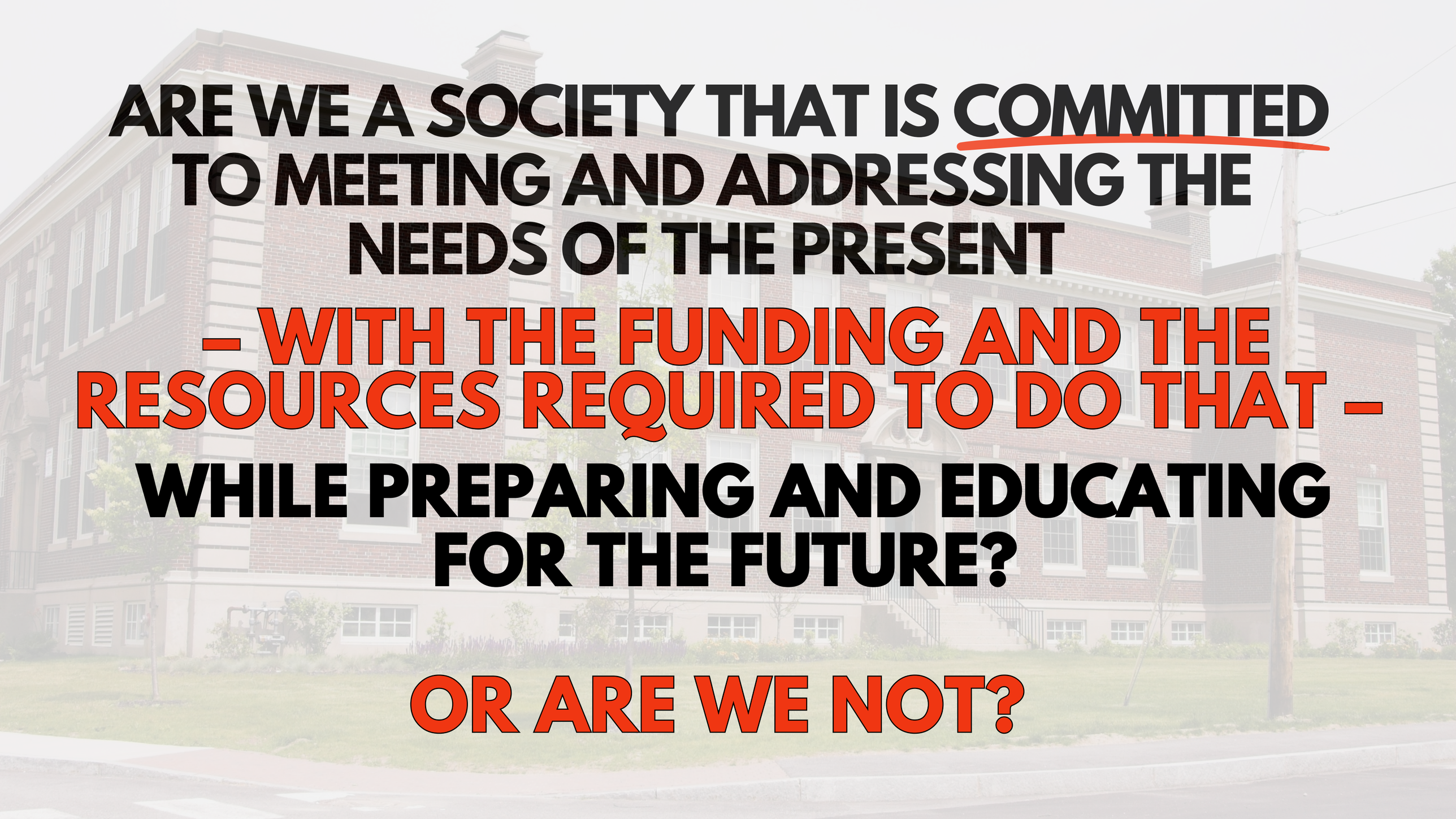
UNDERFUNDE

THE COMBINED ACCUMULATED SURPLUS FOR ALL BOARDS HAS DECLINED SINCE 2021-2022, AND RESERVES HAVE DECREASED IN INFLATION ADJUSTED TERMS BY 19%.

**THIS IS WHAT CHRONIC UNDERFUNDING LOOKS LIKE.**



**PUBLIC EDUCATION IS FUNDAMENTAL TO OUR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS- THIS BECAUSE IT IS AT THE NEXUS OF HOW WE CONNECT WITH AND CARE FOR EACH OTHER, AND THE FUTURE WE ARE CREATING.**



ARE WE A SOCIETY THAT IS COMMITTED TO MEETING AND ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF THE PRESENT

– WITH THE FUNDING AND THE RESOURCES REQUIRED TO DO THAT –

WHILE PREPARING AND EDUCATING FOR THE FUTURE?

OR ARE WE NOT?

# Panel Discussion



## Erika Shaker
Director, National Office of the
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives



## Chandra Pasma, MPP
Ontario NDP, Education Critic



## Tyler Watt, MPP
Ontario Liberal Party

# COMMUNITY QUESTIONS



**What do you think is behind what we see in many major urban Boards like the OCDSB, where the common experience around Ontario seems to be a 2% loss in enrollment per year in recent years in our schools?**

**What is causing this and what should be done about it?**

# COMMUNITY QUESTIONS



**Where do you feel unions fit into the political landscape in regards to helping Public Education?**

# COMMUNITY QUESTIONS



**Eight Boards around Ontario have been directly taken over by the Ministry through appointed Supervisors.**

**How can elected School Board Trustees help and what do you think needs to be done after Trustees are elected again on 26 October?**

# COMMUNITY QUESTIONS



**As a parent in an Ontario school, I hear my children come home and talk about what they see. I hear them talk about evacuations and interruptions and sometimes even violence. How should I handle those conversations with them, and what can I do as a parent to try to change this?**

# Q&A

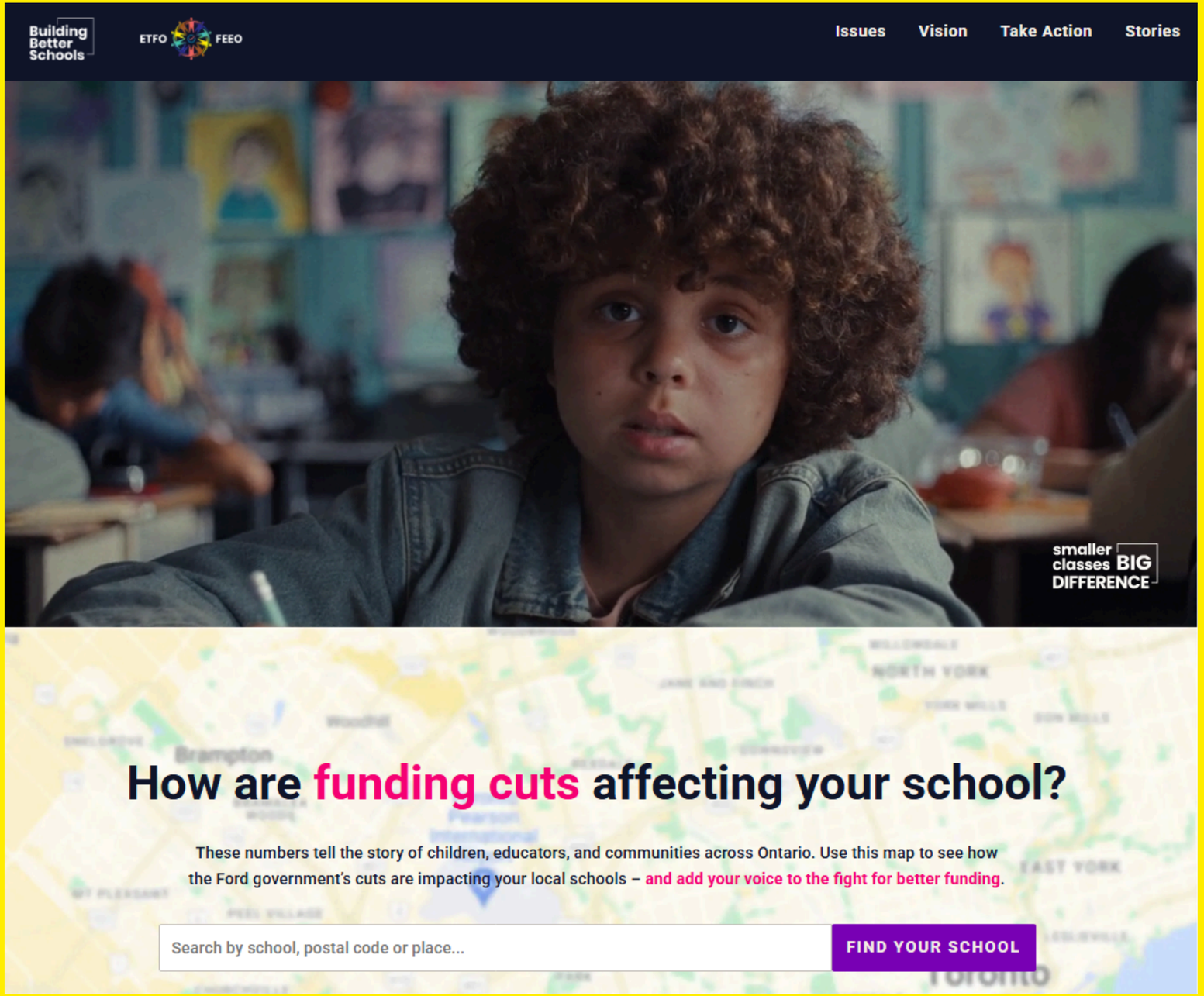
# Get Engaged!


ETFO
Elementary T
PROVINCE-WIDE DAY OF ACTION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29
ENSEMBLE, À LA DÉFENSE DE L'ÉDUCATION FINANCÉE PAR LES DENIERS PUBLICS
ONTARIO ENGLISH
Catholic Teachers
ASSOCIATIO
Fund our SCHOOLS
OSSTF
OSSTF/FEESO
Ottawa Carleton
ETFO
FEEO




PLEASE REGISTER

SCAN ME




ETFO FEEO

# Building Better Schools

ETFO FEEO

2026 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

ABOUT | BARGAINING | CLASS SIZE | STEWARDS | MEDIA | CONTACT US | NEWSROOM



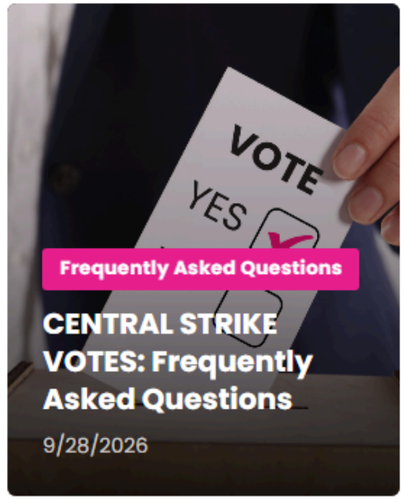
# ELEMENTARY

*Podcasts from the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario*



## Featured







ETFOCB.CA

OSSTF/FEESO

MEMBERS PODCAST FR




# UNDERFUNDED.CA

**When were you pushed to the tipping point? We're looking for stories from members like you. Real Ontario students will read them to camera.**

We're capturing students' honest reactions as they come to terms with the reality of underfunding. These videos will be featured on our social media

## SHARE YOUR STORY

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

EMAIL *

I am an:

OSSTF/FEESO member

TELL US ABOUT YOUR BREAKING POINT...

OSBCU CSCSO CUPE-SCFP

# Ontario School Board Council of Unions

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## Paint the Province Purple!

OBSCU.CA

# Négociations 2026

Personnel enseignant régulier et suppléant (Unités 56-66 et 204)

AEFO.ON.CA



Les conventions collectives des membres du personnel enseignant régulier et suppléant qui travaillent dans les conseils scolaires francophones de l'Ontario expirent le 31 août 2026.

L'AEFO se mobilise depuis le début de l'année scolaire 2025-2026 pour négocier les meilleures conventions collectives possibles.

## Pause temporaire des négociations

Lors des dernières séances de négociation, les parties* n'ont pas réussi à s'entendre, notamment sur la question de savoir à quelle table, centrale ou locale, certains sujets doivent être négociés.

Lorsqu'une telle situation survient, c'est la Commission des relations de travail de l'Ontario (CRTO), un tribunal indépendant, qui doit décider.

En attendant sa décision, les négociations sont suspendues.

*L'AEFO, le gouvernement de l'Ontario et le Conseil des associations d'employeurs (CAE)

### Important

Les conditions de travail actuelles demeurent en place jusqu'à la signature d'une nouvelle convention collective.

# KNOW MORE ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ONTARIO SCHOOLS

**The Ontario government is underfunding schools by $6.5 billion, which means:**

- Overcrowded classrooms
- 3,400 fewer teachers
- 2,000+ schools in disrepair
- Lost programs and services that school boards have been forced to cut
- A lack of basic school supplies, like pencils, paper, and textbooks

## OUR STUDENTS ARE THE FUTURE. ISN'T IT TIME WE INVEST IN SCHOOLS AGAIN?

Visit KnowMore.ca to call for real investment in schools!

Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association

Know More

KNOWMORE.CA

# Thank you!

Ottawa Carleton ETFO FEEO

OSSTF/FEESO
PROTECTING AND ENHANCING PUBLIC EDUCATION

aefo

Education Workers SCFP OSBCU SCEP Les travailleurs de l'éducation

Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association