



RYAN REMORZ, THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dawson College shooting victim Hayder Kadhim arrives for a news conference in Montreal yesterday. Mr. Kadhim was shot three times by a gunman who killed one student and wounded 20 others.

# Dawson College victim wants gun control debate with Harper

BY RENE BRUEMMER

**MONTREAL** · A Dawson College student injured in the September shootings is increasing pressure on the prime minister for a face-to-face debate on gun control.

"Whether you accept my challenge or not, Mr. Harper, I am coming to Ottawa and I am coming to the House of Commons and I will not stop until Canada adopts an appropriate approach to gun control. And I won't be coming alone," said Hayder Kadhim, who was shot in the head by gunman Kimveer Gill.

The attack also left 18-year-old Anastasia De Sousa dead and 19 others injured. All three of the weapons Mr. Gill, 25, had with him, including a semi-automatic rifle and a .45-calibre handgun, were legal and registered in his name.

Yesterday, Mr. Kadhim called

on the Tory government to outlaw firearms like the one with which he was shot and keep the long-gun registry, "which costs nothing to maintain and has been proven to save many lives."

While he said he respects the rights of target shooters and hunters, laws should force handgun owners to leave guns at secure gun clubs and keep them off the street, he said.

Currently, Canadian gun owners must register all firearms, including shotguns and rifles, not just restricted firearms like assault rifles and automatic weapons.

The Prime Minister's Office deflected the issue to Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day yesterday, but Mr. Kadhim was cool to the minister's advances.

Mr. Day offered to speak with Mr. Kadhim on Monday in Montreal, but Mr. Kadhim's press aide "told me he might be too busy Monday," Mr. Day said.

The Conservatives still intend to abolish the long-gun registry, Mr. Day said. About eight million guns are listed under the national firearms registry, seven million of them rifles and shotguns that qualify as long guns.

Mr. Kadhim, 18, first issued his debate challenge to Mr. Harper on Sept. 26.

"We all want more effective gun control, we all want to limit the possibility of unbalanced people having firearms, so I couldn't agree with Mr. Kadhim more," Mr. Day said.

The government would rather take the hundreds of millions used to "catalogue the six or seven million rifles and shotguns used by hunters and farmers" and put it toward cracking down on illegal guns and gun smuggling and tighten the licensing process, he said.

# Les hausses de taxes scolaires engraisseront le gouvernement Charest

Presse Canadienne - QUÉBEC

Le gouvernement Charest fait plein d'argent avec les hausses de taxes scolaires, a accusé hier l'opposition péquiste. Ces hausses pourraient même rapporter un milliard de dollars, dont seulement une partie retournera aux commissions scolaires, a soutenu le député péquiste de Vachon, Camil Bouchard.

À l'Assemblée nationale, les libéraux ont rejeté par 62 voix contre 46 une motion péquiste demandant qu'on n'impose pas aux contribuables québécois des hausses de taxes scolaires «abusives».

C'est le projet de loi 43 du ministre de l'Éducation, Jean-Marc Fournier, qui a soulevé le débat. Le projet de loi permet d'étaler les hausses de taxes scolaires qui s'appliqueront à compter de janvier prochain. Le ministre Fournier a soutenu qu'il y avait un avantage pour les contribuables, puisque la taxe ne sera calculée que sur une partie de l'augmentation de

l'évaluation foncière de leur propriété.

«Mais le gouvernement profite de la hausse de l'évaluation foncière pour en mettre davantage dans les coffres de l'État alors que sa stratégie d'obtenir plus d'argent d'Ottawa n'a pas fonctionné», a déclaré le député Bouchard.

Les péquistes ont déploré le

refus du gouvernement d'organiser une consultation dans ce dossier. En conséquence, le Parti québécois va organiser lui-même, dans les prochains jours, une consultation parallèle où il invitera une douzaine d'organismes à s'exprimer.

La Fédération des commissions scolaires, les unions municipales, les élus de la Ville de

Québec et les associations de propriétaires et de locataires seront invités à faire connaître leur point de vue dans le cadre de cette consultation.

«Nous devons faire la lumière dans l'ensemble de ce dossier», a dit Camil Bouchard. Selon lui, le gouvernement aurait eu plusieurs autres options plutôt que d'étaler les hausses de taxes sco-

laires. Il aurait pu notamment modifier la péréquation scolaire, atténuer les hausses ou même réviser de fond en comble toute la structure fiscale.

Le projet de loi fera en sorte que pour les trois prochaines années, une partie seulement de l'augmentation de l'évaluation foncière sera prise en compte pour calculer la hausse.

## Une victime de la fusillade de Dawson lance une campagne contre les armes de poing

Presse Canadienne - MONTRÉAL

Un jeune homme atteint d'une balle à la tête lors de la fusillade du collège Dawson affirme qu'en ce qui a trait aux armes à feu, le Canada sous le gouvernement conservateur commence à trop ressembler aux États-Unis.

Hayder Khadim, qui a encore des fragments de balles dans la tête et la nuque, a donc demandé, hier, au premier ministre Stephen Harper de donner plus d'ampleur au registre national des armes à feu — plutôt que de l'abolir, comme les Conservateurs ont promis de le faire.

«Nous n'avons qu'à regarder nos voisins du Sud pour voir où votre idée du contrôle des armes nous mènera, a-t-il répé-

té aux journalistes. Les Canadiens ne veulent pas d'armes dans les rues ni d'un chef qui préfère les armes à la vie.»

Il a demandé au gouvernement fédéral de n'autoriser les armes de poing que dans des endroits sécuritaires — comme les clubs de tir — et d'interdire purement et simplement les armes d'assaut comme celle utilisée par Kimveer Gill le 13 septembre, lors de la fusillade qui a coûté la vie à Anastasia De Sousa.

À Ottawa, le ministre fédéral de la Sécurité publique, Stockwell Day, s'est dit prêt à rencontrer M. Khadim personnellement. Il semble cependant peu enclin à revenir sur l'intention des conservateurs d'abolir les armes de chasse du registre des armes à feu.



PRESE CANADIENNE

«Je veux que [Stephen Harper] dise pourquoi les gens peuvent, au Canada, posséder légalement de telles armes», a lancé Hayder Khadim.

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# Order ignores religious rights, lawyer argues

## Quebec directive on teaching sex, evolution called 'squeeze' on freedom

BY DAVE ROGERS

The demand by the Quebec government that unlicensed Christian evangelical schools teach sex education and Darwin's theory of evolution or close their doors "squeezes religious freedom," according to a lawyer for Canada's evangelical movement.

Janet Epp Buckingham, who represents the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, said the ministry of education must respect the religious rights of parents and students. She added 20 evangelical Christian schools — including three in the Outaouais — will have to negotiate with the ministry about what they are required to teach.

"There are both international human rights standards and a case under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms that give parents the right to educate their children in accordance with their religious beliefs," Ms. Epp Buckingham said. "In a similar case to this in Alberta in 1986, the Supreme Court of Canada said provincial governments have to respect parents' rights."

"The state has a role to make sure children are properly educated, but it can't exercise that right in a way that infringes on religious freedom. We believe the right to educate our children according to our beliefs is a very significant religious freedom issue."

Quebec children are required to follow the provincial curriculum, but some evangelical schools teach their own courses on creationism and sexuality that don't follow the Quebec curriculum, said Pierre Daoust, director general of the Commission Scolaire au Coeur-des-Vallees in Thurso, whose complaint sparked a provincewide investigation.

Mr. Daoust said the board is concerned about the education of 15 students at a school operated by l'Eglise evangelique near Saint-Andre-Avellin because the school board could be held legally responsible if graduates' diplomas were not recognized.

In addition to the approximately 15 students at l'Eglise evangelique, another 40 students attend an unlicensed school operated by l'Eglise Nouvelle Alliance in Gatineau, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Commission scolaire des Draveurs. There is a third in Hull, in the area gov-

erned by the Commission scolaire des Portages-de-l'Outaouais, Mr. Daoust said. The other school boards haven't complained.

Ms. Epp Buckingham said there must be a balance between provincial standards for private schools and the religious rights of parents and students.

She said the rights of evangelical schools to teach according to parents' religious beliefs has been an issue since 1997 when Quebec divided schools along language instead of religious lines.

"There has been a growth in the private school system in Quebec so parents can continue to have a religious component in their children's education," Ms. Epp Buckingham said. "But the question remains who should have control over education and what is being taught."

"I wouldn't call this persecution of evangelical schools because the provincial government is willing to negotiate. At this stage it is a squeeze on religious freedom."

Roderick Cornell, the vice-principal of the licensed Emmanuel Christian School in Montreal, said it takes more than a year for a private school to get a Quebec ministry of education licence.

Mr. Cornell said licensed private schools in Quebec must have qualified staff and follow the provincial curriculum. He said some unlicensed "church basement" schools use the U.S.-based Accelerated Christian Education program that does not follow the Quebec curriculum.

Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day used the curriculum from 1979 to 1985 when he ran the Bentley Christian Training Centre, an independent school near Red Deer, Alta.

A 1985 Alberta government audit of the general curriculum, not the specific lessons taught at the Bentley school, concluded ACE students were rarely called upon to be creative, original or critical.

Mr. Day said in 2000, that he was proud of his record as administrator of the Bentley Christian School and that graduating students had a 100-per cent employment record.

Ontario private schools are not required to teach either evolution or sex education, said Elaine Hopkins, executive director of the 900-member Ontario Federation of Independent Schools.