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LEDROIT, LE MERCREDI 5 DÉCEMBRE 2012

Course à la chefferie du Parti libéral de l'Ontario

Pupatello vient courtiser les agriculteurs de l'Est ontarien



SAMUEL BLAIS-GAUTHIER
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Sandra Pupatello souhaite que l'Ontario prenne plus de place sur le marché mondial de l'agroalimentaire. De passage à Casselman, la candidate à la chefferie du Parti libéral de l'Ontario (PLO) a indiqué que le secteur de l'agriculture avait la capacité d'agir comme levier économique pour la province.

« Nous pouvons vendre les produits de notre terre au monde entier. L'agriculture en Ontario nourrit nos familles, mais a la capacité aussi de nourrir notre économie », a déclaré Sandra Pupatello, lors de son bref passage dans l'Est ontarien, une zone particulièrement rurale de l'Ontario.

La candidate à la direction du PLO garde de cap sur l'économie et la création d'emploi qui sont au cœur de sa campagne.

« Je focalise sur l'économie. Si l'économie va, le reste suit. Une économie forte résulte d'un système d'éducation fort, d'un



Sandra Pupatello a visité hier l'entreprise 417 BusLine, à Casselman. Sur la photo: la conseillère Francyn Leblanc; le député libéral Grant Crack; le directeur de 417 BusLine, Mario Laplante; ainsi que Sandra Pupatello.

système de santé fort... La création d'emploi est cruciale et il faut miser sur cela. Particulièrement dans les petites communautés rurales de la province. La création de 10 ou 15 emplois seulement a un impact majeur pour ces communautés », estime l'ex-ministre.

Sandra Pupatello jouit d'une

popularité considérable dans la région d'Ottawa et dans l'Est ontarien. Plusieurs ténors du parti se sont déjà rangés derrière elle. C'est le cas notamment de Bob Chiarelli, Phil McNeely, Madeleine Meilleur, de l'ex-député de Glangarry-Prescott-Russell Jean-Marc Lalonde, ainsi que de son successeur Grant Crack.

Au fil de sa carrière, M^{me} Pupatello, a cumulé les fonctions de ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, de ministre de l'Éducation et de ministre du Développement économique, avant de quitter l'an dernier pour une firme d'experts-conseils.

Sept prétendants briguent la chefferie du Parti libéral de l'Ontario. Du nombre, Gerard Kennedy, Glen Murray, Charles Sousa, le D^r Eric Hoskins et Kathleen Wynne.

Wynne à Ottawa

Par ailleurs, la candidate Kathleen Wynne était elle aussi de passage dans la région, hier. Elle s'est brièvement arrêtée à Ottawa, un terreau qui ne lui est pas particulièrement fertile en terme d'appuis.

Lors d'un premier débat tenu le 1^{er} décembre, Kathleen Wynne a annoncé qu'elle porterait le chapeau de ministre de l'Agriculture pendant un an si elle remportait la course à la direction du Parti libéral et devenait première ministre de l'Ontario.

Les libéraux doivent choisir leur nouveau chef lors d'un congrès d'investiture qui se tiendra du 25 au 27 janvier à Toronto. Ce n'est qu'à ce moment que la démission de Dalton McGuinty sera effective.

Vente d'alcool en Ontario

Hudak veut mettre fin au monopole

FRANÇOIS PIERRE DUFAULT
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Les progressistes-conservateurs à Queen's Park veulent casser le monopole du Beer Store et de la Régie des alcools de l'Ontario, la LCBO, afin de rendre possible la vente de bières, vins et spiritueux dans les dépanneurs et les supermarchés de la province.

« Des options comme celles-là fonctionnent ailleurs et pourraient aider l'Ontario à payer ses dettes. »

Tim Hudak

Le chef progressiste-conservateur Tim Hudak estime qu'ouvrir la vente d'alcool à la concurrence garantirait plus de choix aux Ontariens, sans pour autant pénaliser le gouvernement. Il dit envisager toutes les options possibles, de la vente partielle de la LCBO à

une privatisation complète de la société d'État.

« Des options comme celles-là fonctionnent ailleurs et pourraient aider l'Ontario à payer ses dettes et investir dans son infrastructure pour redonner du souffle à son économie », a déclaré M. Hudak, hier.

La LCBO rapporte des profits de plus de 1,5 milliard\$ au gouvernement, chaque année. La province continuerait d'engran-

ger des profits puisqu'elle maintiendrait ses taxes sur l'alcool, selon M. Hudak. De plus, elle n'aurait plus à investir des millions de dollars pour entretenir et rénover ses points de vente, a-t-il expliqué.

Le déficit de l'Ontario s'élève à 14,4 milliards\$.

Manifestation au centre-ville d'Ottawa

Des enseignants font entendre leur colère

FRANÇOIS PIERRE DUFAULT
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Près de 250 enseignants des écoles publiques anglophones de l'Ontario ulcérés par la loi spéciale 115 ont manifesté, hier soir, devant le Centre des congrès d'Ottawa où le premier ministre démissionnaire Dalton McGuinty et ses troupes libérales étaient rassemblés dans le cadre d'un souper-bénéfice.

La manifestation a provoqué la fermeture complète d'un tronçon de la promenade Colonel-By, en début de soirée.

La tension monte, à moins d'un mois de l'entrée en vigueur de la loi 115 qui gèlera les salaires et suspendra le droit de grève des enseignants pour deux ans. Les enseignants des écoles publiques anglophones et la ministre de l'Éducation, Laurel Broten, s'accusent mutuellement d'être de mauvaise foi.

La Fédération des enseignants de l'élémentaire de l'Ontario (FEEO) brandit la menace de

grèves rotatives, la semaine prochaine. La Fédération des enseignants des écoles secondaires de l'Ontario (FEESO) prévoit reprendre sa grève du zèle au cours des prochains jours, accusant le gouvernement d'ingérence dans les négociations locales.

Plus tôt dans la journée, hier, la députée progressiste-conservatrice Lisa MacLeod a exhorté les candidats à la succession de M. McGuinty à faire pression sur M^{me} Broten pour qu'elle mette fin à la crise.

« Tous les sept candidats demeurent silencieux quant à l'enjeu le plus important auquel les parents de l'Ontario font face cette année: la menace de grève de la FEEO. C'est le moment pour eux de montrer patte blanche. Ils ont aussi l'obligation de faire pression sur leur ministre de l'Éducation pour qu'elle utilise les pouvoirs qu'elle a au bout de ses doigts », a fustigé l'élue de Nepean-Carleton et critique de l'opposition en matière d'Éducation.

Le système d'apprentissage et des métiers valorisé à la Cité collégiale



Photo : Archives

Publié le 4 Décembre 2012

Sébastien Pierroz 

John Milloy, ministre de la Formation et des Collèges et Universités, a rencontré les étudiants et des apprentis, au centre Minto de la Cité collégiale mardi soir.

Mais pour le ministre, il s'agissait surtout de parler pour la première fois du système d'apprentissage et des métiers spécialisés de l'Ontario puisqu'il vient de succéder au poste de Glenn Murray, auparavant responsable du dossier.

«L'ordre va déterminer les règles techniques et les standards de la formation. D'autre part, il va attirer sans le moindre doute des nouveaux apprentis.»

La présidente de la Cité collégiale, Lise Bourgeois, s'est en tout cas réjouie de cette nouvelle: «C'est à coup sûr quelque chose qui permet de rehausser l'image des métiers et c'est très important pour nous. Ici, à la Cité collégiale, nous avons déjà une beaucoup de métiers étant sur l'ordre obligatoire.»

Rappelons qu'il existe un ordre facultatif, mais aussi un ordre obligatoire des métiers en Ontario. Dans l'ordre obligatoire, on retrouve des professions comme électricien, plombier ou encore coiffeur.

L'Ordre des métiers de l'Ontario (l'Ordre) est un organisme qui représente les métiers de la province et qui est géré par l'industrie (le secteur des métiers). Le but de l'Ordre est de protéger l'intérêt public en réglementant et en promouvant les métiers spécialisés.

Voté en 2009 par l'Ontario, l'Ordre des métiers de l'Ontario demeure un organisme de réglementation qui contribue à la modernisation du système de l'apprentissage et des métiers spécialisés de la province, selon le gouvernement provincial.

[Article précédent](#)[Article suivant](#)5 décembre 2012 | *Le Droit* | Une coquille vide

L'avenir est à ceux qui luttent

Il y a eu une fête à Vanier le week-end dernier. Un rassemblement populaire pour fêter la renaissance du quartier. Et durant ces festivités, certains ont proposé de désigner le secteur Vanier comme « Quartier francophone » d'Ottawa.

« C'est un bon début, a déclaré le conseiller municipal de ce quartier, Mathieu Fleury. Mais il faudra encore beaucoup de discussions avant d'en arriver à une désignation officielle », a-t-il ajouté.

Un début, a-t-il dit. Un début vers la création d'un « Quartier francophone ».

Suis-je censé m'en réjouir, moi qui suis né dans cette ville et qui y habite toujours ? Pas sûr. Pas sûr du tout.

Après tout, ce n'est pas d'hier que ce quartier est francophone. Quand j'étais enfant, Vanier – qui était alors une ville – comptait plus de 25000 habitants et 98% de sa population était francophone. On n'avait pas besoin de se donner de nom tel le « Quartier francophone » à l'époque, on la vivait, notre francophonie.

Mais je reviens au conseiller Fleury. Celui-ci a également déclaré au Droit qu'il « faudra définir les limites » de ce futur « Quartier francophone ». « Est-ce tout le secteur?, s'est-il demandé. Ou est-ce seulement le chemin Montréal ? Ensuite, il faudra s'entendre avec la communauté d'affaires pour bonifier l'offre de commerces francophones et de restaurants servant de la bouffe francophone », a-t-il ajouté.

Le conseiller de Rideau-Vanier aurait intérêt à revoir l'histoire de son quartier. Parce qu'au début des années 1980, la mairesse de Vanier, (ma tante) Gisèle Lalonde, désignait un secteur de Vanier : « Quartier français ».

Voici ce qu'on peut lire dans un passage du livre Gisèle Lalonde: Grande dame de l'Ontario français écrit par mon frère, feu Michel Gratton : « Une de ses priorités, c'est la création du 'Quartier français' sur l'artère principale historique qui traverse Vanier, le chemin Montréal. Elle (Gisèle Lalonde) encourage les commerces et les institutions francophones à venir s'y établir. La compagnie Jean Coutu y ouvre sa première pharmacie en Ontario. L'ambassadeur de France facilite des rencontres avec des représentants de sociétés françaises comme Novotel ou Wagon-lit. »

Ce n'est donc pas d'hier qu'on parle de Vanier – ou d'un secteur de Vanier – comme quartier français, M. Fleury.

Mais avec la nouvelle ville d'Ottawa, on revient aujourd'hui sur la question et on songe à faire de l'ancienne Ville de Vanier un « Quartier francophone ». Youppi. Les Italiens ont leur quartier à Ottawa depuis toujours. Les Chinois ont leur quartier. Les gais et lesbiennes ont aussi leur quartier. Et ce sera peut-être maintenant à notre tour, nous francophones, d'avoir notre quartier à nous. Youppi, disais-je.

Et durant la prochaine campagne électorale à la mairie d'Ottawa, lorsque quelqu'un soulèvera la question sur le bilinguisme officiel pour la capitale d'un pays officiellement bilingue, Jim Watson pourra dire quelque chose comme: « Que voulez-vous de plus, chers amis Franco-Ontariens? On n'a pas besoin de bilinguisme officiel à Ottawa. Tout va très bien sans cette désignation. Je suis francophile, j'ai le drapeau franco-ontarien dans mon bureau, je bois du Pepsi et vous avez maintenant votre 'Quartier francophone'. Que voulez-vous de plus!? ».

Ce n'est pas un quartier qu'on demande, MM. Fleury et Watson. On l'a déjà ce quartier ! Et il n'est pas nécessaire de le nommer « officiellement ». Ce qu'on demande depuis toujours, Messieurs – et vous le savez – c'est le bilinguisme officiel à Ottawa. On ne veut pas un quartier francophone, on veut une ville. Notre ville ! La ville où ont grandi les francophones de Vanier, certes, mais aussi ceux de Mechanicsville, de St-François d'Assise, d'Orléans, de la Basse-Ville, des plaines LeBreton...

Cette désignation possible que songe nous accorder la Ville d'Ottawa me fait penser à un chapitre de la saga Montfort. Quand la Commission de restructuration des soins de santé de l'Ontario a légèrement reculé devant le mouvement S.O.S. Montfort, en 1997, elle a déclaré que l'hôpital Montfort resterait ouvert, mais sans salle d'urgence, sans chirurgie, sans cardiologie et sans médecine familiale. Bref, une coquille vide pour fermer le clapet à Gisèle Lalonde et compagnie.

Et c'est un peu ce qui se trame avec cette idée d'un « Quartier francophone » à Vanier. « Cessez de nous casser les oreilles avec votre bilinguisme officiel pour la Ville, nous diront-ils, et contentez-vous de votre quartier, les Francos ».

Inacceptable. Totalement inacceptable.

Et désolé d'être rabat-joie ce matin, chers concitoyens vaniérois. Je sais que plusieurs d'entre vous sont réjouis aujourd'hui par cette possible désignation pour notre quartier. Et c'est bien correct. Mais prenons-le comme un début, d'accord ? Mais un début, non pas pour la création d'un « Quartier francophone », mais bien vers une ville officiellement bilingue, une fois pour toutes.

S.O.S. Montfort ne s'est pas contenté de miettes et d'une coquille vide en 1997. Ce mouvement a poursuivi la lutte jusqu'à la victoire.

Quinze ans plus tard, on se doit de l'imiter. Parce que comme dit un vieil ami qui fêtera bientôt ses 100 ans : l'avenir est à ceux qui luttent.

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5 décembre 2012 | *Le Droit*

Bientôt un ordre professionnel des métiers en Ontario

Les coiffeurs, conducteurs de grues, électriciens, plombiers, techniciens d'entretien automobile, tôliers et travailleurs d'une quinzaine d'autres corps de métiers spécialisés en Ontario devront bientôt faire partie d'un ordre professionnel, au même titre que les médecins et les travailleurs sociaux.

Le gouvernement libéral de Dalton McGuinty planche sur la création d'un ordre des métiers depuis trois ans, afin de permettre à l'industrie de s'autoréglementer. Cet ordre, le premier du genre au Canada, doit recevoir ses premiers membres au printemps. L'ordre pourra examiner des questions techniques, comme les ratios d'apprentis et de compagnons.

« Les consommateurs qui auront des problèmes avec un travailleur pourront aussi contacter l'ordre pour se plaindre », a expliqué John Milloy, ministre de la Formation, des Collèges et des Universités.

Il sera donc plus difficile pour quelqu'un de s'improviser travailleur spécialisé en Ontario.

L'adhésion à l'ordre sera obligatoire pour tous les employés de métiers spécialisés pour lesquels il faut un certificat de qualification. D'autres métiers pour lesquels la certification est facultative pourraient s'ajouter plus tard à la liste, a indiqué M. Milloy au Droit lors d'une visite de l'Institut des métiers spécialisés de La Cité collégiale, hier.

Quelque 750 étudiants fréquentent l'école des métiers du collège francophone d'Ottawa, à l'angle du chemin Trim et de la route 174. La cohorte de 2013 sera diplômée en même temps que le futur ordre professionnel distribuera ses premières cartes de membres.

« Chaque fois qu'il y a la création d'un ordre professionnel, ça rehausse l'image d'une profession ou d'un métier. Ce sera une valeur ajoutée à la formation de nos étudiants », a commenté Lise Bourgeois, présidente de La Cité collégiale.

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5 décembre 2012 | *Le Droit* | Réponse aux critiques

Les jeunes reporters sont bien outillés, dit Radio-canada

Nul besoin d'offrir une formation « francophonie 101 » aux jeunes journalistes québécois qui sont envoyés dans les stations francophones de RadioCanada ailleurs au pays, estime le radiodiffuseur public.

La semaine dernière, devant le Conseil de la radiodiffusion et des télécommunications canadiennes (CRTC), la sénatrice franco-manitobaine Maria Chaput exprimait le souhait que les journalistes de la société d'État envoyés dans les communautés francophones de l'extérieur du Québec soient davantage formés afin de mieux comprendre et rapporter la réalité des francophones de ces provinces.

En entrevue au Droit, la sénatrice libérale soutenait que Radio-Canada parachutait trop souvent de jeunes journalistes québécois qui « ne connaissent rien à la réalité des francophones en milieu minoritaire », sans les outiller correctement pour décrire et rapporter leur réalité.

De l'avis de Radio-Canada, cette formation n'est pas nécessaire puisque les reporters sont déjà bien outillés.

« CBC/Radio-Canada s'assure que tous les journalistes travaillant dans les communautés de langues officielles en situation minoritaire, qu'ils soient originaires du Québec ou d'ailleurs au pays, ont l'encadrement nécessaire pour bien comprendre les enjeux locaux et la réalité des communautés francophones et autochtones des régions où ils sont affectés », assure Angus McKinnon, directeur du service des communications de RadioCanada.

Tout comme la sénatrice libérale, M. McKinnon souligne le faible nombre de programmes universitaires ou collégiaux de langue française, qui pourrait en partie expliquer pourquoi si peu de Franco-Ontariens, d'Acadiens ou de Franco-Manitobains oeuvrent devant le micro ou la caméra pour le service d'information de RadioCanada.

« À l'heure actuelle, le pays ne compte aucun programme de journalisme en français à l'ouest de l'Ontario, souligne M. McKinnon. Il s'agit d'un enjeu important dont nous sommes conscients. »

Le porte-parole se dit « heureux » de savoir que l'Université de Saint-Boniface au Manitoba évalue présentement la possibilité d'y créer un programme francophone de journalisme. « Nous espérons que ce projet pourra se concrétiser le plus rapidement possible. »

Devant le CRTC, la semaine dernière, la sénatrice Chaput avait dénoncé une apparente méconnaissance de la réalité francophone en milieu minoritaire sur les ondes de RadioCanada, lors des audiences de renouvellement de licence du diffuseur public.

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BY MIKE AUBRY ,OTTAWA SUN

FIRST POSTED: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 04, 2012 04:38 PM EST | UPDATED: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 04, 2012 10:33 PM EST

Ontario's largest teachers' union on Tuesday put the final touches on their plans to stage one-day walkouts before Christmas.

Over 45,000 members of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario have already voted online to decide whether to hold full-day political protests if the dispute with the province "gets out of hand."

The final vote tally was midnight on Tuesday, to be announced Wednesday afternoon. If approved, it gives the union the authority to call for walkouts at schools across the province. The last vote in October was 96% in favour of strike action.

The ETFO says it will call for strikes if Education Minister Laurel Broten "tramples" on their rights to bargain or imposes a collective agreement on teachers.

But local president Peter Giuliani said he can't guarantee when the strikes might happen.

"We can't infer anything because quite frankly, I think the minister is unpredictable in her actions, so she may do something so wildly provocative that we say that's it," said Giuliani.

On Monday, Broten assured reporters she wouldn't hesitate to step in and force teachers back to work if teachers walk out.

The Putting Students First Act, passed in September, gives the province the authority to halt strike action and impose a collective agreement on teachers if they don't reach local agreements by Dec. 31.

"We will use the tools in the act, if necessary, and I want to assure parents that we will do that," said Broten.

Labour action in public elementary schools started Monday morning, with teachers shirking many administrative duties and extracurricular activities, but teachers are still in the classroom and supervising students during lunch and recess.

Ontario secondary school teachers will stop volunteering for after-school activities on Dec. 10.

"In schools, for most people, the community isn't going to notice much of a difference on a daily basis," said Giuliani.

But many parents are complaining their children have already been affected by cancelled after-school activities and concerts over the holidays.

Giuliani said axing those programs are a necessary evil to get their message to the province.

While the union said in a memo to members they could impose fines of up to \$500 to teachers who don't comply with mandatory labour action, Giuliani said they've never enforced the rule on Ottawa teachers.

"We don't really view ourselves as enforcers," he said. "But even if you're not supporting us, you're causing a lot of friction in your own workplace."

Twitter: @ottawasunmaubry

ETFO threats against teachers 'insult' to profession: Hudak

BY ANTONELLA ARTUSO, QUEEN'S PARK BUREAU CHIEF

FIRST POSTED: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 04, 2012 03:33 PM EST | UPDATED: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 05, 2012 02:02 AM EST



TORONTO - A warning from a union representing elementary school teachers that its members could be fined up to \$500 a day for refusing to participate in strike actions is an "insult" to the profession of teaching, PC Leader Tim Hudak says.

A Nov. 27 bulletin from the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) says teachers could also be named in a federation publication or refused non-mandated union services for failing to take part in job actions.

"I think those types of thug tactics from the teacher union bosses are a tremendous disservice to the profession," Hudak said Tuesday.

ETFO president Sam Hammond said the measures were voted on by the federation members and have been in place for about a decade.

"My members decide what we do internally in our union," Hammond said. "The fine that you're speaking of is one of several sanctions that we can implement in the event that someone doesn't adhere to the direction that collectively our membership across the province has voted in favour of. But it is only one of probably 10 options that we have."

In the interest of transparency, the federation must make it clear to members what could happen if they don't support strike actions endorsed by the majority, he said.

The ETFO executive decides on individual discipline cases.

About eight ETFO locals are currently in a work-to-rule campaign, which is expected to spread throughout the province over the next two weeks.

As early as Monday, ETFO locals will begin one-day rotating strikes with 72-hour notice to parents.

The federation is also polling its members to see if they will support a one-day political protest where teachers and staff would walk off the job if the provincial government imposes a collective agreement or bans strikes, Hammond said.

"All of this is a result of Bill 115," Hammond said, calling it a "draconian" attack on constitutional collective bargaining rights that unfairly imposes a deal the government reached with Catholic school teachers on ETFO members.

NDP education critic Peter Tabuns said Hudak is one of the parties to blame for the turmoil because he and his party supported Bill 115.

"Don't be surprised if you start a conflict that there are problems, difficulties, upsets all along the way," Tabuns said.

EOI] DUG

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BY CHRISTINA BLIZZARD ,QMI AGENCY

FIRST POSTED: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 04, 2012 07:33 PM EST | UPDATED: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 04, 2012 08:04 PM EST



TP IDJHQF \ SKRWR

How very Lord Of The Flies that teacher unions have so quickly gone from the anti-bullies to the bullies.

Take this latest threat to shut down after-school activities, including clubs.

One presumes that includes those all-important Gay-Straight Alliances — the very clubs teacher unions held so near and dear just last summer.

Now all that's out the door, in what PC leader Tim Hudak called “thug tactics.”

Judging by the name-calling that's going on, teachers don't seem to be getting the anti-bullying message.

Or perhaps they think it doesn't apply to them.

PC education critic Lisa MacLeod is shocked by the tone some teachers have taken — not just to her, but to Education Minister Laurel Broten — and even journalists who've been critical of the teachers' intransigence.

“This disagreement has been blown out of proportion by some union leaders. And their tone isn't constructive,” MacLeod said Tuesday.

MacLeod and Broten have been accused of acting like people in Germany in the 1930s.

“My grandfather fought against the Nazis in the war,” she points out.

She has been called a “puppy killer,” and “stupid” for her support for a pay freeze.

She points out that we have elections every four years — or every two years, if there's a minority government.

That's the appropriate way to express your disapproval with a politician.

“The whole situation has become quite vitriolic, with many of the union activists very angry, taking a very divisive tone in the community,” MacLeod said.

Now we hear the unions are threatening to fine teachers who don't go along with their antics \$500.

And once again, the kids are collateral damage in this war.

It's so sad that teacher unions profess to have the best interests of the children at heart.

Then at the first sign of a slow-down in the massive pay hikes they've been routinely wringing out of the McGuinty government, they throw a hissy fit.

Is this any example for the children?

In the end, governments of every stripe come to the conclusion that they have to hold the line on teacher salaries. The NDP knew that when they were in government in the early '90s.

They tried to hold the line across the public sector with so-called "Rae Days."

Then the Mike Harris Tories tried to wrestle teacher salaries and perks to the ground — and were vilified for it.

Now the Liberals — formerly the best friends of the public sector unions — are crying "Uncle."

No more.

Taxpayers can't afford it.

It makes you wonder just what kind of people are teaching our children. Are they really prepared to go along with these union strong-arm tactics? Or are they going to stand up to their leaders and tell them to back off?

The unions show no regard for quality education.

And people wonder why bullying is rampant in schools.

Once again, schools face chaos.

Kids are losing out on the best parts of the school year — sports, concerts, school trips.

It especially hurts at-risk kids, many of whom only stay in school because they enjoy the sports or the extra-curricular music activities.


I lost all respect for teachers during the Harris years, when their unions behaved atrociously.

Once again, we're back in the bad old days when kids are held hostage.

It's shameful — and it's intimidation at its worst.

And it makes you wonder who the adults are in the schools.

I sure as heck know who the bullies are.



Vkrxg wdfkhu ehghfolng dog hvhwqldovhylfh dog wulsshg riwkhuljkwrc
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YRWH

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McGuinty: 3

No mention of teachers protesting

Polishing his political legacy, While hundreds of school teachers demonstrated outside in the rain, Premier Dalton McGuinty used the occasion of a speech at the Ottawa Convention Centre to polish his political legacy.



JEAN LEVAC/OTTAWA CITIZEN

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty speaks at the 2012 Ottawa Trillium dinner Tuesday.

"We worked hard to get the big things right," he told some 500 dinner guests at the Ontario Liberal Fund's 2012 Ottawa Trillium Dinner.

In a 20-minute speech, the premier recited a litany of benefits — everything from more teachers and a better education system to more investment and a cleaner environment — that his government has, in his view, provided Ontarians during the nine years he has been in power.

It was probably one of McGuinty's last fundraising speeches for the party, and came just over a year after he won a third term as premier while seeing his Liberals reduced to a minority government in the process.

In October, McGuinty announced that he would be resigning, stepping down as premier in late

January after a leadership convention to replace him. McGuinty has been premier since 2003 and leader of the provincial Liberals for 16 years. He was first elected as an Ottawa MPP 22 years ago.

Introducing him to Tuesday night's audience, other members of the Ottawa caucus, including Bob Chiarelli, Madeleine Meilleur and Yasir Naqvi, described McGuinty as, in Naqvi's words, a "man of vision and hope" who has left a bright legacy.

McGuinty picked up on the legacy theme, although he cast himself more modestly as only one member of the Ottawa caucus who's worked for the betterment of the city and the province.

Claiming improvements in health care, education, social services and the environment, he rattled off a series of projects, policies and programs that the Liberals have delivered over the years, noting in particular the benefits that have accrued to Ottawans: everything from a new cancer centre at the Royal Ottawa Hospital and expansion projects at the Montfort and CHEO for funding for the city's LRT project and the new convention centre.

But McGuinty, who once cast himself as the education premier, focused much of his speech on the Liberals' education policies, claiming that under his government there are now 950 more teachers in the province even though the student population has dropped. Hundreds of Ontario schools now offer full-day kindergarten. And he didn't let the audience forget that, under the Liberals, Carleton University has a new library and Algonquin College has a new trades building.

Nor did he forget to mention shutting down coal-fired plants in favour of green energy projects, attracting higher levels of foreign investment and Ottawa's new convention centre.

All of this, he concluded, resounds to Ontario as a whole. "The work we've done over the last nine years has positioned Ontario for success," he said.

If McGuinty's speech lacked anything, it was any reference to recent controversies that have plagued his government.

The Liberals have been under attack in recent months for their perceived failures on a number of issues, including legislation that can be used to impose contracts on teachers, freeze the salaries of teachers and public servants to help cut Ontario's \$14.8 billion deficit, and the uproar over the cost of scuttled projects to build gas plants.

To some degree, Tuesday's speech echoed what McGuinty said in mid-October when he announced his intention to resign, although the tone was much different.

In October, McGuinty conceded that his government had made mistakes, but said it hasn't done that badly and always acted with the best of motives. "Our government hasn't been perfect. But when it comes to the big things that families count on us to get right — schools, health care, the environment and the economy — we've gotten it right every time."

The premier also justified his decision to seek prorogation, saying it was necessary largely because of the opposition's refusal to support the legislation the government wanted to impose on government workers. Moreover, as he put it later, the intensely partisan atmosphere at Queen's Park had made the legislature unworkable.

McGuinty said he hoped to use the period of prorogation to negotiate a wage-freeze agreement with the unions and obtain support from the opposition parties.

Prorogation was not mentioned in Tuesday's speech. Nor was there any reference to why the teachers were out in the rain.

McGuinty once touted his relationship with teachers. In January, for example, he expressed the hope that this relationship would hold him in good stead as he tries to rein in public-sector salaries to meet deficit-cutting demands. It didn't. The teachers' unions, which once supported McGuinty, have grown increasingly hostile.

There was also no nod to some of his former or current caucus colleagues and would-be replacements in the audience, including Sandra Pupatello, Gerard Kennedy, Kathleen Wynne and Charles Sousa.

But then the only reference McGuinty made to his departure from politics was a joke that has become his wife Terri's latest mantra at home: "Four more months, four more months." When someone in the audience shouted, "Don't go," the premier replied: "Talk to Terri."

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Royal Ontario Institute of Teachers | Ontario Liberal leadership candidate Kathleen Wynne would change the way the province is dealing with teachers' labour dispute.

BY MIKE AUBRY ,OTTAWA SUN

FIRST POSTED: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 04, 2012 05:53 PM EST | UPDATED: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 05, 2012 12:13 AM EST

If she had it her way, Ontario Liberal leadership candidate Kathleen Wynne would change the way the province is dealing with teachers' labour dispute.

Teachers have been irked by legislation that restricts their rights to collectively bargain with their school boards.

"I think we need to create a new process that respects local bargaining, that has a provincial component and in which everyone is clear about what their roles are," said Wynne, who was in Ottawa Tuesday meeting with area Liberals. "My disappointment is that this time around, this process was not in place."

She added bargaining has gone awry from the very beginning.

But Wynne, who was education minister from 2006 to 2010, didn't go so far as to say she would repeal the Putting Students First Act if she were elected to power, something teachers' unions have been calling for since it was put in place in September.

She said wage freezes for teachers should be implemented, but she wants to work with teachers and unions to come at bargaining from a different perspective.

Wynne said she's still hopeful unions will come back to the bargaining table and form local agreements.

"I think that it is still salvageable, there is still time to reach an agreement," she said.

If teachers don't reach a new collective bargaining agreement by Dec. 31, the province has the power to impose an agreement on unions.

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Protesters demand bill be repealed

Contenders to replace McGuinty pledge to find other ways to solve teachers dispute

Hundreds of noisy protesters shut down the street outside the Ottawa Convention Centre Tuesday to demand that Premier Dalton McGuinty repeal Bill 115, but leading contenders in the race to replace him admitted that won't likely happen and are instead pledging to find other ways to re-build the province's once-cozy relationship with its teachers and educational workers.

As Ontario Liberal party supporters gathered inside in advance of McGuinty's keynote speech at an annual fundraising dinner, Gerard Kennedy — a former education minister currently seeking to replace the longtime premier — met briefly with protesters on the rain-soaked sidewalk outside.

"I can't turn back the clock and I can't make people not be upset, but there has to be a constructive means by which we get education on track," Kennedy said.

He told protesters he won't use the powers contained in the controversial legislation if he's chosen as the party's new leader next month. But Kennedy stopped short of saying he'd repeal Bill 115 and didn't say what he would do if the government imposes a contract after the Dec. 31.

"The fundamentals of Bill 115 will not be there," he said. "I do not support taking away the right to bargain. We'll get a better deal for students and parents and taxpayers and teachers if we bargain it where those rights are not infringed." While Kennedy was careful not to directly criticize Education Minister Laurel Broten's handling of the contract negotiations, he made it clear that a different approach is required.

"Whoever is in the education minister's chair, if I am premier, will not be using this approach," he said.

Kathleen Wynne, another former education minister who's also vying for McGuinty's job, said repealing Bill 115 would likely be a moot point by the time a new leader is chosen at the party's Jan. 25 convention because the deadline for reaching local agreements will have passed by then. "We are where we are and we need to deal with this reality," she said. "This has been a difficult process."

Wynne said she would not introduce any further legislation that would impose other collective agreements and, if chosen to be leader, would invite stakeholders in the education sector to meet with the government to devise a new way to reach agreements.

Like Kennedy, leadership contender Sandra Pupatello was not at the cabinet table when the decision to introduce Bill 115 was taken.

Pupatello, who quit politics in 2011 after 16 years at Queen's Park — including a stint as education minister, said she'd lean on her historically strong relationship with unions to re-establish labour peace in the province if she becomes the new Liberal leader. She says the suggestion by some of her opponents that it could be repealed is "disingenuous."

"There will be nothing left to repeal, it will be done," she said. "What we have to do, whichever one of us wins, is deal with what the lay of the land will be at that time."

Nevertheless, the crowd gathered outside continued to chant, "Kill the Bill."

"Premier, I have one simple message for you," said Dan Maxwell, the president of the Ottawa chapter of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation. "You can do the right thing, you can repeal this bill and you can bring an end to the chaos."

"Leave yourself a legacy of respect," Maxwell said, as teachers wearing rain ponchos and red T-shirts with printed messages to McGuinty chanted for the bill's end.

The president of the Ottawa-Carleton Elementary Teachers' Federation said the evening's protest was the latest in a series of steps teachers and support staff have taken to negotiate deals.

"This is about sending a message," Giuliani said before the protesters broke out in an anti-McGuinty, pro-union protest song. "We are not going away."

Speaking on behalf of Ottawa-Carleton District School Board trustees — who last month voted unanimously in favour of a motion calling for the government to review and repeal Bill 115 — Pam FitzGerald called the legislation "undemocratic and draconian," and said she hopes it doesn't prompt

teachers to walkout.

"I would hope they don't, but I understand how they feel they need to get across how this bill upsets them."

FitzGerald also said she feared "unending teacher unrest in Ontario" if a settlement is imposed on education workers once the Dec. 31 deadline passes. Yet with only a few weeks left to reach a deal, some say that reality is starting to sink in.



"It doesn't look to us like the government is budging and we're not accepting the fact, so that's why I'm here," said high school teacher Rachel Collishaw.

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Protest:

Kennedy stops short

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