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# The London Free Press

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Tuesday, 25 September, 2007

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## NEWS NATIONAL

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### Tory defends faith school stand

Sun, September 16, 2007

**The Conservative leader says Ontarians will see religious school funding as 'sensible.'**

By CHRISTINA BLIZZARD, SUN MEDIA



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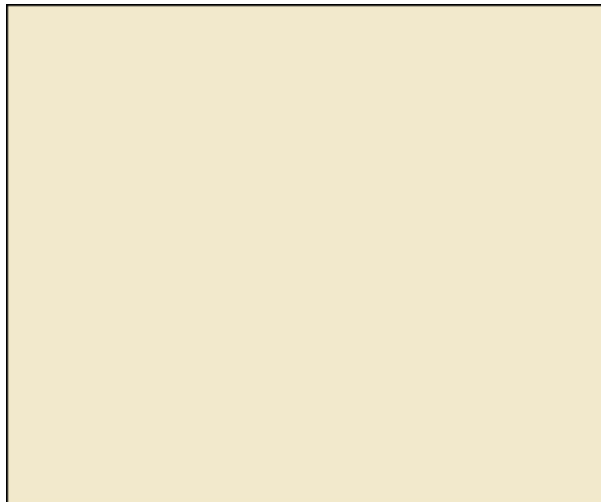
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OSHAWA -- John Tory said yesterday that his policy of funding religious schools is a question of principle and that when people start to understand it better, they will decide it is "sensible."



Responding to a question about an SES Research/Sun Media poll showing support for his policy edging up, the PC leader said he will continue to fight for his plan that would provide funding to faith-based schools.

To qualify for funding, schools would have to follow the provincial curriculum, submit to provincial testing and ensure teachers have provincial certification.

"I am confident that as people understand the motivation for this policy . . . that more and more people will decide that this is a sensible thing to do as a matter of inclusion and fairness," Tory said in a scrum here yesterday.

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The poll showed an almost even split among voters on the policy -- 43 per cent support it, while 50 per cent oppose it.

Tory said his policy is a question of fairness to the 53,000 kids in private, faith-based schools.

"I am doing this as a matter of principle because I think it is the right thing to do and you always fight for what is right and keep fighting for it."

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