

Bird says it's time to abolish school boards

Margaret Bird - November 2025

Imagination is borne in the mind of a child; it's not just a fleeting thought, but a powerful force that shapes their understanding of the world, fuels their creativity, and fosters essential developmental skills. It's the foundation for their ability to transform everyday objects into fantastic scenarios, solve problems creatively, and build essential social and cognitive skills. Imagination is not just a playful activity for children; it's a fundamental aspect of development – something that should be truly fostered, by both parents and teachers, without any obstructions.

But, something has drastically changed since the three R's. Current politics and ideologies have brought about a tremendous unwanted intervention in the flow of children's natural growth and development and, instead of education, we now have indoctrination -- teaching children to accept a set of beliefs uncritically – in other words, brainwashing.

Indoctrination tells you what to think. Education teaches you how to think. Indoctrination tells you not to challenge what you're told. Education gives you tools for examining everything you're told with a critical eye.

Childhood indoctrination is beyond unethical. The greatest gift you can give your child is the ability to think critically, questioning everything with a healthy dose of skepticism. This will set your child up to examine all viewpoints before making any life decisions.

Indoctrination forces a child towards a specific belief; how is that ethical when it's a belief without evidence, and no opportunity, to gain a full-spectrum view of everything?

Obviously, we are completely entitled to our own beliefs but, we want our children to believe as many true things as possible. Recognizing our beliefs may not be 100 per cent true because we were also indoctrinated as children, this should be enough to stop us from doing the same to our children. It may well be that our children will grow to share the same beliefs as us, but that should be their decision, and not ours.

The instilling of unreasonable fears by certain authorities, only promotes forced obedience and compliance. It's incredibly sad to see the baggage many children grow up with, through the categorization of natural instincts as 'sin' and 'hate' for those who do not believe what they believe.

The four Cs in education are - collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical thinking. All four have been vital for at least two decades and should definitely continue as educators aim to prepare students for their future successes. In order to know if teachers are trying to enforce their own ideals and opinions on students, it's very important for parents to listen to the feedback from their children and follow up on everything.

Many are suggesting that we should abolish the current school boards in Ontario, which could definitely bring about a radical shift in the current education system. The provincial government is currently strengthening its oversight of school boards, particularly in areas of financial management and accountability, but this doesn't necessarily mean they're advocating for their complete abolition.

Some argue that school boards have failed to manage public funds effectively, leading to deficits and questionable spending. Abolishing them could allow the provincial government to take direct control of finances, potentially leading to better resource allocation.

Abolishing school boards would eliminate layers of bureaucracy and potentially streamline decision-making processes. Abolition supporters argue that school boards often get bogged down in non-educational issues, diverting resources inappropriately from core priorities. A more streamlined system could involve a provincial-level board with local advisory boards providing input on specific needs.

Ultimately, the decision of whether or not to abolish school boards is a complex one with potential benefits and drawbacks. The current government is taking steps to strengthen oversight and accountability, but the ultimate outcome remains uncertain.

We must move towards a more robust and meaningful educational system that empowers students to become informed, engaged, critical thinkers, rather than passive recipients of information.

If Canada's provinces and territories are meant to represent one country, then it's about time we treated every section of our land with equality and consistency, especially when it comes to an important topic like education. Having separate and different laws in every province and territory is ridiculous – we're already divisive, and existing as separate republics.

How about our minister of education – how much power should this position have? It should wield a complex issue with varying perspectives. Generally, the minister is responsible for setting overall education policy, curriculum, and standards, while local school boards manage day-to-day operations. Striking the right balance.