

Premier Dalton McGuinty – April 2005

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario

In this address, Premier Dalton McGuinty reminds principals of the partnership that exists between government and school leaders. He talks about the need for the Ontario Government and school leaders to re-gain the trust of the Ontario Public in their public school systems. He shares some of the progress that has been made because of shifts in government funding, and also discusses the challenges that remain. He reminds the principals that testing is the only concrete way to show growth in the education system. He shares his deep commitment to public education and concludes by asking principals and government officials to make a pact to build momentum towards achieving the goal that 75% of students will reach the provincial standard in literacy and numeracy by 2008.

Contact:

For more information about the Premier of Ontario, visit www.premier.gov.on.ca

Segments:

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1...Introduction

(Length: 3 minutes)

Synopsis:

The Premier introduces the team of people that are leading the current push in education. He shares a story about meeting an elderly lady in a grocery store.

2...Partnerships with Leaders, Principals, and Teachers (Length: 5 minutes)

Synopsis:

The premier talks about the importance of connecting plans for change to the leadership in schools. He maintains that the focus of all should be the education of the students. He shares his belief in Gerard Kennedy, Avis Glaze, Michael Fullan and Ben Levin. He believes that the principals are the people who make a difference in schools.

Look for the following:

- Introduction of Gerard Kennedy, Avis Glaze, Michael Fullan and Ben Levin

After viewing Segment 2:

- How does this team of people's commitment to education effect education?
- What is the single most important thing that the Province could do?
- What does "the transmission of civility" mean?

3...The "Show Me" Province of Canada

(Length: 5 minutes)

Synopsis:

The Premier recognizes that there are challenges to education. He encourages people to be aware of life every single minute. He discusses the need people have in the province to gain faith in public education. He suggests that now is the time to show the public that public schools are excellent.

Look for the following:

- Sir Winston Churchill's quotation "the price of greatness is responsibility"
- Statistics about Ontario's past
- Message sent by Ontarians

After viewing Segment 3:

- Why were many families choosing private schools over public schools in the past?
- Are there any statistics that surprised you?
- What is the message sent by Ontarians during the last election?

4...Embracing the Challenge

(Length: 2.5 minutes)

Synopsis:

The Premier discusses how the government was left with a deficit and how in the past it chose to take money from education and put it into health care. He shares how he has been able to invest more money into education.

Look for the following:

- 6% increase in investment into education

After viewing Segment 4:

- How have leaders in education remained hopeful about education?

5...Progress

(Length: 2.5 minutes)

Synopsis:

The Premier shares the many things that the government has done to make public education in Ontario better.

Look for the following:

- Gains made in Ontario education

After viewing Segment 5:

- What progress has been made in Ontario education?
- Have you felt the effects of the progress? If so, how?
- What still needs to be done?
- Are there any gains that surprise you?
- Which of these changes has had the most effect on students?

6...Testing in a “Show Me” Province

(Length: 4 minutes)

Synopsis:

The Premier explains why testing results are so important when it comes to showing the public that change is happening.

After viewing Segment 6:

- What alternate ways have you seen in your schools to show that the public education system is strong?

7...A Commitment to Public Education

(Length: 4 minutes)

Synopsis:

The Premier shares his deep passion and commitment to public education and invites principals and teachers to share successes and challenges with him.

After viewing Segment 7:

- What successes could you share with the Premier?
- What tough problems are you experiencing that you would also like to share?

8...Conclusion: Pact to Build Momentum

(Length: 4 minutes)

Synopsis:

The Premier asks the principals to make a pact with the government to continue to work towards the goal of 75%.

Look for the following:

- A story of how many students have signed up to be in Intel’s science fair in the USA and in China.

After viewing Segment 8:

- In your own words, explain why education of all children is important to the progress of Canada as a nation.