

## Public Debate about Private Schools<sup>1</sup>

*Re: N. O'Connor on Public Versus Independent Schools (Jan. 15, 2010, pp. 4-7, 13)*

O'Connor's quest to examine the whole issue of public vs independent schools once again is laudable. I thank her for bringing it out into the open--again. Among others, she quotes Patti Bacchus, chair of Vancouver School Board, who declares that "there hasn't been enough discussion about the subject." Bacchus is said to prefer that "public money remain in the public system."

That O'Connor is not aware of thorough-going *public* discussions during the last few decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, I can understand. Reporters and journalists cannot be expert on everything, though a little more research would not have hurt her. But that Bacchus, a key personality in Vancouver's educational establishment, seems so unaware surprises me. O'Connor contacted the Federation of Independent School Associations in BC (FISA), the right place to go, but I get the impression that Bacchus is not aware of the long political campaign FISA has waged *publicly*. FISA has published a hefty history of "*The Political Struggle of Independent Schools in British Columbia*," the subtitle of their book, *Justice Achieved*, written by Victoria Cunningham, in which it all hangs out. I am surprised that, while O'Connor has visited FISA, makes no mention of their book. Anyone trying to start a discussion on this subject without having read that book is trying to re-invent a wheel that's already been there for coon's ages.

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<sup>1</sup>Letter to Editor in response to N. O'Connor's article on Public Versus Independent Schools, 15 Jan/2010. Sorry, but the information as to which newspaper is missing. 17 Jan/2010. *Every Square Inch*, vol. 4, pp. 81-82.