



# News Release

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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For Immediate Release

## **MCGUINTY CAPS ANOTHER PROMISE**

*Liberals maintain their streak of a broken promise every 12 days*

*"We will put in place a real cap of 20 students per class in the all-important early grades."  
Liberal Platform. October 2003.*

(Queen's Park) PC Education Critic Frank Klees, slammed the McGuinty government for breaking yet another key campaign promise – a promise the Liberals knew they could never keep - to implement an across-the-board hard cap on class sizes.

Referencing a memo from the Ministry of Education released yesterday which will allow classes in excess of 20 students, Klees said, "We have advised from the outset that this one-size-fits-all hard cap policy was ill conceived and simply not workable. It was a nightmare for small boards and a huge cost to larger boards such as Peel and York. Both of those boards estimated it would cost them each at least \$70 million to implement. Boards everywhere, large and small, are breathing a sigh of relief."

"The pressure for the small and rural schools has been significant," Klees added. "They were struggling with how they could possibly implement this cap without significant funding increases to handle additional staff and classrooms. Despite the Minister's protestations, it most certainly would have meant siphoning off classroom dollars to pay for teachers' salaries and bricks and mortar."

"At the end of the day, it was a policy to get elected, not implemented," said Klees. "Once again we see the results as they back away from a promise that was, from the beginning, both irresponsible and ill-conceived."

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For further information  
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