

# BILL 33

Bill 33, the *Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025*, is broad and far-reaching, giving the Minister of Education unprecedented control over school boards while curtailing local decision-making.

## TAKING CONTROL AND SILENCING ONTARIANS

The legislation the Ford government wants to pass is all about taking control and silencing the voices of parents, students, teachers, and our local communities. It's not about strengthening education. It's about ignoring those who know schools best.

- ▶ Gives the Ford government sweeping powers to override school boards and seize control under vague “public interest” claims.
- ▶ Distracts from \$6.3 billion in government underfunding by threatening to strip locally elected trustees of their role, replacing community decision making with one-size-fits-all control from Queen's Park.
  - Removes local voices from the decisions that shape our children's education.
  - Silences parents and blocks access to their local representatives, making it harder to openly voice their opinions and ask for help.
- ▶ Requires boards to work with their local police force to implement School Resource Officers (SROs) programs (where available), and gives police greater access to schools, ignoring education experts, as well as the local voices of parents and students from Indigenous, Black, and other equity-deserving communities.
  - Fails to understand or address the root cause of violence in schools – and that violent incidents are often calls for help from our most vulnerable students.
  - Ignores that government underfunding has contributed and exacerbated the rise in violence, as schools contend with fewer resources and supports.
  - Sends a clear message that community voices – particularly those from Indigenous, Black, and equity-deserving groups, who raise concerns about SROs and police over-surveillance – do not matter.

## UNWARRANTED EXPANSION OF POWER

Catholic teachers call on the Ontario government to:

- ▶ Rethink its unprecedented and unwarranted expansion of authority, as well as its thinly-veiled attempt to shift blame for chronic government underfunding on to school boards.
- ▶ Invest in the resources and supports students need, while upholding the principles of democracy on which Ontario – and school boards – are founded.

**Bill 33 is not about improving education – it's about centralizing power**, shifting the blame for chronic government underfunding, weakening local decision-making, and sowing division.