

Talking Public Education with Friends and Family

SUMMER 2026 EDITION

THE MAIN FACTS:

►► **PAUL CALANDRA'S RECORD:** Since 2018, the Ford government has cut **\$6.4 billion from K-12 education funding.**

►► **STAFFING CRISIS:** Minister Calandra has cut thousands of jobs from Ontario schools.

►► **OVERCROWDED CLASSROOMS:** Schools are becoming more crowded, and class sizes continue to increase.

►► **VIOLENCE AND SAFETY:** School boards report a **77% increase in violent incidents** since the Ford government took office.

►► The Hottest Trend This Summer?
Holding Paul Calandra and the Ford government accountable for the state of public education.

RESPONSES TO COMMON ANTI-EDUCATION RHETORIC:

WHEN THEY SAY: The government is investing historic amounts into education. All the unions do is **complain and ask** for more money.

THE TRUTH: Paul Calandra likes to talk about record funding. The reality is that Ontario's public education system has lost \$6.4 billion since 2018 while student needs have become more complex.

He has cut thousands of jobs from Ontario's schools, including skilled trades workers, educational assistants, professional student services personnel, and teachers. These are the workers who keep schools running, support students with complex needs, provide mental health and learning supports, maintain safe buildings, and help students succeed every day.

You cannot cut the people students rely on and then claim public education is fully supported.

WHEN THEY SAY: Working in education is easy. Teachers already make good money, have summers off, and have great benefits.

THE TRUTH: If working in education were easy, Ontario would not be facing an historic shortage. More than 70,000 people with teaching qualifications in Ontario have chosen not to work in the public education system.

Paul Calandra can dismiss concerns about staffing and working conditions, but the reality is that worsening conditions make it harder to recruit and retain the trained professionals that students need to succeed.

WHEN THEY SAY: My classes were huge when I was in school. I don't see the issue.

THE TRUTH: Today's classrooms are very different. Students have more diverse learning needs, greater mental health challenges, and more complex support requirements than ever before.

Instead of responding to those realities, Paul Calandra has overseen larger class sizes, fewer supports, and growing pressures on schools. In some schools, students are sharing textbooks and even desks. **Ontario's students deserve better.**