

September 24, 1988

COPY

The Honorable Tony Brummett,
Minister of Education,
Parliament Buildings,
VICTORIA, B.C. V8V 4R3

Dear Sir,

According to a report in the Vancouver SUN (24 SEPT), the Ontario Court of Appeal has struck down legislation imposing religious exercises in public schools in that province as being unconstitutional.

If prayers are now unconstitutional in Ontario schools, then they are also unconstitutional in British Columbia schools. The provincial government should move voluntarily and rapidly to have the corresponding sections deleted from the B.C. School Act, due for revision this fall.

Yours sincerely,

Glenn M. Hardie.
President, HAGV.

cc: Ken Derike, Chairman, VSB
Mike Harcourt, Leader, NDP

MICHAEL F. HARCOURT, M. L. A.
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
LEGISLATIVE BUILDINGS
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387-5571



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November 14, 1988

Glenn M. Hardie, President
Humanist Association of Greater Vancouver
P.O. Box 35561, Station "E"
Vancouver, British Columbia
V6M 4G8

Dear Mr. Hardie:

Thank you for the copy of your September 24th letter to the Minister of Education concerning religious exercises in the public schools.

You have raised a valid point. I am taking the liberty of sharing your correspondence with Anita Hagen, MLA, our education critic, for her information and follow-up.

I appreciate your bringing this matter to my attention. I know you will be hearing from Ms. Hagen soon.

Sincerely,

Mike Harcourt
Leader of the Official Opposition

cc: Anita Hagen, MLA
(New Westminster)

ANITA HAGEN, M.L.A.
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LEGISLATIVE OFFICE:
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
VICTORIA, B.C. V8V 1X4

January 17, 1989

Mr. Glenn Hardie, President
Humanist Association of Greater Vancouver
P.O. Box 35561, Station "E"
Vancouver, BC
V6M 4G8

Dear Mr. Hardie:

Mr. Harcourt has forwarded your letter of September 30 to me, along with his reply. Please accept my apology for the delay in responding.

I am advised that a new B.C. School Act will be introduced in the spring session of the legislature. The New Democrats will be pushing to change Section 164 which presently calls for the Lord's Prayer and prescriptive bible readings at the opening exercises of each school day.

In our multicultural society, with the many religious and secular beliefs of our citizens, the act should ensure that any teaching about our religious heritage is consistent with the constitution and conducive to a better understanding of our nations and the world's peoples.

Thank you for letting us know of the views of your association.

Yours truly,

Anita Hagen, M.L.A.
(New Westminster)
New Democrat Spokesperson for Education