



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Failure of our education policy

Feb 08, 2009 04:30 AM

**Re: Ontario's prosperity hinges on harnessing creativity, Opinion, Feb. 5**

The report by Roger Martin and Richard Florida makes as its top recommendation: Harness the full creative potential of Ontarians beyond the creative elite professionals, entrepreneurs and artists.

This is an admission of the strategic failure of our education policy. We are still stuck in the 19th and 20th century education mindset.

We teach and test for memorization of information, which is soon obsolete, and not for our ability to create anything new. The only significant way to harness this full creative potential of all Ontarians is for the minister of education to take a bold step and decide that all schoolchildren need at least one hour a week of direct teaching of critical and creative lateral thinking skills.

We already know how to do this. We've been teaching cognitive thinking skills to our gifted children, who are more likely to enter the creative class, but have chosen to ignore all the rest to our economic peril.

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