



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

ONE HEART
VOICE
MISSION

January 26, 2016

The Honourable David Eggen,
Minister of Education,
228 Legislature Building
10800 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Eggen,

On behalf of the over 9,880 members of the Catholic Women's League of the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council, I wish to voice the opposition of our members to elements of the document "Guidelines for Best Practices: Creating Learning Environments that Respect Diverse Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities and Gender Expressions." We are guided by the objects of our organization; to unite Catholic women of Canada: to promote the teachings of the Catholic Church and to uphold and defend Christian education and values in the modern world. We reaffirm the right of the Catholic electorate to have our Catholic way of life permeated through the life of Catholic schools. The Alberta Government must not expect Catholic School Boards to reject their foundational beliefs to implement the Guidelines.

The women of the Alberta Mackenzie Catholic Women's League of Canada are committed to Catholic education and support the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association's position re: 'Guidelines for Best Practices':

- As Catholic women we are guided and grounded by our faith, every child is seen as a precious and unique child of God deserving of individualized love and attention to reach their full God-given potential.
- We reaffirm the rights of parents and/or guardians as primary educators to make informed choices for their child/children in light of our Catholic faith.
- We reaffirm the responsibility and the role of the Alberta Catholic Bishops to provide moral and theological leadership to the Catholic education communities as part of the Catholic community as a whole.
- The Catholic Women's League of the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council appreciates the leadership of Catholic school boards, Catholic school divisions/authorities, and the Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta (CCSSA) in the development and implementation of overarching Safe & Caring school policies, strong anti-bullying policies and the LIFE Framework (Lived Inclusion for Everyone) document which have long ensured that all students, regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, etc. are treated with equal respect and dignity.

The Catholic Women's League of Canada is confident that all Catholic Boards will continue to be responsive to the individual needs of their students. We look forward to the reexamination of the Guidelines in reflection of the values expressed.

Respectfully yours,

Cathy Bouchard
President,
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council,
The Catholic Women's League of Canada
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cc:

- Premier Notley
- Brian Jean, Leader of the opposition
- Mark Smith, Education Critic
- Archbishop Richard Smith, Archdiocese of Edmonton
- Archbishop Gerald Pettipas, Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan
- Bishop Fred Henry, Diocese of Calgary
- Bishop Paul Terrio, Diocese of St. Paul
- Bishop Mark Hagemoen, Diocese of Mackenzie Fort Smith
- Bishop Motiuk, Edmonton Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy
- Alberta Catholic School Trustee Association,
 - Executive Director Dean Sarnecki
 - President Adrianna Lagrange
 - Vice President Tomlinson
 - Past President Tony Sykora
- Catholic School Boards Trustees and Superintendents
 - [Calgary RCSSD No. 1](#)
[Airdrie, Calgary, Chestermere, Cochrane and Municipal District of Rockyview]
 - [Christ the Redeemer CSRD No. 3](#)
[Black Diamond, Brooks, Canmore, Drumheller, High River, Okotoks, Oyen, Strathmore and Turner Valley]
 - [Conseil scolaire FrancoSud](#)
[Calgary, Canmore and Cochrane]
 - [Conseil scolaire Centre-Est No. 3](#)
[Bonnyville, Cold Lake, Plamondon and St. Paul]
 - [Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord No. 2](#)
[Edmonton, Ft. McMurray, Jasper, Legal, Red Deer, St. Albert and Wainwright]
 - [Conseil scolaire du Nord-Ouest No. 1](#)
[Falher, Grande Prairie and Peace River]
 - [East Central Alberta CSSRD No. 16](#)
[Castor, Halkirk, Provost, Stettler, Vermilion and Wainwright]
 - [Edmonton CSSD No. 7](#)
 - [Elk Island CSRD No. 41](#)
[Camrose, Fort Saskatchewan, Sherwood Park and Vegreville]
 - [Evergreen CSRD No. 2](#)
[Devon, Hinton, Spruce Grove, Stony Plain and Westlock]
 - [Fort McMurray RCSSD No. 32](#)
 - [Grande Prairie RCSSD No. 28](#)
[Beaverlodge, Fairview, Grande Prairie, Sexsmith and Spirit River]
 - [Greater St. Albert RCSSD No. 734](#)
[Legal, Morinville and St. Albert]
 - [Holy Family CRD No. 37](#)
[Grimshaw, High Prairie, Manning, McLennan, Peace River and Valleyview]
 - [Holy Spirit RCSR No. 4](#)
[Bow Island, Coaldale, Lethbridge, Picture Butte, Pincher Creek and Taber]
 - [Lakeland RCSSD No. 150](#)
[Bonnyville, Cold Lake and Waskatenau]
 - [Living Waters CRD No. 42](#)
[Edson, Slave Lake and Whitecourt]
 - Lloydminster RCSSD No. 89

- [Medicine Hat CSRD No. 20](#)

[Dunmore, Medicine Hat and Redcliff]

- [Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools](#)

[Innisfail, Red Deer, Rocky Mountain House and Sylvan Lake]

- [St. Paul ERD No. 1](#)

[Mallaig and St. Paul]

- [St. Thomas Aquinas RCSR No. 38](#)

[Beaumont, Drayton Valley, Leduc, Ponoka and Wetaskiwin]

- St. Mary's University College, Calgary

Dr. Michael Duggan, CWL Chair for Catholic Studies

Dr. Gerry Turcotte, President

- Edmonton Archdiocese Communications – Quid Novum

- Western Catholic Reporter

- Carillon, Calgary Diocese

- Edmonton Journal

- Calgary Herald

- State Deputy Charles Russell, Alberta Northwest Territories Knights of Columbus

- CWL Webmaster

- CWL Life members

- National CWL President, Barb Dowding

- National CWL Executive Director, Kim Scammell