

February 7, 2016

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

Dear Minister Eggen,

As a concerned Albertan, I wish to voice my opposition to the elements of the document; "Guidelines for Best Practices: Creating Learning Environments that Respect Diverse Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities and Gender Expressions."

I support the Alberta Catholic School Trustee Association's position re: 'Guidelines for Best Practices'

- I support Catholic education 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.
- I reaffirm the rights of parents and/or guardians as primary educators to make informed choices for their child/children.
- I 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.
- I appreciate 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.

Catholic schools have worked for more than a century in this province to ensure that no children, for any reason, feels segregated or bullied. Proposing that our schools may be lacking because we do not implement unique protocols that address the so-called "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Queer" community as distinct unto itself is absurd. In our schools these classifications need not exist because our schools, in fact, all schools, are filled with only one kind of student: children of God. Our students are respected, honoured and protected not because of their gender, confusion around their gender, or declared sexual preference; our students are respected, honoured and protected because they are God's children.

I am confident that all Catholic Boards will continue to be responsive to the individual needs of their students. It is my hope that Catholic education will continue to be an important part of the education system in Alberta as it has been for over 100 years.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to your response.

Respectfully yours,

Address: _____
