



# Parents for Choice in Education

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## 10 facts that every parent should know about Bill 10

1. Bill 10 was passed by the Alberta Legislature on March 10, 2015 in a matter of hours, without any public consultation about the specific wording of the law that was passed.
2. Bill 10 puts students in charge of what clubs and activities are permitted at the school they attend, and legally prevents parents from having any say in the matter.
3. Bill 10 gives students the absolute legal right to establish any club, and to host any activity, that claims to promote a “welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging”, regardless of what parents may think of the club or activity.
4. Bill 10 is contrary to Article 26 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*: “Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children”.
5. Bill 10 is contrary to Article 18(4) of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, which requires governments to respect “the liberty of parents . . . to ensure the religious and moral education of their children is in conformity with their own convictions.”
6. Bill 10 is contrary to the Supreme Court of Canada ruling in *Loyola v. Quebec*, 2015 SCC 12, in which the Court upheld the right of parents to determine the culture, character and learning environment of the schools that their children attend.
7. Bill 10 is not based on objective or comprehensive research, and does nothing to address the root causes of bullying in schools.
8. Bill 10 removes from principals and teachers their autonomy to work with parents to address bullying in the way that is best suited to meet the unique circumstances of each local school.
9. Bill 10 forces every school in Alberta to establish clubs and sponsor activities that may be contrary to the beliefs, morals and principles that parents teach their own children at home. Bill 10 applies to every school in Alberta, including public, independent, Catholic, and other religious schools, as well as to home-schooling education.
10. The Alberta Government has stated that parents will not be notified if their children attend a club, or participate in an activity. This alienates children from their greatest ally, their parents, by keeping parents ignorant of the deepest struggles their children are dealing with.

The best way to provide a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment in schools is through active parental involvement and participation. A law that expressly and deliberately excludes parents for having a say as to what clubs and activities will take place at the schools attended by their children is contrary to achieving this goal. It should be the decision of parents (not politicians, bureaucrats, special interest groups, or political activists) as to what clubs and activities are permitted at the school attended by their children.