

Ways to Engage with Our Elected Officials

PCE thanks a Parents for Choice in Education Supporter for preparing this document.

Our MLAs are elected to represent your values in the legislative process. You have a right to be heard. You may wish to consider contacting your MLA, Minister of Education Eggen, and the Premier.

Sadly the arguments that you make will be less important than the sheer number of communications for or against a particular policy. We may feel that our voice is not being heard, but if we do not communicate then we have guaranteed that our voice will not be heard.

You may use any information within this document to contact/write your representatives. Contact info for representatives is on page 7. Remember to CC the Opposition Education Critic, Mark Smith

Which is the best way to communicate? Answer: the one you actually use.

Ways to communicate include

Personal visit – follow up with a letter (Request for action should be in writing)

Phone call – follow up with a letter (Request for action should be in writing)

Email

Hand written letter

Personalized printed letter

Personalized adjustments to a “form” letter

Petition

We recommend email because it is the simplest and life is busy.

TWO VERY IMPORTANT STRATEGIES

- 1) Send a copy of every communication to the Wild Rose Education Critic. It is Mark Smith’s job to ensure accountability and transparency with the government and to hold them accountable. Our MLA may not mention how many calls, letters and emails s/he receives but if the opposition knows, then they can raise that in the Legislature.
- 2) State the action that you are requesting clearly in the communication. We can express our concerns but ultimately we want the MLA to DO something. I recommend two action items and provide examples below.

Action requested should be clear to the MLA.

- 1) In your role as a representative of your constituency, I am formally requesting that you move to amend or repeal the legislative changes of Bill 10.
- 2) In your role as a member of the Legislature and of the NDP caucus, I am formally requesting that you communicate the disagreement of your constituents to the *Guidelines for Best Practices: Creating Learning Environments that Respect Diverse Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities and Gender Expressions*, put forward by Minister of Education David Eggen, and request that they be withdrawn.

Jan 21, 2016

Honourable Mr. Eggen, Minister of Education

I am a parent, tax payer, and citizen of Alberta. I am deeply concerned with both the legislative changes reflected in **Bill 10** that were pushed through the legislature, and the **Guidelines for Best Practices** that were developed by your office.

Bill 10 and the Guidelines demonstrate lack of consultation with Albertans and do not reflect the values and beliefs of the majority of Albertans. I am concerned that the government is taking a bullying approach to implementing legislation and that they have not asked for input from faith communities, ethnic groups, parents, and Independent school communities, and the Separate school boards. This is not the Albertan way. We expect more accurate and respectful representation from our elected officials.

There are so many issues with the 12 Guidelines that it would take many pages to explain them. However, I would be happy to discuss the concerns with you at a time convenient.

My request:

In your role as the Minister responsible for Education in Alberta, I am formally requesting that you move to amend or **repeal the legislative changes of Bill 10**.

I am formally expressing disagreement with the social reconstruction agenda as expressed in *Guidelines for Best Practices: Creating Learning Environments that Respect Diverse Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities and Gender Expressions*, and **request that they be withdrawn**.

Submitted Respectfully,

Cc: Mark Smith, Opposition Education Critic

Jan 21, 2016

Dear Mr. Horne

I am a parent, tax payer, and citizen of Alberta. I am deeply concerned with both the legislative changes reflected in **Bill 10** that were pushed through the legislature, and the **Guidelines for Best Practices** that were developed by your office.

Bill 10 and the Guidelines demonstrate lack of consultation with Albertans and do not reflect the values and beliefs of the majority of Albertans. I am concerned that the government is taking a bullying approach to implementing legislation and that they have not asked for input from faith communities, ethnic groups, parents, and Independent school communities, and Separate schools. That Minister Eggen is threatening to dissolve duly elected schools boards is unacceptable. This is not the Albertan way. We expect more accurate and respectful representation from our elected officials.

There are so many issues with the 12 Guidelines that it would take many pages to explain them. However, I would be happy to discuss the concerns with you at a time convenient.

My request:

In your role as an elected representative of your constituency, I am formally requesting that you move to amend or **repeal the legislative changes of Bill 10**.

I am formally expressing disagreement with the social reconstruction agenda as expressed in *Guidelines for Best Practices: Creating Learning Environments that Respect Diverse Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities and Gender Expressions*, and **request that they be withdrawn**.

Submitted Respectfully,

Cc: Mark Smith, Opposition Education Critic

Jan 21, 2016

Dear Ms. Babcock

I am a parent, tax payer, and citizen of Alberta. I am deeply concerned with both the legislative changes reflected in **Bill 10** that were pushed through the legislature, and the **Guidelines for Best Practices** that were developed by your office.

Bill 10 and the Guidelines undermine the rights of parents and faith communities to raise and care for students within their Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The Guidelines requiring schools to allow adults and students of opposing sex into private facilities such as washrooms and change rooms undermines both the perceived and actual safety of our children. The government has accepted a worldview and social agenda promoted by an activist minority group and is coercively forcing it on Albertans. The Minister has threatened duly elected boards with dissolution if his agenda is not adopted. This is contrary to the fundamental values of freedom, democracy, and parental rights, which we hold dear as Canadians.

Please make our objections know to the caucus and use your position to oppose the Guidelines and work to repeal Bill 10.

My request:

In your role as an elected representative of your constituency, I am formally requesting that you move to amend or **repeal the legislative changes of Bill 10**.

I am formally expressing disagreement with the social reconstruction agenda as expressed in *Guidelines for Best Practices: Creating Learning Environments that Respect Diverse Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities and Gender Expressions*, and **request that they be withdrawn**.

Submitted Respectfully,

Cc: Mark Smith, Opposition Education Critic

Jan 21, 2016

Dear Trevor Horne

As a parent and citizen of Alberta I am outraged by the recommendations put forward by the Guidelines for Best Practices from the Minister of Education. They are a direct affront to the values of Albertans and the attitude they express fails to recognize the love that parents have

for their own children. Additionally, faith communities and faith based schools have demonstrably high rating from parents and students related to creating safe and caring environments for students. Yet Bill 10 and the Guidelines diminish the rights of parents and even the expectation to communicate with us about our own children.

The lack of consultation outside of a narrow group of sexual minority advocacy organizations is of deep concern. On one hand the government seems to be dismissing the rights of religious communities to meet the needs of students in ways compatible with their faith (School Act 16.1) and on the other their sole source of policy direction is from groups with a religious perspective that denies gender, promotes dangerous sexual practices and a lifestyle known for high suicide rates, and attacks traditional views as needing to be cured (heterosexism).

We request that true openness and democratic principles be applied. The NDP campaigned against the arrogance and “privilege” of the PC party. This is an opportunity for the NDP to represent true values of democracy and uphold the Charter. The tone and approach of the government so far has inspired comments related to “1984”, Fascism, and Totalitarianism. We hope for more from our elected representatives.

My request:

In your role as an elected representative of your constituency, I am formally requesting that you move to amend or **repeal the legislative changes of Bill 10.**

I am formally expressing disagreement with the social reconstruction agenda as expressed in *Guidelines for Best Practices: Creating Learning Environments that Respect Diverse Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities and Gender Expressions*, and **request that they be withdrawn.**

Submitted Respectfully,

Cc: Mark Smith, Opposition Education Critic

Talking Points for a phone call

I’m calling you as a member of your constituency to express my concerns of the actions of your government.

Minister Eggen’s guidelines were created without consultation from parent groups, Independent schools, faith communities or Separate school boards.

The Guidelines are unsafe and cause great concern for physical and emotional safety of students. The government seems unwilling to listen to the concerns of all Albertans.

Minister Eggen has taken a coercive and heavy handed approach to dealing with debate and differences of opinion. I have serious concerns when a government assigns “consultants” when a school board is fulfilling their democratic duties and debating issues, as he has done with the Catholic boards and threatens to do with all schools who submit policies not to his liking. Further more he has stated that he is considering dissolving boards who do not fully embrace his Recommendation. This is bullying, plain and simple.

Bill 10 amendments reduced the ability of school principals to meet the needs of students in ways that are in keeping with their local school community. It puts the full authority into the hands of a single student. This is a ridiculous notion by any measure.

Bill 10 also reduces parents’ rights to make informed choices about the education their child is receiving. There are few things more central to who we are than the gender identity and roles we play in our lives. Yet the government is promoting the agenda of gender fluidity organizations such as GSAs and allowing them to educate our children without our knowledge.

I request that you take action to represent your constituents in these matters. Specifically I request that you act to repeal Bill 10, and also to withdraw the Guidelines for Best Practices as proposed by Minister Eggen.

Contact information is included below.

Minister of Education – Honourable David Eggen

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Mr. Mark Smith – Opposition Education Critic

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