

Synopsis Response to Calgary Transit Review Committee's Decision

Calgary Transit substantiation for declining the Parental Consent Alberta (PCA) creative is quote: "After further review, the ad appears to be anti-LGBTQ and anti-GSA and potentially hateful in its objectives."



Anti-LGBTQ ?

The banner reads "Whose children are they?" This is not anti-LGBTQ, but rather is an issue of "parent-child-State" relationships (i.e. disenfranchised parental powers, responsibilities and rights under the State assertion it knows better than parents what is in a child's best sexuality and gender development interest). Alberta parents, whether with confused/wavering, straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or queer identifying children, no longer have the right/power to know who is influencing their children's sexual/gender development, where and when this is happening, and what their children are being told and doing while at school and related to the "[Gay-Straight Alliance Club](#) - [GSA-Network](#) - [LGBTQ Activist Chain](#)." The State (*Alberta Education*) asserts it alone knows what is in a child's best interest, regardless of age, maturity, psychological or medical history, and her/his/hir/zir family values. School staff is empowered to deceive parents regarding their children's Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity (SOGI) status and GSA "*Chain*" membership and associations. Current Alberta governance in the domains of children's sexuality and gender development, spanning three administrations (PC-NDP-UCP):

- puts in disarray longstanding parental powers listed in [Alberta Family Law Act](#) s.21 para 5 and 6;
- empowers tens of thousands of cognitively/psychologically vulnerable youth, sexually wavering/questioning/confused children, and/or gender dysphoric youth, with association independence (in peer-led GSA clubs and the adult-run GSA Network) without their parents' knowledge, oversight and consent, when the children are not mature enough to handle responsibly and safely on their own;
- contradicts the current government's (UCP's) own "[Declaration of Principles and Commitments](#)," October 16, 2020; and
- nullifies the utility of [Education Act](#) S.58.1 - Notice to Parent: "A board shall provide notice to a parent of a student who will receive instruction dealing with human sexuality."

The PCA petition reads:

To the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, in Legislature Assembled:

We, the undersigned residents of Alberta, petition the Legislative Assembly to urge the Government of Alberta to introduce legislation that requires children **ages 5 to 15 to obtain parental consent before they become a member of a Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) or provide a sexual orientation/gender identity (SOGI) self-identification to their school.**

Category of Independence	Age
Legal Age of Majority (Full Independence)	18
Legal to Drink Alcohol/Buy Cigarettes or Lottery Tickets	
Legal to Stop Attending School	16
Legal to Vote in Federal & Provincial Elections	18
Legal to Watch a Restricted Movie	
Legal to Marry Without Parental Consent	18
Legal to Join Military Without Parental Consent	
Legal to Change Name Without Parental Consent	
Legal Right to Leave Home Without Parental Consent	16
Legal to Get a Tattoo Without Parental Consent	
Legal to Get Employment Without Parental Consent	
Legal to Decide Health Care Without Parental Consent	
Legal to Change Name According to Self-identity While at School Without Parental Consent	5
Legal to Self-Declare Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity While at School Without Parental Consent	
Legal to Join a Gay or Queer-Straight Alliance (GSA club) While at School Without Parental Consent	

Children in Alberta schools are registered by their parents/guardians as “dependent students.” Not until age 18 or by special child welfare legal status or declaration can youth register as “independent students.” It is not anti-LGBTQ to advocate for the parents’ right to know about and consent to their 5,6,7... year-olds etc. name change, SOGI identity or membership in a GSA. A high court in Britain has ruled that children 15 and younger do not have sufficient maturity to independently decide on medical interventions to change their gender. It is not anti-LGBTQ for parents to care about their children’s understanding of health issues related to identity choices and to know who is influencing their thinking.

Anti-GSA?

The PCA petition statement does not advocate cancelling GSA law. Rather it claims that children ages 5 to 15 do not have sufficient maturity to decide secretly and independently to join a peer-led and non-adult supervised GSA. It is not anti-GSA, to point out to Alberta parents the fact that GSA law makes no mention of the adult run GSA Network and that *Alberta Education* has no oversight authority for the GSA Network. It is not anti-GSA to advocate for government accountability and oversight of GSA Network organizers and their activities. It is not anti-GSA to make known to Alberta parents the contents of the Alberta Teachers’ Association (ATA) 60 page instruction titled: “[GSAs and QSAs in Alberta Schools: A Guide For Teachers](#)” and that GSA law only identifies one “Facilitator” as the adult interface with GSA clubs. Parents should know the guide calls for teachers to get involved supporting these clubs to execute “social, educational and political activities” to “strive to move beyond tolerance.” The ATA Guide infers tolerance of diverse interests, opinions, beliefs and values, a once iconic Canadian virtue, is no longer politically correct in the governance/education domains of sexuality and gender.

The number of cognitively challenged, sexuality and/or gender confused children in Alberta schools eclipses LGBTQ-identified youth. The younger the student the greater the vulnerability and level of confusion. It is not anti-GSA to point out to parents that there is now only one voice of influence that cognitively vulnerable and sexuality/gender wavering students can access at school – the State endorsed, LGBTQ-only affirming, “[Gay-Straight Alliance Club](#) - [GSA-Network](#) - [LGBTQ Activist Chain](#).” It is not anti-GSA to warn parents that *Education Alberta* makes no equivalent/equitable effort to affirm heterosexual development among the confused. These are facts/truths that describe Alberta governance realities.

Given that medical crises arising from GSA club and GSA Network associations will inevitably be the parents’ responsibility to address; it seems common sense, the responsible thing to inform and gain parental consent before a child enters these associations. From the parents’ perspective there is no transparency/visibility regarding what goes on in these clubs or what access and influence unknown adults have upon GSA members.

“Potentially” Hateful Objectives?

What is hateful in the following objectives?

- establish a safe, clear, and legal parental consent requirement, standard or boundary (ages 5 to 15) defining parental approval needs in the areas of SOGI self-identity and GSA membership;
- restore the traditional, time-tested balance and rationality to “parent-child-State” relationships, i.e. rights, roles, responsibilities and powers;
- protect the “Nuclear Family” from eroding autonomy vis-à-vis the State;
- oblige otherwise avoidant politicians to remedy and clarify a list of governance grievances and ambiguities, impacting the sexuality and gender development of Alberta youth; and
- assure public space and tolerance for social conservative and heteronormative beliefs and values.

These objectives target governance conflicts/shortcomings and are aimed at positive remedies impacting all parents and their children, whether their sons and daughters are LGBTQ-identifying or not. The central issues are: (1) radical detrimental shifts in parental powers, responsibilities, and consent authorities related to childrearing; (2) unprecedented empowerment of children to decision-making independence from their parents; and (3) the State (*Alberta Education*) is not equipped/qualified/organized to safely take over responsibilities for child-rearing and child welfare service roles for students "secretly" SOGI self-identifying and attending GSA club/GSA Network activities. Who is liable when unaware parents discover their child has been psychologically injured by their involvement in the GSA chain?

Moreover, PCA contends that *Criminal Code 319 (3) Public incitement of hatred* clarifies what hate speech is not:

(3) No person shall be convicted of an offence under subsection (2)

- *if he establishes that the statements communicated were true;*
- *if the statements were relevant to any subject of public interest, the discussion of which was for the public benefit, and if on reasonable grounds he believed them to be true.*

**Disagreement
is NOT Homophobia!**

**Disagreement
is NOT Hate or Bigotry!**

Please identify from the information presented at www.parentalconsentalberta.ca what is untrue or is evidence of hatred towards people self-identified as LGBTQ.

Conclusion

In my email of Nov 24, 2022, 8:20 AM MST to Pattison, I offered to connect with transit review committees to answer any questions they might have regarding PCA goals, our petition, the veracity of the information and analysis presented in our website, or any other related matters. No queries were

made. Without the opportunity to further discuss our facts and analysis with Calgary Transit decision-makers, PCA must conclude the review committee appears biased contrary to the Canadian Code of Advertising Standards Guidelines:

It is important to note that when advocacy or other issue advertising is considered under the Code, Standards Councils and Appeal Panels are instructed not to evaluate the advertising based on their personal views of the subject. The Code does not prohibit or restrict any particular position or argument, provided that in communicating its message the ad complies with the standards of truthful, fair, and accurate advertising prescribed under the Code.

PCA asks the review committee to identify what is untruthful, unfair and inaccurate in this advertising request. To decline our ad request by simply stating it “*appears to be anti-LGBTQ and anti-GSA and potentially hateful in its objectives*” appears to PCA as unfair, inaccurate and gaslighting our legitimate concerns. Moreover, the spirit (curt justification) by which the Calgary Transit review committee declined our ad, refused our offer to answer any questions/concerns, and disregarded our public advocacy with a vague broad brush also appears unjust.



Advertising advocacy for change in political policy/governance may challenge well developed narratives and talking points and can be controversial. PCA notes the Canadian Code of Advertising Standards is “*not intended to govern or restrict the free expression of public opinion or ideas through ‘political advertising, which are excluded from the application of this Code.’*” The code includes under political advertising “*an ad appearing at any time regarding a government or political policy or issue publically recognized to exist in Canada.*” To block our bus ad cancels needed public awareness and in the view of PCA is evidence that the review committee holds the following unfair predispositions.

Anti-Parents’ Rights, Powers, and Responsibilities Bias.

Supporting the State’s empowerment of children to secret and full independence from parental oversight and consent authority in the domains of sexuality and gender development, regardless of age, maturity, psychological or medical history, and her/his/hir/zir family values puts in disarray parental rights declared in Alberta Family Law Act s.21 (5 and 6). The Act states unless limited by law, including parenting order, the following powers apply:

- to nurture the child’s physical, psychological and emotional development;
- to guide the child to independent adulthood;
- to make day-to-day decisions affecting the child, including daily activities;
- to make decisions about the nature, extent and place of the child’s education;
- to make decisions about any participation in extracurricular school activities;

- to make decisions regarding the child’s cultural, religious, and spiritual upbringing;
- to consent to medical, dental and other health-related treatment for the child;
- to decide with whom the child is to live and to associate; and
- to grant or refuse consent where consent of a parent is required by law.

Awareness of this reality is cancelled or silenced under the review committee’s assertion there is an appearance that not everyone will affirm the PCA positions and there is a potentiality that some people may be offended by them.

Anti-Family Bias.

The following UCP principles and commitments, declared in October 2020, uphold the family:

- affirm that the family is the basic unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State to ensure that parents have the right and responsibility to oversee the healthcare and education of their own children, including but not limited to the cultural, linguistic, religious, spiritual and moral upbringing and heritage of their children; and
- ensure the protection and well-being of all children, alongside full respect for parents' rights, freedoms and authority.

Without the minimum legal remedy as advocated in the PCA petition statement, the traditionally autonomous family relationship vis-à-vis the State ceases to exist. The State should not be encouraging children to deceive their parents and empowering children to independent decision-making status in the domains of sexuality and gender, starting at age five.

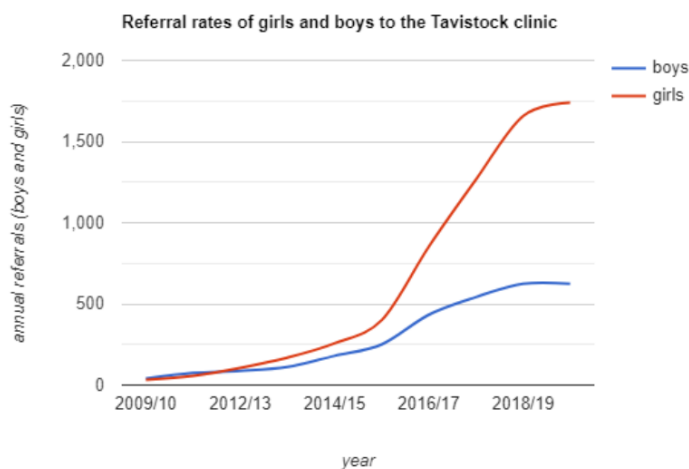
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Anti-Children’s Health and Safety Bias.

The UCP government strategy has been to try to assuage parent rights infringement and the risks to their children’s safety and sexual development while at school by claiming that random volunteer teachers will be responsible for “timely” arbitrary notification of parents in a health emergency arising from secret GSA attendance and/or SOGI self-identity. This policy is dysfunctional in numerous ways:

- Alberta Teachers’ Association membership (46,000) is dead set against the responsibility;
- teachers often complain about class sizes limiting their ability to know students;
- students move grades (K-12) and in higher grades between many teachers;
- students switch school levels and may move during a school year;
- teachers are not trained/qualified/placed to make arbitrary and timely medical/psychological judgments on sexuality matters;
- conflicting views regarding SOGI set one teacher against another;
- teachers don’t know what is going on in GSAs;
- *Alberta Education* is not mandated and resourced to encroach on *Child Welfare Service* and *Alberta Health Services* (AHS) roles; and
- until a court order deems otherwise parents are the legal/consenting interface for their child with AHS.

Ample evidence exists, where such data is collected and made public, to prove the increasing growth trends in sexuality and gender confusion among youth. For example, in Britain the following graphic shows the increase in transgender clinic referrals from 2009 to 2016 at Tavistock clinic.



In less than a decade there has been a 1,460% increase in referrals of boys and a staggering 5,337% increase in referrals of girls. In 2019, the number of 13-year-olds seeking treatment rose by 30% in a year to 331. Referrals of 14-year-olds went up by a quarter, to 511. The number of 11-year-olds is up by 28%. The youngest patients were age three ([click here](#) for more details). Some 70% of referrals were girls wanting to be male.

Awareness of these realities is cancelled or silenced under the review committee's assertion there is an appearance that not everyone will affirm the PCA positions and there is a potentiality that some people may be offended by them.

Hypocritical – Inconsistent – Anti-Free Speech Bias



This bus ad was approved by Calgary Transit. The ad reads, "*There's probably no God. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life.*" Cliff Erasmus, spokesperson for *Freethought Calgary* said at the time the group isn't trying to incite hate, just dialogue, "*We want a discussion and the bus ads hopefully will create a discussion.*" CTV Calgary further reported under the title: "[Bus ads bound to attract attention](#)":

Calgary Transit is preparing itself for complaints but says it's not up to the transit company to judge advertisement content. "In this particular case, it has met the standard as set out by Advertising Standards Canada and so the ad is acceptable," says Ron Collins [Communications Coordinator for City of Calgary].

A pastor at Calgary First Alliance Church says he doesn't agree with the message of the ads but he does believe in Freethought Calgary's right to run them. "I think the positive point in all of this is, let's think about this and not allow the advertising to be the thing that guides our life," says Terry Young.

Calgary Transit made the right decision for *Freethought Calgary* and Pastor Terry Young showed the right attitude towards this ad and its potential for controversial public debate, even though the ad and its sponsors do not affirm his worldview.

The decision of the review committee to decline the Parental Consent Alberta bus ad for the municipality of Calgary is hugely disappointing and flies in the face of the City's support of the *Freethought Calgary* ad. PCA earnestly requests Calgary Transit Authority to reconsider our ad for approval.

Note, this document title: "Synopsis Response to Calgary Transit Review Committee's Decision" has been used here because these seven pages represent only a few insights from the research, facts, data, and analysis openly expressed at our website and well substantiating the need for our petition remedy.

Respectfully,

Carman Bradley

Founder *Parental Consent Alberta*

