

An Appeal to Address the Inadequacies and Ambiguities of GSA and SOGI Governance

Gay-straight alliance (GSA) governance, sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) self-identity policy, and so-called “2SLGBTQ+” affirming/inclusive “human sexuality” education are having huge negative impacts on parental rights, children’s health, and family autonomy from the State. Collectively the governance has radically, experimentally and harmfully altered longstanding and proven “parent-child-State” relationships.

What is the value of UCP unity, if the cost is **silence** on disenfranchised parental rights, **silence** on children’s sexuality and gender development confusion and chaos, **silence** on the associated health hazards, and **silence** on eroded family autonomy from the State?

The Integrity Gap Between UCP Principles/Commitments and UCP Governance

The government’s **silence** and **inaction** in the face of mounting public awareness of these harms is doubly intolerable and ironic given the [Declaration of UCP Principles and Commitments](#) made in October 2020. The same values were again ratified at the October 2022 UCP AGM ([UCP AGM Policy and Governance Resolutions](#)):

Resolution 16

- affirming the family as the foundation of society in Alberta and that decisions regarding children should reside solely with the parents, legal guardians, and caregivers;
- upholding and protecting parental rights and parental authority in health care and education; and
- affirming that the family is the basic unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State to ensure that parents, legal guardians and caregivers 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.

Resolution 17

- ensure the protection and well-being of all children, alongside full respect for the parents’, legal guardians’ and caregivers’ roles, responsibilities, rights, freedoms, and authorities;
- protect victims of abuse and provide effective supports to aid in their recovery;
- uphold the best interests of children in cases where intervention in the family home occurs to ensure the least disruption to the child is achieved;
- affirm the freedom of religion and conscience rights of parents and their children, ensuring the government **does not interfere** with the teaching and training of their children as such, including in matters with respect to identity, sexuality and morality; and
- uphold the rights of parents and caregivers so as not to require them to affirm or socially condition a child in a gender identity that is incongruent with the child's birth sex.

Proclamation/affirmation of these values was **missing** in the UCP leadership debates, **missing** in the UCP election campaign, and are now **missing** in the Mandate Letters to cabinet. Shouldn’t these UCP principles/values be evident in the Party’s actual governance, after more than four years in power?

The NDP Better Equity and Affirmation Plan for 2SLGBTQ+

On the other hand, the Official Opposition is ardent about its commitment to 2SLGBTQ+ Albertans, regardless of the increased negative impacts their “[Better Action on Equity](#)” plan would have on fulfilment of UCP Resolutions 16 and 17. The NDP “Equity” promise includes:

- re-introducing legal protections for GSAs in schools, allowing students to create and participate in them without delays, restrictions, or reprisal;
- ensuring that specialized care teams are available to support the health of 2SLGBTQ+ Albertans;
- ensuring that all Albertans have access to quality, equitable care; and
- working with Alberta Health Services to increase timely access to gender-affirming healthcare, and ultimately ensure access to quality affirming care and resources.

Alberta parents and their children do not need GSA governance with fewer restrictions. GSAs are currently unsupervised, peer-led student clubs not answerable to school staff or *Education Alberta*. The clubs require no constitution, no public notice of activities/intentions, and no transparency of membership. Children starting from age five can join a club without parental knowledge and/or approval. There is no regulation on the age spread in a GSA. These clubs are coordinated within an Alberta GSA Network organized and operated by adults who are not accountable to government or parents. The clubs are further connected by the network with other adults from agencies like the [AltView Foundation](#), who are also not accountable to government or parents.

In parliamentary debate (2014-15) GSAs were advocated as social clubs requiring no more adult oversight than that for a school chess club. In the lead-up to the unanimous approval of GSA law, there was no mention of an adult run province-wide GSA Network or of outside 2SLGBTQ+ activist/support agencies having access to club members. Neither the network nor the advocacy agencies are referenced in GSA law. Teachers, principals, school trustees, government, and parents have no idea what goes on in GSAs and the GSA Network. What has evolved is an unaccountable pipeline/conduit of adult-coordinated SOGI influence reaching down to kindergarten level.

Alberta parents and their children also do not need faster access and more “gender-affirming” healthcare clinics for kids with confused gender identities and dysphoria. A recent article in *The Atlantic* titled “[A Teen Gender-Care Debate Is Spreading Across Europe](#),” reports that Finland, Sweden, France, Norway, and the U.K, have had an about-face over concerns with the so-called “[Dutch protocol](#)” - unlimited medical affirmation of the child’s identity without reservation. Medical authorities in these countries that once led the way on gender-affirming treatments for children and adolescents are now reversing course, arguing that the science undergirding these treatments is unproven, and their benefits unclear.

Ambiguities, Issues and Harms Associated with GSA/SOGI Governance

The following are some of a mounting list of questions/concerns/issues that Alberta parents and their children deserve answered/clarified/remedied:

[Note additional supporting evidence and analysis is found in the attached PDF and the Resources Page of the [Parental Consent Alberta website](#).]

- Will Alberta governance force parents to affirm a child’s sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) self-identity regardless of the child’s age, maturity, psychological/medical history, and family values?
- Do parents, whether their children are too young to identify, confused/wavering, straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or are queer identifying at school, have the right to know from *Education Alberta*: (1) who is influencing their children’s sexuality/gender development; (2) where and when this is happening; and (3) what their children are being told/doing at school?
- What is the utility of: (1) [Alberta Family Law Act s.21 \(6\)](#) - parental consent responsibilities and childrearing powers; (2) [Alberta Education Act, s. 58.1, Notice to Parent](#) - oversight safe guards

for teaching related to “human sexuality;” and (3) [Dependent Student](#) registration by parents, if children starting from age five can secretly and independently join a GSA club/network?

- Who in the “*Minister - School Board – Superintendent – Principal – Facilitator - Teacher chain*” has accountability and oversight authority to regulate what goes on in the peer-led GSA clubs and the adult-run GSA network?
- At what age(s) should students be given secret and full independence from parental knowledge and parental consent for sexual orientation and gender self-identifications, GSA membership, and making gender-altering decisions?
- Does the government still contend a student’s right to secret SOGI self-identity and GSA membership is assured through provisions in the [Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act \(FOIP\)](#)? See Minister of Education correspondence under “[Parental rights concerns of their school-aged children](#),” dated July 2021. If this is still asserted, do students also have the right to withhold their marks, discipline, and all other records from their parents?
- What is the government explanation for skyrocketing Gender Dysphoria trends and the associated explosion in transgender clinic referrals? Why are 75% of clinic referrals in Canada teens born female wishing to become trans male?
- What is the government position on providing “quality healthcare” to gender dysphoric minors? Does the UCP support the so-called “[Dutch protocol](#)”? What will the government do if parents do not want their child to receive transgender affirming treatments? Does Alberta (AHS) allow and fund gender detransition?
- Is it “equitable” treatment to institutionally endorse LGBTQ-affirming clubs at all grade-levels, further connected to the Alberta GSA Network, while denying cognitively vulnerable and/or sexually confused/questioning/wavering children equal access to heteronormative affirming clubs and an adult-run heteronormative and binary gender support network?
- As part of an [Anti-racism and Equity Action Plan](#), Edmonton Public Schools have initiated surveys to determine ethnicity, religion, gender identity and sexual orientation of their students, by name. What is the government response:
 - Does balanced action on “equity” require protection of traditional religious freedoms, values and beliefs?
 - Is it necessary to develop school policies on the basis of personal/demographic characteristics protected from discrimination by the Bill of Rights – race, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity? Does the government approve of schools collecting this personal information by name? If so, at what grade-levels and for what information are surveys allowed?
 - At what grade-level(s) are students to be taught the ATA [PRISM](#) list of sexual orientations and gender identities ([LGBTTPQQAI+ MOGAI and QUILTBAG](#)) before being asked to complete survey questions of this nature?
 - Does the [Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act \(FOIP\)](#) not protect all Albertans from collecting sensitive personal details like race, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity by name?

A Simple and Efficient Minimum Governance Remedy

[Parental Consent Alberta](#) acknowledges that Alberta GSA law (so-called “LGBTQ Student Rights Law”) and student secret SOGI self-identity governance span the Prentice PC, Notley NDP, Kenney

UCP and Smith UCP premierships without significant implementation variance. Whether deliberately or unwittingly done, the negative impacts are an assault on parental rights, children’s health and family autonomy from the State. The goal of any remedy must be mitigation of these impacts. The “Kenney compromise” that teachers will know when to breach a child’s secrecy and inform parents in a crisis is political rhetoric ([click here for proof](#)) that puts Alberta children at health risk to this day.

Three provinces have already taken **modest steps** towards lessening some aspects of the governance harms:

- In June 2023, Premier Blaine Higgs, leading the New Brunswick Progressive Conservative government, declared [Policy 713](#) requiring students under age 16 to require parental consent to change their name or pronouns at school. He said, *“My position is very clear in relation to the role that families and parents need to play in their children's growth.”* The changes *“will ensure secrets aren’t being kept from parents.”*
- In August 2023, Saskatchewan’s Education Minister Dustin Duncan [announced new parental inclusion and consent policies](#) including:
 - schools must seek parent/guardian permission when changing the preferred name and pronouns used by students under the age of 16 in the school;
 - boards of education must immediately pause involvement with any third-party organization, such as [ARC Foundation](#) and the [SOGI 1 2 3 Program](#), connected to sexual health education as the ministry undertakes review of educational resources to ensure alignment with curriculum outcomes; and
 - only teachers, not outside third-parties, will be able to present sexual education materials in the classroom. This directive does not include professionals employed by government ministries or the Saskatchewan Health Authority.
- In August 2023, Ontario’s Education Minister, Stephen Lecce, outlined schools must seek parent/guardian permission when changing the preferred name and pronouns. Lecce said, *“I think we understand though that parents must be fully involved and fully aware of what’s happening in the life of their children.”*



PCA contends the province needs a simple and efficient legal breakwater (lawful standard) to protect all Albertans (parents and children) from the tsunami of conflicting rights, imbalanced parent-State roles/responsibilities, science versus ideology-based education, and what constitutes access to “quality” healthcare solutions for all minors.

Our [petition](#) is not a panacea for all associated governance ills, but is rather the minimum simple/efficient remedy which reads as follows:

***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.

The petition has signature support from thousands of parents spanning 96 cities, towns, or counties in the province (see attached). On behalf of these parents, their children, and their families, and the many parents who are not adequately informed/aware of the governance grievances, PCA requests the Alberta government to remedy the situation. A modest incremental approach only addressing “name changes and pronouns” does not pull Alberta parents and children out from under the bus – does not adequately address the concerns.

PCA is searching for an MLA of integrity, committed to the principles and values set-out in the [UCP October 2022 AGM Resolutions 16 and 17](#); someone who is willing to break the silence and present our petition to the Legislative Assembly.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Carman Bradley

Grandfather and Founder [Parental Consent Alberta](#)

