

The Case for Approving UCP 2023 AGM Policy Proposal 8 and Doing Much More

[With Analysis of Saskatchewan's Human Rights Commissioner's Letter of Resignation]

Introduction

At the up-coming AGM (Nov. 3-4), the UCP will debate and vote on Policy Proposal 8:

Resolution

The United Conservative Party believes the Government of Alberta should...

g) Require Teachers, Schools, and School Boards to obtain the written consent of the parent/guardian of a student under the age of 16 prior to changing the name and/or pronouns used by the student.

Rationale:

The conservative governments of Saskatchewan and New Brunswick recently implemented the requirements for parental consent for schools to use an alternate name or pronoun for a student. Parents, not schools, are the legal guardians of their children. As was noted by Saskatchewan Education Minister Duncan, schools require a signed permission slip to take children on a field trip so it's unclear why schools should not require parental consent for identification changes. Schools should not be in the business of going behind parents' backs.

What Governance Malady are NB/ON/SK Trying to Remedy?

It is not clear why Ontario is not mentioned in the Policy Proposal 8 rationale.

Unless one identifies the characteristics and root causes of the problem, a creditable remedy/fix will not be found. Name change and pronoun usage are symbols of a much deeper governance crisis. Here are direct statements that reveal the problem and the group seeking remedy:

- Premier Blaine Higgs (NB) said: *"My position is very clear in relation to the role that families and parents need to play in their children's growth."*
- Education Minister Dustin Duncan (SK) said, *"Our government has heard the concerns raised by Saskatchewan parents about needing to be notified and included in their children's education in these important areas."*
- Education Minister Stephen Lecce (ON) said, *"I think we understand that parents must be fully involved and fully aware of what's happening in the life of their children."*[my underline]

The underlying issues are related to the unprecedented loss of parental oversight, influence and involvement in the gender and sexuality development of their off-spring. A significant number of parents reject the premise that children, regardless of the child's age, maturity, psychological/medical history, and family values, should be empowered by the State to full independence and secrecy over who they associate with, including adults in the GSA Network, and in the SOGI "self-identity" they give at school.

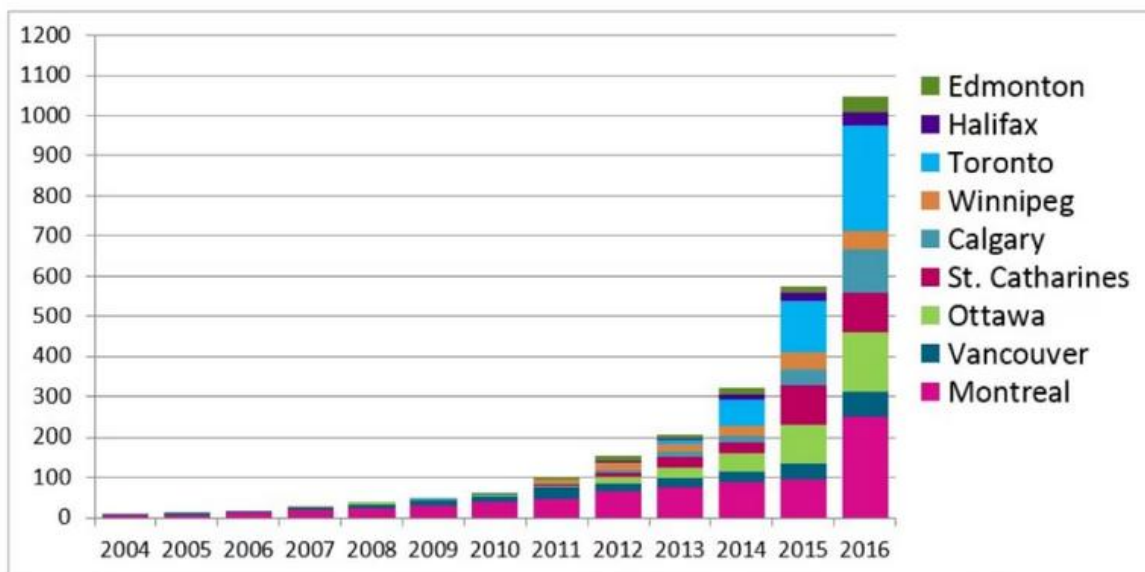
Saskatchewan's Human Rights Commissioner Makes the Case for the "Name Change-Pronoun" Policy

Heather Kuttai, Saskatchewan's Human Rights Commissioner adamantly disagrees with the name change/pronoun policy. Her resignation letter is a valuable read and can be found in CBC article "[Sask. human rights commissioner resigns, calls pronoun policy 'an attack' on gender-diverse kids.](#)" The following are five quotes (in bold) from Mrs. Kuttai's letter with responses to her comments:

(1) "This is an attack on the rights of trans, non-binary, and gender diverse children, which, contrary to what is being reported, is actually a very small number of kids."

A key parental concern is the unprecedented numbers of students who no longer identify as either male or female. When the rise in transgender clinic referrals in Canada looks like (this below), parents conclude it is not the result of

released societal oppression, but the outcome of rampant transgender affirmation and ideological indoctrination in the school system, and/or in GSA clubs and GSA Network.



* Some referral numbers estimated. Some referrals are for prepubertal youth, though blockers are not prescribed prior to puberty.

[Dr. Margaret Lawson](#) of the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) states: “A decade ago, there was an equal number of boys and girls coming to the clinic. Now, 75 % of the patients at CHEO are trans male, meaning they were born female but now identify as male.” Concerned parents want to know why? Britain has published data on transgender clinic referral trends from 2004 to 2022 that show a 1,460% increase in referrals of boys (trans female) and 5,337% increase in girls (trans male). This gets parents’ attention. Parents want visibility, oversight and accountability over who is influencing their children’s gender development. However, in Alberta this is denied by so-called “GSA law” and SOGI self-identification policy.

Exacerbating parental concern/malcontent are not just extraordinary trends in gender and sexuality confusion among youth, but record levels of 2SLGBTQ++ self-identification (for example, see the following published results for Edmonton Public Schools).

<p>Note an Edmonton Public Schools’ gender identity survey results for 19,622 students in Grades 4-6, initiated in Nov 2021, revealed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.9 % identified non-binary (570 students) • 1.1 % identified transgender (216 students) • 0.7 % identified two-spirit (138 students) • 3.2 % not sure yet (628 students) • 1.0 % did not understand the question (197 students) • 2.7 % preferred not to answer (530 students) • 3.3 % claimed an identity not listed in the survey (648 students) 	<p>Note the Edmonton Public Schools’ sexual orientation survey results for 34,977 students in Grades 7-12, initiated in Nov 2021, revealed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.7 % identified asexual (1,644 students) • 8.2 % identified bisexual (2,869 students) • 1.4 % identified gay (490 students) • 1.8 % identified lesbian (630 students) • 3.4 % identified pansexual (1,190 students) • 1.9 % identified queer (665 students) • 4.8 % were not sure of their sexual orientation (1,679 students) • 3.0 % did not understand the question (1,050 students) • 7.1 % preferred not to answer (2,484 students) • 1.5 % claimed an identity not listed in the survey (525 students)
<p>Some 2,200 students (11.2 % of those surveyed aged 9 to 11) are either not sure yet (confused) about their gender or identify as other than male or female. In the context of all Alberta students in Grades 4-6, some 19,280 specifically identify as other than male or female or not sure. In the context of all Alberta students in Grades 4-12, based on 11.2 % non-heterosexual, some 58,985 specifically identify as other than male or female or not sure.</p>	<p>Here only 66.6% of students identified as heterosexual. Leaving aside asexual, questioning, not sure, don’t understand, and prefer not to answer, the percent in the LGBTQ+ students in Edmonton schools is 18.2% or some 6,369 students. In the context of all Alberta students in Grades 7-12, some 66,120 specifically identify as other than heterosexual.</p>

Mrs. Kuttai writes “***This is an attack on the rights of trans, non-binary, and gender diverse children.***” Many parents see the above trends as an assault on children the result of education indoctrination and flawed governance. They also see the State forcing parents to affirm a child’s SOGI self-identity regardless of the child’s age, maturity, psychological/medical history, and family values, as an assault on parents’ rights and family autonomy. Ironically for Alberta, given the values ratified in the [Declaration of UCP Principles and Commitments](#) (Oct 2020) and [UCP AGM](#)

[Policy and Governance Resolutions](#) (Oct 2022), and the years of UCP governance, the on-going governance assault on parents and family continues. Children at any age should not be asked by *Alberta Education* to give their SOGI self-identity.

(2) “A child’s rights must always take precedence over a parent’s obligations and responsibilities.”

The Saskatchewan policy leaves in place full independence of students 16 and older to self-identify. Mrs. Kuttai’s statement echoes the “chorus” in the sexual minority rights mantra. If this were true, and it is not, the powers and responsibilities of parents declared in [Alberta Family Law Act s.21 \(5 and 6\)](#) are disenfranchised. It is on the basis of a child’s lack of maturity/cognitive awareness and need for parental medical oversight that students age 5 to 15 must have parental consent. In a December 2020 [decision](#), a British High Court ruled in a case brought against Tavistock (gender clinic) and Portman NHS Foundation that children under 16 with gender dysphoria are unlikely to be able to give informed consent to undergo treatment with puberty-blocking drugs. According to [BBC News: Dame Victoria Sharp, sitting with Lord Justice Lewis and Mrs Justice Lieven, said:](#)

- *It is highly unlikely that a child aged 13 or under would be competent to give consent to the administration of puberty blockers.*
- *It is doubtful that a child aged 14 or 15 could understand and weigh the long-term risks and consequences of the administration of puberty blockers.*

(3) “Removing a child’s rights, in the name of “parental rights” is fundamentally anti-trans and harmful.”

Dr. Lisa Littman, specialist in gender dysphoria at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, reports on a phenomenon she titles “[Rapid Onset of Gender Dysphoria \(GD\) in Adolescents and Young Adults \(AYAs\)](#).” The development occurs in the context of being part of a peer group where one, multiple, or even all friends have developed gender dysphoria and come out as transgender during the same timeframe. She warns: “*Rapid onset of gender dysphoria that occurs in the context of peer group and online influences may represent an entity that is distinct from the gender dysphoria observed in individuals who have previously been described as transgender. The worsening of mental well-being and parent-child relationships, peer group dynamics, and behaviors that isolate teens from their parents, families, non-transgender friends and mainstream sources of information are particularly concerning.*” This characterizes GSA and GSA Network dynamics. Who knows what’s in the child’s best interest – the 5 year old, his/her peers, transgender activists, teachers or the parents? According to the [DSM-V](#), as many as 98% of gender confused boys and 88% of gender confused girls eventually accept their biological sex after naturally passing through puberty. Who in a GSA club/network or the transgender community is going to give this counsel to a gender confused child?

(4) “The suggestion that children will receive all the counselling and guidance they need in schools is not realistic...there are also not enough resources for kids with learning or reading disabilities, or those who require testing and counselling... Trans, non-binary, and gender diverse kids do not have a prayer of getting all the help they need and deserve.”

In fact this proves the continuous need for parental involvement/oversight and the need parental consent. Who under the conditions Mrs. Kuttai describes knows what’s in the child’s best interest – the teacher, the school counselor, the State, or the parents? One of the powers and responsibilities of parents in [Alberta Family Law Act s.21 \(5 and 6\)](#) is “to consent to medical, dental and other health-related treatment for the child.” An [Ontario mother](#) characterized the problem: “*The way that I see it, the schools are triangulating the family — they’re becoming a wedge between the child and parent. It’s not a benign act. It’s a psychological intervention — and it’s not a minor psychological intervention — that teachers and counsellors are entering into without any psychological training at all.*”

(5) “Research tells us they are truly vulnerable. I am sure you know that 2SLGBTQ+ youth face many more risks to abuse and violence as well as mental health concerns, from anxiety, depression, self-harm, and suicide. It is a mistake to put teachers in the position of outing a child before they are ready.”

Surely this makes the case for parental involvement and consent. Who decides when the child is “ready” – the child’s GSA peers, teachers, the adults in the GSA Network? Obviously in Mrs. Kuttai’s mind it is not the isolated uninformed parents. What is the meaning and standard for “ready?” Who decides whether or not and when the child is “ready” to take puberty blockers and/or have surgery? A recent article in *The Atlantic* titled “[A Teen Gender-Care Debate Is Spreading Across Europe](#),” reports that research in Finland, Sweden, France, Norway, and the U.K, has caused 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. Canadian parents want scientific fact-based care and governance for their children not political/ideology-based counsel and laws.

“Secret” Student GSA Membership is an Assault on Parental Powers and Children’s Health

GSA’s In Alberta 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. Moreover, the 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. No one - *Minister - School Board – Superintendent – Principal – Facilitator - Teacher* knows what goes on in GSA’s, except the GSA Network coordinators and associated activist agencies. For an Alberta example of why parents need broad oversight of their children regardless of SOGI self-identity read: Lucia Corbella, *Calgary Herald*, “[Corbella: Couple warns their daughter could have died under new GSA law](#).”

Features of Parenting in the Child’s Best Interest

Most parents are not neutral or indifferent to their children’s sexuality and gender development. Children’s choices, identities and behaviours have consequences. Responsible parents, whether their children are too young to identify, confused/wavering/questioning, straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or are queer identifying have the desire and legal 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 by adults while at school and/or by the GSA Network. This was the intention behind [Alberta Education Act, s. 58.1, Notice to Parent](#). In matters of human sexuality instruction parents are given oversight and consent rights in what their children are permitted to be taught. GSA membership, secret from parents destroys the utility of this law and thwarts responsible parenting.

The vast majority of parents want to influence their children’s gender and sexuality development according to their beliefs/values, best knowledge of their child’s mental, physical, and spiritual health history, the child’s level of maturity and his/her age. Parents wish during the early and immature years of their children’s life development to restrict indoctrination they view not in their child’s best interest. Requiring children under age 16 to have parental consent prior to changing their name at school is progress, but this milestone must not be permitted to mask/obscure/diminish/sidestep the true magnitude of Alberta’s GSA/SOGI governance disorder.

Will Alberta Build upon NB/ON/SK Actions and Bring Full Rationality to “Parent-Child-State” Relationships?

Alberta parents (religious or secular) contend the province needs a legal breakwater (lawful standard) to protect all Albertans (parents and children) from the harmful tsunami of: (1) conflicting rights, imbalanced “parent-child-State” roles and responsibilities; (2) ideology over science-based education; and (3) skyrocketing gender/sexuality confusion. Parents have a time-tested and rational right to have a voice in the gender and sexuality development of their off-spring. The following remedy is not a panacea for all associated governance ills, but is rather the minimum simple and efficient legislative correction:

We urge the Government of Alberta to introduce legislation that requires children under **ages 5-15 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.**

There must be someone in the UCP caucus or Party membership willing to put this remedy forward at the 2023 AGM or in the Legislative Assembly. Any legislative fix less than this request is only a partial remedy that still leaves the UCP voter base proverbially under the bus and continues to leave Alberta's 766,000 students in harm's way.

Please contact the undersigned for further discussion.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Carman Bradley

(Located in Calgary-Elbow Riding)

Grandfather and Founder [Parental Consent Alberta](http://www.parentalconsentalberta.ca)

