

PARENTAL CONSENT ALBERTA

Ensuring the Parents' Voice in Their
Children's Sexuality and Gender Development

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Teachers Should Not Decide When It Makes Sense to Engage Parents

Then UCP Leader Jason Kenney said in November 2017: ***"We do not support, I repeat we do not support mandatory notification of parents regarding the involvement of students in GSAs." "And neither I nor anyone in our caucus has proposed "outing" gay kids." "Teachers, not politicians, should decide when it makes sense to engage parents."*** His position did not change with the 2019 UCP election victory. Current government strategy remains to try to assuage parent rights infringement and risks to their children's safety and sexual development while at school by proposing that random volunteer teachers be responsible for "timely" arbitrary notification of parents in a health emergency arising from secret GSA attendance and/or SOGI self-identity.

In her [email response \(Jul 20, 2021\)](#), Education Minister LaGrange stated: ***"Public schools must adhere to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act."*** She further explained that school staff is to exercise good judgment and careful consideration of the Act before overriding institutional secrecy, i.e. overriding student's rights. This governance approach is flawed in numerous ways:

- The Alberta Bill of Rights states parents have the right *"to make informed decisions respecting the education of their children."* How can this right have utility if parents no longer know who is influencing their children's sexual development, where and when this is happening, and what their children are being told and doing while at school? Will the parents require a lawyer, a doctor's request, a freedom of information request?
- Alberta Teachers' Association (membership of 46,000) is dead set against the responsibility ([click here](#) for proof).
- 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/timely psychological judgments on sexuality matters and *Alberta Education* is not mandated or resourced to encroach on *Child Welfare* and/or provide *Alberta Health Services* roles. This is evidenced in this [must read Calgary Herald](#) article by Eva Ferguson: [CBE puts off junior high students' message about suicide, self-harm for a year](#). Essentially, should a health crisis arise related to a student's secret GSA membership, secret SOGI self-identity, and/or suicidal ideation at school, resolution of the problem remains a parental responsibility. This amounts to an enforced independence of children (ages 5 to 18) from needed parental oversight and consent, while leaving parents responsible when something goes wrong. Over four years of

asking, two Alberta governments have failed to clarify who is liable should a child be harmed as a result of this experimental governance. Until a court order deems otherwise parents remain the legal/consenting interface with AHS on behalf of their child's health until he/she/ze reaches age of majority (age 18)

- The policy pits teachers against teachers over personal conflicting views on GSA/SOGI empowerment of children, and why, when and how to inform parents against the child's wish/rights. [Please take time to read Newsweek's [Murder in the 8th Grade](#) to fully understand the danger of empowering youth with SOGI rights the child is too immature to responsibly handle, while keeping parents out of the loop, and how school staff holding conflicting views on how to resolve concerns worsens the situation.]
- Teachers don't know what is going on in GSAs.

In sum, can Alberta parents stand by while their **five-year-old** son or daughter is empowered to deceive (along with his or her teachers), all under claimed protections in the Alberta *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*?