The Ontario Coalition Supporting Health Education

Health education is a shared responsibility.

Coalition Letter with Agency Signatures

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Ontario,

As community agencies, hospitals, and health care organizations, we offer support. We work with diverse populations. We work with diverse communities. We work with families – with parents and youth, and we work with them to increase their health, agency, access, power and ultimately their happiness. With that in mind, and from that perspective, we think that a few things should be said about the new Ontario sex ed curriculum.

We do not feel that this curriculum is a danger to the youth of Ontario. Rather, it an opportunity to further knowledge and foster health. We understand that parents need, want and deserve a say in how their children are raised, and the values that are instilled in them. We have no opposition to that. It is and will always be true that parents have the primary role in educating their children about their bodies, sexuality and relationships. The truth of that, however, does not change some truths about the nature of the new sex education curriculum. These truths are clear, and cannot be washed away by fear. More importantly, they are positive truths.

We have examined the new sex ed curriculum, and as people who live and breathe the health and well-being of Ontario's diverse communities, we say that the curriculum stands on solid, honest ground. It is founded on research, science, prudent public health principles, and an adherence to the Ontario Code of Human Rights. It will facilitate informed decisions, and make the youth of Ontario safer. It accepts the realities of the sexual pressures we all face even before we have sex, and aims to give our children the tools they need to navigate those realities, which do not go away when we ignore them. It respects the diversity of families and relationships – including same-sex families with children of all backgrounds.

This new curriculum is in line with our established Code of Human Rights and balances the rights of all. It offers increased support, acceptance and visibility to LGBTQ & Two-spirit children and youth, and will decrease bullying and isolation for people who are often ignored or ostracized simply by virtue of their identity. It should also decrease sexual assaults, shaming, and embarrassments – some of which weren't even imaginable when the old curriculum was created; it accounts for technological advancements that change the nature of the way teens interact. It will make youth more aware of principles of consent, and enable them to disclose when their sexual boundaries and boundaries related to their bodies have been violated. It will ensure that everyone gets the benefit of these tools and considerations, not just the few that learn it at home. In short, it is healthy.

As agencies that promote health in many diverse communities, we support it. We ask that you join us in that support so parents and educators can work together to provide solid foundations of realistic knowledge & education for our youth – anything less is letting them down.

Signed,

The 519
The AIDS Committee of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo and Area (ACCKWA)

The AIDS Committee of Durham Region
Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services
AIDS Committee of Ottawa
AIDS Committee of Toronto
AIDS Committee of York Region
Algoma Nurse Practitioner- Led Clinic
Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention
Anishnawbe Health Toronto
Anishnawbe Mushkiki
Anishnawbe Mushkiki Nurse Practitioner- Led Clinic
Anne Johnston Health Station
Asian Community AIDS Services (ACAS)
Barrie Community Health Centre
Belleville and Quinte West Community Health Centre
Black CAP
Black Creek Community Health Centre
Bluewater Area Family Health Team
Bridges Community Health Centre
Brock Community Health Centre
Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity
Canadian Working Group on HIV and Rehabilitation
Capreol Nurse Practitioner- Led Clinic
Carlington Community Health Centre
Casey House
CATIE
Central Community Health Centre
Central Toronto Community Health Centres
Centre de santé communautaire CHIGAMIK CHC
Centre de santé communautaire de Kapuskasing et région
Centre de santé communautaire de l'Estrie
Centre de santé communautaire de Sudbury-Est
Centre de santé communautaire du Grand Sudbury
Centre de santé communautaire du Témiskaming
Centre de santé communautaire Hamilton/Niagara
Centre Francophone de Toronto
Centretown Community Health Centre
Chatham Kent Community Health Centres
City Centre Health Care Community Health Centre
Community & Primary Health Care (CPHC)
Community Action Resource Centre
Community Care City of Kawartha Lakes
Country Roads Community Health Centre
Davenport-Perth Neighbourhood and Community Health Centre
De dwa da dehs nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre

Defend The Updated Ontario Sex Education Curriculum Petition on change.org
Delhi Family Health Team
Don Mills Family Health Team
East End Community Health Centre
East Wellington Family Health Team
Egale Canada Human Rights Trust
Équipe de santé familiale communautaire de l'Est d'Ottawa
Fife House Foundation
Flemingdon Health Centre
The Four Villages Community Health Centre
French River Nurse Practitioner- Led Clinic
Gateway Community Health Centre
Gizhewaadiziwin Health Access Centre
Grand Bend Area Community Health Centre
Grand River Community Health Centre
Guelph Community Health Centre
Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre
Hassle Free Clinic
Health Zone Nurse Practitioner- Led Clinic
HF Connecting Health Nurse Practitioner- Led Clinic
HIV/AIDS Resources and Community Health
Huronia Nurse Practitioner- Led Clinic
Kawartha North Family Health Team
Kingston Community Health Centres
Kitchener Downtown Community Health Centre
Lakehead Nurse Practitioner- Led Clinic
Lakeshore Area Multi-Service Project (LAMP)
Lanark Renfrew Health and Community Services
Langs
London InterCommunity Health Centre
Mary Berglund Community Health Centre
Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto
Misiway Milopemahtesewin Community Health Centre
Mohawk Council of Akwesasne
Muslims for Ontario's New Health and Physical Education Curriculum
My House: Rainbow Resources of York Region
N'Mninoeyaa Community Health Access Centre
Newcomer Women's Services Toronto
Niagara Falls Community Health Centre
Noojmowin Teg Health Access Centre
North Bay Nurse Practitioner- Led Clinic
North Channel Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic
North Hamilton Community Health Centre
North Hastings Family Health Team

North Lambton Community Health Centre
North Muskoka Practitioner- Led Clinic
NorWest Community Health Centres
The Ontario AIDS Network
Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI)
Oshawa Community Health Centre
Parkdale Community Health Centre
Peel HIV/AIDS Network
People For Ontario's Sex Ed Curriculum
Petawawa Centennial Family Health Centre
Pinecrest-Queensway Community Health Centre
Planned Parenthood Toronto
Port Hope Community Health Centre
Pride Toronto
Prisoners with HIV/AIDS Support and Action Network
Quest Community Health Centre
Rainbow Valley CHC
Regent Park Community Health Centre
Rexdale Community Health Centre
Rideau Community Health Services
Sandy Hill Community Health Centre
Sauble Family Health Team
Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities
Seaway Valley Community Health Centre
Sherbourne Health Centre
Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre
Sick Kids Hospital - Division of Adolescent Medicine
Somerset West Community Health Centre
South Asian Legal Clinic Ontario
South Asian Women's Centre
South East Grey Community Health Centre
South Georgian Bay Community Health Centre
South Riverdale Community Health Centre
South-East Ottawa Community Health Centre
Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre
Springtide Resources, Inc., Ending Violence Against Women
Stonegate Community Health Centre
TAIBU Community Health Centre
Toronto HIV/AIDS Network (THN)
Toronto People With AIDS Foundation
Unison Health and Community Services- Lawrence Heights Site
University of Toronto, Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies
Vaughan Community Health Centre
Waasegiizhig Nanaandawe'iyewigamig

Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health
Waterloo Region Nurse Practitioner - Led Clinic
WellFort Community Health Services
West Elgin Community Health Centre
West Nipissing Community Health Centre
White Ribbon Campaign
Windsor Essex Community Health Centre
Windsor Family Health Team
Women's Health in Women's Hands CHC
Women’s College Hospital
Woodstock and Area Community Health Centre
Woolwich Community Health Centre (WCHC)
The Youth Centre