



19 December 2018

Honourable David Eggen
Minister of Education
Office of the Minister
228 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Eggen,

Over the course of the last few weeks the Public School Boards Association has followed with interest media stories that have drawn attention to a number of matters of critical importance to our members.

The first matter of concern is the apparent delay in enforcing the Ministry policy requirement that all school authorities have approved policies related to supporting the LGBTQ community within all schools. We read that not all school authorities have complied with the provisions of Bill 24. We know that you have made certain demands of these boards and we support you most ardently in those demands. We stand with you as you continue to insist that the requirements of the law be adhered to. The non-compliant authorities have had long enough to comply.

Another area of concern is the recent reporting that Catholic teachers are being required to sign contracts that are, we believe to be contrary to the Alberta Human Rights Act. The signing of a contract that holds that a breach of Catholic practices will be regarded as a breach of contract is discriminatory. We appreciate that you have requested those contracts be made available to you for review. We are very interested to hear what you derive from this review.

We are aware of your statement in the press to teachers to file a grievance or take the case to the Human Rights Commission. With all due respect Mr. Minister, we feel that this puts an individual in a terrible and untenable position. It is time consuming and costly. Grievances and Human Right challenges may be won but at what cost to the public purse? Without hesitation or reservation, we would encourage the Government of Alberta to take a principled stand to defend the legal rights of all its students and all employees.

Please consider that under one inclusive education system all children would be provided with the protections and services offered to them in law and no employee would be faced with incursions into their private lives nor would the church hierarchy be involved in settling contract matters.

We support you and the Government in taking the necessary steps to require all education providers receiving public funding in whole or in part to adhere to the laws of the province of Alberta. In the above matters the majority of the public is in your favour.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cathy Hogg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cathy" and the last name "Hogg" clearly distinguishable.

Cathy Hogg, President

- c. Executive Committee, Public School Boards' Association of Alberta
Member Board Chairs, Public School Boards' Association of Alberta
Council Representatives, Public School Boards' Association of Alberta
Brian Callaghan, Executive Director, Public School Boards' Association of Alberta