



◊ Coalition ontarienne des écoles en santé ◊  
◊ Ontario Healthy Schools Coalition ◊

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## **Reverting back to the 1998 sexual health curriculum will put students at risk**

### ***For Immediate Release – July 16, 2018***

Toronto, ON – The Ontario Healthy Schools Coalition (OHSC) agrees with the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO), the Ontario Physical and Health Education Association (Ophea), and the Ontario Association for the Support of Physical and Health Educators (OASPHE) that our children and youth will be harmed as a result of the new government's repeal of Ontario's current *Sexual Health Curriculum* and replacement with a severely out-dated 1998 curriculum.

The new curriculum focuses on prevention and well-being in an effort to both help students manage their own health by making informed decisions and to save the government health care dollars. Understanding healthy relationships and consent, respecting all people whatever their visible or invisible differences, ensuring safety from online bullying, and having information about their own bodies are important for young people. The newer curriculum provides teachers with the tools to educate students in age appropriate ways. As well, it was developed by child and youth health experts and educators, and is based on current knowledge and research. This will not be used in schools starting in September. Schools are in the business of human development and this curriculum plays a key role.

By reverting to curriculum developed in 1998, the government is going to put our children and youth in harm's way over the next year while "it consults". The government fails to realize that there has already been extensive consultation on the current curriculum across Ontario, with parents, students, teachers, and health organizations.

It is disappointing that opposition to the curriculum stems from ignorance about the content and how it was developed. The Ontario Human Rights Code recognizes that the rights of all students, including those who identify as LGBTQ, must be respected in every school. The Ontario Healthy Schools Coalition believes that the new government needs to respect Ontario's human rights laws, especially in regard to our children and youth. It is important that we protect and prepare our students for the real world that they live in.

OHSC believes that healthy schools include healthy staff, healthy children, and healthy families. Our vision is that every child and youth in Ontario will be educated in a healthy school. A healthy school promotes the physical, mental, social and spiritual health of the whole school community. OHSC is a broad based coalition with members from public health, education, research, health related organizations, education related organizations, and parent and student organizations. Learn more about our work at [www.ontariohealthyschools.com](http://www.ontariohealthyschools.com).

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