



Perth District Health Unit

653 West Gore Street
Stratford, Ontario N5A 1L4
(519) 271-7600

May 19, 2010

Hon. Dalton McGuinty, Premier
Legislative Bldg, Rm 281
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A1A1

Dear Premier McGuinty:

Subject: Ontario Grades 1-8 Health and Physical Education Curriculum "Human Development and Sexual Health" Content

On behalf of the Board of Health of the Perth District Health Unit, I am writing this letter to request that you re-consider the decision to withdraw the proposed "Human Development and Sexual Health" content for the new Ontario Grades 1-8 Health and Physical Education Curriculum.

The proposed curriculum changes primarily relate to creating awareness and a culture of respect regarding diversity, including visible and invisible differences, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Since 1998, there have been numerous reports written that support the critical need for education and awareness-raising on diversity, and for the elimination of bullying related to visible and invisible differences. The adults in Ontario society must take the steps that are necessary to ensure the development of positive self-concept in all our children and youth.

In relation to the sexual health content of the new curriculum, it focuses on developing skills amongst children and youth to navigate the pressures they will be exposed to in our society. The prevention of sexually transmitted infections and the promotion of healthy sexuality are priorities for public health, and this curriculum utilizes the most current understanding in these areas.

We request that you review the attached "Board of Health Staff Report", "Background Documents Supporting the Ontario Grades 1-8 Health and Physical Education Curriculum Healthy Sexuality Content" and "Ontario Grades 1-8 Health and Physical Education Curriculum—Comparison Regarding Healthy Sexuality Content" and approve the "Human Development and Sexual Health" content as proposed.

Respectfully yours,

Miriam Klassen, MD
Acting Medical Officer of Health

- c. Hon. Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Education
- Hon. Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
- Hon. Margaret Best, Minister of Health Promotion
- Hon. Laurel Broten, Minister of Children and Youth Services
- Hon. John Wilkinson, MPP Perth-Wellington
- Boards of Health of Ontario Public Health Units