

Date: April 30, 2023

Attention: SD 23 School Board Trustees and Superintendent Kaardal,

RE: Response to Wilbur Turners' letter dated March 5, 2023

Mr. Turner's letter is both contentious and nonfactual. Mr. Turner falsely claims that non-support of the SOGI123 learning resource is associated with "homophobia and transphobia" and he minimizes citizens' concerns by calling their concerns "rhetoric".

Parents are not against the SOGI123 program because of an unwillingness to support the LGBTQ community, but because the program tends to indoctrinate youth into the community rather than educating them about the community. An anti-bullying program was already part of the BC curriculum prior to the SOGI123 learning resource being implemented. However, it did not focus on special interest groups, to ensure the equal treatment of 'every' student.

Mr. Turner reports that the SOGI123 program helps prevent suicide and depression in the LGBTQ community. He claims that LGBTQ+ youth are five times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers. However, Mr. Turner neglects to inform you that individuals who have undergone sex reassignment surgery have a **twenty** times greater rate of committing suicide than the general population. This is based on a Cohort study from Sweden.

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0016885>

Parents have legitimate concerns over the sexually explicit books that are made available within the school district. They also have legitimate concerns regarding the SOGI123 learning resource as it is resulting in a mass social contagion of children who are identifying as the opposite sex and then being fast-tracked onto hormone blockers and surgeries that permanently mutilates their body.

Many of the children are put onto puberty blocking drugs like Lupron which was used to castrate sex offenders. The side affects of these drugs are not fully know but include decreased bone density, suicide and depression and other ailments that lead the child in a dependence on Big Pharma for life.

The next step is to suggest life altering surgeries. Many teenage girls who feel uncomfortable in their bodies, are lured into thinking that top surgery is for them. Why do we not call it what it is, a double mastectomy?

It is the SOGI123 program that is introducing the idea that gender is fluid based on feelings and not on biology and is targeting youth who are young and impressionable. In the later years when preteens are feeling uncomfortable in their changing bodies, students are led to believe that perhaps God made a mistake, and they are really the opposite sex. The students are affirmed by LGBTQ activists and SOGI 'Leads' within the school district and encouraged to join GSA clubs to find acceptance in their new group of LGBTQ allies and are encouraged to transition outwardly and medically.

According to a 2018 study there is a 4515% increase in girls seeking to 'transition' to the opposite sex. "Some educationalists have previously warned that the promotion of transgender issues in schools has 'sown confusion' in children's minds and that encouraging children to question gender has 'become an industry,' <https://action4canada.com/wp-content/uploads/4500-Percent-increase-in-girls-gender-dysphoria-10-Years-pdf.pdf>

Mr. Turner's claim that SOGI123 does not sexualize children is false. The definition of Human Sexuality is not defined in the Education Act, but the American Psychological Association (APA) provides an apt definition:

Sexuality

1. *the capacity to derive pleasure from various forms of sexual activity and behavior, particularly from sexual intercourse.*
2. *all aspects of sexual behavior, including gender identity, orientation, attitudes, and activity.*

As you can see gender identity and orientation is included which means that SOGI123, which perpetually hyper-focuses on gender identity and orientation, is most definitely sexualizing children and therefore, the SOGI123 Learning Resource must be removed. According to provincial legislation passed in 2017, the school board is responsible for learning resources and has the power and responsibility to remove it. <https://action4canada.com/wp-content/uploads/BC-Learning-Resources-pdf.pdf>

The Ministry of Education and Child Care no longer conducts evaluation processes to recommend learning resources. This responsibility now rests with boards. Board policies and procedures should include a process for ensuring the list of recommended learning resources is up to date and aligned with changes in curriculum. This would include adding and removing resources from the list.

Any concerns or challenges to the use of a learning resource should be dealt with at the district level.

It is critical that the Board reassess the SOGI123 Learning Resource due to the measurable harms it is causing to students. As previously advised you are at risk of being held personally, criminally liable for any harm that a child suffers because of your inaction. You have a duty to ensure the health and safety of every student in the school district. Section 94(2) of the BC School Act specifies you are not provided a defence if you are found guilty of dishonesty, gross negligence or malicious or wilful misconduct. https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96412_06#section94

You have been duly warned on numerous occasions of the harm caused by this resource and therefore, I advise you to assert your authority and remove SOGI123 forthwith.

Sincerely,

Laurie Baird
Kelowna Chapter Leader
Action4Canada