



Government  
— of —  
Saskatchewan

**Minister of Education**

Legislative Building  
Regina, Canada S4S 0B3

Dear Board Chairs:

The safety and well-being of students and parent involvement in their child's education is of the utmost importance for everyone involved with the education sector in our province.

Per section 4.02 of the *Education Act, 1995*, “[t]he minister may ... give a written directive to a board of education or the conseil scolaire to take any action that the minister considers necessary in relation to the operations of the board of education or the conseil scolaire.” In addition, “ ... a minister's written directive may require a board of education or the conseil scolaire ... (c) to coordinate the activities that it undertakes with any other person or organization engaged in elementary or secondary education.”

As previously communicated, I have directed the Ministry of Education to review Health Education curriculum and relevant ministry approved or recommended resources to ensure alignment with the intent of the curriculum outcomes, as well as age and overall appropriateness for use in a school setting. This directive is in place while the ministry completes this review.

A new policy effective today will require parental consent when students under 16 years old wish to change their pronouns and/or preferred first name. The policy is intended to support students and parents and recognizes the important role that parents and guardians have in protecting and supporting their children as they grow and develop.

Teachers shall inform parents about instruction of sexual health (commencement/completion dates, objectives, scope and sequence of content, resources, and activities) and give them the opportunity to ask questions, get clarification, and express concerns. Parents shall be given the opportunity to opt out of all or part of the Human Sexuality unit. The withdrawal shall be expressed in writing. Respect of all students' personal and family beliefs regarding family life and human sexuality will be the foremost objective. The primary response to a student who raises a controversial issue will be to refer that student to family to clarify personal and family beliefs. Further counsel offered to a student will be considered only with expressed, written parental/guardian consent.



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I have also directed the Ministry of Education to update the *Deepening the Discussion* document and to include clear direction regarding the involvement of third-party organizations in supporting school divisions and teachers with delivering instruction related to sexual health outcomes in the curriculum. To further support this direction and give time to complete the review, Boards of Education and their administration are directed to immediately cease involvement with any third-party organization connected to Sexual Health Education, including the ARC Foundation which provides the SOGI 1 2 3 Program. Of note, this does not include health care professionals employed by government ministries or the Saskatchewan Health Authority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dustin Duncan', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dustin Duncan

cc: Clint Repski, Deputy Minister of Education