



Statements About Premier Danielle Smith's Trans & 2SLGBTQ+ Policy Proposals



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Table of Contents

Legal Organizations.....3

Health Organizations..... 6

 National..... 6

 Alberta..... 8

 British Columbia.....10

 Newfoundland and Labrador..... 10

 Saskatchewan..... 11

 Ontario.....11

Education..... 13

 Alberta.....13

 Ontario.....15

National Organizations.....16

Two Spirit Organizations..... 21

Alberta Organizations..... 22

Religious Organizations.....26

Canadian Labour Unions.....29

 National..... 29

 Alberta..... 31

Sports..... 32

Canadian Politicians and Celebrities.....33

 Federal.....34

 Alberta..... 35

 Northwest Territories..... 37

 Ontario.....37

 Yukon.....38

 Celebrities..... 38

Joint Statements..... 39

 Joint Statement Signed By 70 Canadian Feminist Organizations..... 39

 Joint Statement Signed By Organizations from Alberta..... 42

General 2SLGBTQ+ Calls for Action..... 43

 Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls – 2SLGBTQQIA Recommendations.....43



Legal Organizations

Alberta Human Rights Commission

Kathryn Oviatt - Chief of the Commission and Tribunals

As Alberta debates legislation and policy around transgender, two-spirit, non-binary, and gender diverse youth, the Alberta Human Rights Commission confirms these characteristics are protected grounds in the Alberta Human Rights Act. The Preamble to the Act includes:

In Alberta, as a fundamental principle and as a matter of public policy, all persons are equal in dignity, rights, and responsibilities without regard to gender, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation.

Every area listed in the Act, from services to employment, repeats these characteristics as protected human rights grounds.

The Commission urges compassion and recognition of the inherent dignity of all Albertans, including the particular vulnerability of 2SLGBTQ+ youth. The debates around reasonable and justifiable limits on equality rights cannot be an excuse to let prejudice rise. [...]

These youth need support, understanding, and acceptance. While the Legislature considers what it thinks is the right balance, Albertans should approach the discussion focused on the dignity, humanity, and need for equality of this vulnerable group. (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA)

Harini Sivalingam - Director of the Equality Program

"The Alberta government's proposed gender identity and sexual orientation policy will rob 2SLGBTQIA+ people of their rights and freedoms. These policies are a clear and blatant attack on freedom. The implementation of these policies will create further

divisions and will make it dangerous for trans and gender diverse youth and adults in Alberta." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Canadian Human Rights Commission

Charlotte-Anne Malischewski - Interim Chief Commissioner

“The Canadian Human Rights Commission is concerned that during debate over some recent legal and policy changes in Canada, what is being lost are the human rights, health, and safety of two-spirit, trans, non-binary, and gender diverse youth. [...]

All children and youth in Canada have the right to live and to learn free from discrimination related to their sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. This is recognized in federal, provincial, and territorial human rights codes, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Canadian and international human rights law requires that all governments in Canada honour their obligations to put the best interests of the child first and foremost, and to protect the rights of children and youth, including members of 2SLGBTQQIA+ communities. An integral part of respecting the rights of children and youth is recognizing young people’s right to autonomy, development, education, and self expression. They have the human right to have their views taken seriously when decisions are made that affect their lives.” (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Lawyers Against Transphobia

"Equality used to mean something. Discrimination used to be against the law. But the Alberta government doesn't care.

Lawyers against Transphobia categorically reject the policy changes announced by Danielle Smith in relation to transgender people.

All of Smith’s policy changes offend the human rights of transgender people. And in making those changes, the Alberta government is knowingly, and cynically, breaching the equality rights of transgender people under the Charter of Rights. [...]

We join with Sheila Greckol, former justice of the Court of Appeal in Alberta, who said that these changes “sends a strong and sinister message to Albertans that it is permissible, even acceptable, to discriminate on the basis of gender identity. To members of the trans community, the message is they are less than equal members of our society.”

Smith’s policies run roughshod over the entire medical profession and the entire education system. She substitutes her own judgement for the judgement of doctors who work with transgender youth. She interferes with the professional judgement of teachers whose job it is to protect their students.

Smith is meddling with the law in Alberta about the rights of youth to consent to medical treatment. If a youth is a mature minor, they are entitled to direct their own medical care. [...]

Canada’s guarantees to all Canadians that their governments will respect their rights to equality is a fundamental part of the Canadian constitution. Any government initiative to discriminate against a marginalized community is an affront to the dignity and equality of every citizen." (More information about this statement can be found [here](#))

University of Calgary & University of Alberta Law Faculties

Thirty-six individuals from the University of Calgary Faculty of Law and University of Alberta Faculty of Law have signed an open letter detailing how Alberta's transgender policies violate charter-protected rights. They call on the government to reverse course on these policies.

The group believes Alberta’s proposed restrictions would violate Section 2(b) (freedom of expression), Section 7 (life, liberty and the security of the person), Section 12 (cruel and usual treatment), and Section 15 (equality rights) of the Charter, while also impeding Indigenous law. (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)



Health Organizations

National

Canadian Paediatric Society

Dr. Sam Wong, Dr. Jeff Critch, Dr. Ellie Vyver, Dr. Raphael Sharon

"Gender-affirming medical care for youth should be a decision between the patient, their parents, and their medical care team, without intrusion by government. The health and safety of TGD youth is too important. We strongly urge you to reconsider the implementation of these policies and to ensure that initiatives impacting TGD youth are rooted in best evidence and informed by consultation with those who have lived experience, are most directly impacted, and have a robust understanding of the current evidence." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Canadian Psychological Association

"The Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) through its Code of Ethics and policy statements, has long held a commitment to human rights, social justice, and the dignity of persons. Despite this commitment, echoed in amendments to Canada's Human Rights Act and the Criminal Code, and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, gender-based stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination continue to persist across social systems and services (e.g., education, health, justice).

With the rise of gender minority hate and violence worldwide¹⁻⁴, this policy statement outlines the discrimination that people of gender minority face, as well as the changes that need to be made to redress it. The CPA commits to helping to bring about these changes and calls on legislators, policy makers, and agencies and individuals who deliver health and social services to assert their commitments to join us." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Children's Healthcare Canada and the Pediatric Chairs of Canada

"Our member organizations are dedicated to delivering highly specialized, individualized care for children and youth, and maintaining confidential relationships between all patients and their healthcare providers. They are focused on ensuring that every child, youth and family receives highly tailored, comprehensive and

evidence-based services. Services for youth accessing gender-affirming care are no different." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

The Canadian Medical Association

Dr. Kathleen Ross - CMA President

“The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) is deeply concerned about any government proposal that restricts access to evidence-based medical care, including the Alberta government’s proposed restrictions on gender-affirming treatments for pediatric transgender patients. [...]

Ensuring children have universal access to a full range of medical care is essential for their well-being. We know that transgender youth have higher rates of mental health issues, including suicidal tendencies, due to stigma that they face. By providing comprehensive health care options, we affirm the dignity and humanity of transgender individuals, reinforcing the notion that everyone deserves access to the medical support necessary for authentic self-expression.

We strongly urge governments to consult with health-care professionals — experts in their field — when considering policy changes related to health care.” (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Joint Statement from Medical Associations Across the Country - Released by The Canadian Medical Association

“Medical associations from coast to coast are deeply concerned about any government proposal that would restrict access to evidence-based medical care for patients, including for the transgender population.

Canadians have the right to make personal choices about their health with the support of their families, the guidance of physicians working with other regulated health professionals and free from ideological intrusion.

There is no one-size-fits-all approach for patients experiencing gender dysphoria. Restricting choices and appropriate care for patients can lead to permanent harm.

We urge all levels of government to consult with physician experts in their field when considering any major changes in policy related to health care impacting the 2SLGTBQ+ community.” ([Source](#))

- Alberta Medical Association - Dr. Paul Parks, President
- Canadian Medical Association - Dr. Kathleen Ross, President
- Doctors of British Columbia - Dr. Ahmer Karimuddin, President
- Doctors Manitoba - Dr. Michael Boroditsky, President
- Doctors Nova Scotia - Dr. Colin Audain, President
- Fédération des médecins omnipraticiens du Québec - Dr Marc-André Amyot, Président-directeur général
- Medical Society of Prince Edward Island - Dr. Krista Cassell, President
- New Brunswick Medical Society - Dr. Paula Keating, President
- Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association - Dr. Gerard Farrell, President
- Northwest Territories Medical Association - Dr. Katherine Breen, President
- Ontario Medical Association - Dr. Andrew Park, President
- Saskatchewan Medical Association - Dr. Annette Epp, President
- Yukon Medical Association - Dr. Alex Kmet, President

Alberta

Alberta Medical Association

Paul Parks - President

“Yesterday the government announced plans to restrict access to gender-affirming treatments for pediatric transgender patients. I immediately consulted with the Section of Pediatrics for the expertise these colleagues bring regarding these vulnerable patients.

Our pediatric colleagues have developed a statement of response that we fully support. I quote one sentence that I think really says it all: “The doctor-patient relationship is inviolable and sacrosanct.” (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Alberta Medical Association Paediatrics Section

"Requiring a private registry of physicians to provide gender-affirming care has the feel of surveillance, to which we object. It is an unnecessary bureaucratic process given the current existence of effective referral processes and networks. Children and youth have the right to the appropriate medical care, at the appropriate time, and this should

not be denied to them. We urge the Premier, in the strongest terms, to reconsider these proposed changes for the care of transgender youth." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Alberta Psychiatric Association

"The Alberta Psychiatric Association (APA) which is inclusive of the Alberta Medical Association's Sections of General Psychiatry and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, wishes to express deep concern around recently announced policies that directly affect transgender individuals in the province of Alberta. These policies have the potential to lead to significant negative mental health outcomes amongst an identifiable, already marginalized population...." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Align (Association of Community Services)

"Gender policy plays a crucial role in promoting children's rights and well-being in Alberta. Policies that recognize and protect gender as a fundamental aspect of human identity help to create an environment where children can develop their full potential, free from discrimination and bias. Along with empowering children to explore their identities and aspirations without limitations or fear of judgment, gender policy can support the holistic development of children by fostering healthy relationships within families. [...]

Comprehensive gender policies should encompass parental relationships, acknowledging diverse family structures and promoting equal rights for all parents and children. Therefore, ALIGN urges the government to consult further on the proposed gender policies." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Office of the Child and Youth Advocate Alberta

"It is crucial to remember that what is at stake in this conversation is the lives of vulnerable young people. We must centre their voices and ensure that we are prioritizing their safety and well-being in decisions that affect them. In doing so, we can help ensure their rights are upheld and their futures are bright." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Social Workers Association of Alberta

"The Social Workers Association of Alberta ("SWAA") agrees with medical organizations, like the United Nurses of Alberta (United Nurses of Alberta, 2024) that gender-affirming care is the best evidence-based, safe, and compassionate approach for the well-being of all trans and non-binary people, especially when working with and supporting young people." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

United Nurses of Alberta

"There is no place in 21st Century medicine for politicians to make clinical treatment decisions for individuals or classes of people based on those politicians' political strategies and ideological goals.

To use medical treatment of young people as an excuse to mount a politically motivated attack on gender-affirming health care will put the lives of young people at risk, ultimately increase the costs of providing health care, and set a dangerous precedent that should concern us all." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

British Columbia

Resident Doctors of BC

"We share @CanadianPaediatricSociety's belief that gender-affirming care should be a decision between the patients, their parents, and their medical care team, without intrusion from the government." ([Source](#))

Newfoundland and Labrador

Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association

Gerry Farrell - President

"The NLMA wishes to offer its support for the Alberta Medical Association (AMA), the AMA Section of Pediatrics and the AMA Section of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry positions that gender-affirming treatments are a medical decision that should not involve political interference. [...]

While the Alberta government maintains that the intention of its policies is to protect children from making decisions that may have irreversible impacts on their body, these policies will have unintended consequences, including putting the health and safety of

TTGD youth at risk. [...] This overreach by the Alberta government is very concerning for the medical community. Government must not interfere in the doctor-patient relationship by limiting access to evidence based medical treatments. The NLMA supports the AMA's call for the Alberta government, and other provincial governments that have taken similar positions, to stop interfering in health care decision making with mandates that run contrary to the evidence and integrity of established medical practice." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Saskatchewan

Saskatoon Sexual Health

"The team at Saskatoon Sexual Health is feeling significant grief in light of the sweeping changes being implemented by the Government of Alberta regarding their students' gender identity, sports and surgery policies. This is a blatant attack on the rights and freedoms of transgender and non-binary youth, that will have wide and devastating consequences on their social, emotional, psychological and medical well-being, really on their overall wellness. This is the latest in several attacks on the transgender community and yet another policy that threatens the lives and safety of some of our society's most vulnerable youth. Saskatoon Sexual Health steadfastly supports trans youth here in Saskatchewan and across Canada." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Ontario

Ontario Medical Association (OMA)

"As the voice of Ontario's physicians, the OMA is proud to support all Ontarians in ensuring they receive culturally safe and affirming care, no matter their gender identity or sexual orientation.

The OMA underscores its support for physicians in upholding the highest standards of medical ethics and practice with regard to the inherent dignity of all people. We recognize that sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression are fundamental aspects of human diversity, and protected under Ontario's Human Rights Code. Furthermore, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario requires physicians to take reasonable steps to ensure their practice is culturally safe, inclusive, and accessible for all patients, including those who identify as 2SLGBTQ+.

The ability to safely express fundamental aspects of a person’s identity is integral to achieving overall well-being and health. In the face of anti-2SLGBTQ+ bigotry and discrimination, the OMA condemns hatred in all its forms.” (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Hamilton Trans Health Coalition

“The policy changes announced yesterday by Alberta Premier Danielle Smith put trans youth at risk, taking recent politically motivated legislative and policy changes targeting trans and gender diverse communities in Saskatchewan and New Brunswick even further. This is a direct attack on trans and gender diverse youth that will cause harm. [...]

To Canada’s healthcare providers: Contact your professional colleges, associations, and workplaces and ask them what they are going to do to stand up against this attempt to weaponize pseudoscience against healthcare. Every healthcare organization can and should speak out against this.” (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO)

The Registered Nurses’ Association of Ontario (RNAO) condemns, unequivocally, Alberta premier Danielle Smith’s proposed restrictions to transgender care as ill-informed and dangerous to the health and wellbeing of some of the most vulnerable youth in our society.

RNAO is also deeply concerned to see federal Conservative Party leader, Pierre Poilievre, further Smith’s stated views – seemingly for political gain – and joining other leaders who have exploited prejudice and ignorance about 2SLGBTQI+ people...

The proposed restrictions to care proposed by Smith and supported by Poilievre appear to be founded on ideology, not informed by evidence.” (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)



Education

Alberta

Alberta Teachers' Association

Jason Schilling - President

"We are concerned about the chilling effect placed on classrooms and schools, impacting our ability to provide safe, caring and inclusive spaces for all students. We are concerned about how students may feel forced to suppress their identities and to be afraid of reaching out to teachers as an avenue for support." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Alberta School Councils' Association

"[...] New legislation is being proposed, supposedly with broad consultation including parents, that intends to safeguard parental rights. The information related to this consultation process is not readily available. Additionally, no broad consultation took place with school councils or with ASCA related to parental rights or concerns. ASCA calls for a halt to this legislation until broad consultation is meaningfully achieved and incorporated. The thousands of parents in Alberta engaged with their school councils and represented by ASCA deserve to have time and opportunity for input. Nothing about us, without us." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Edmonton Public School Board of Trustees

(Feb. 1, 2024)

"Edmonton Public Schools Board of Trustees reaffirms our commitment to safe, caring, respectful learning environments that foster a sense of belonging for our 2SLGBTQIA+ students and all of the Division's 117,000 students. [...]"

We will need time to unpack the government's announcement. We look forward to providing our feedback to the province, so that 2SLGBTQIA+ students will continue to feel safe and welcome in our schools every day." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Julie Kusiek, Board Chair (Feb 15, 2024)

In a letter to Premier Smith, Board Chair Julie Kusiek wrote, "On behalf of the Edmonton Public Schools Board of Trustees, I am writing to share our Board's concerns

with you regarding the recent announcement of forthcoming policies and guidelines described as aiming to preserve choice for children and youth. [...]

Our Division also already has incredibly strong practices and policies that not only support students in their personal and educational growth, but also promote a healthy family dynamic. We have developed a framework that ensures that each student is provided a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging, as is already mandated by Section 33 of the *Education Act*. One example is our policy respecting students' pronouns while providing support and encouragement to share with their families. [...]

However, for a variety of reasons, there are cases when a parent or guardian is not able to provide the support a student needs, or cases when a student wishes support from a non-family member before sharing information about their identity. For these situations, it is critical to preserve the respectful, safe and caring spaces and established relationships created in schools - and which are already required through the *Education Act*. Our current policies support this essential balance. [...]

In conversations with parents and community members over the past year though, we have found that there is a great deal of misunderstanding about what current practices in schools are, what content is contained in the provincial curriculum, and what concepts the curriculum introduces at which grade levels. Again, we would be happy to work with your office and your government to help ensure all Albertans have the facts they need on these topics.” (Click [here](#) to read the full letter)

Red Deer Public Schools Board of Trustees

"A priority for Red Deer Public Schools is to ensure schools are safe, caring and inclusive spaces for all students no matter who they are or how they identify. This is consistent with our legal obligations under the provincial Education Act and the Alberta Human Rights Act, as well as our Board's commitment to supporting all students. [...]

School divisions have not yet received direction or guidance from Alberta Education regarding the premier's announcement. We will need time to review the government's announcement, and we look forward to being involved in consultation and conversation as we move forward. We remain committed to ensure all students in Red Deer Public

will continue to feel safe and welcome in our schools each and every day." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Support Our Students (SOS) Alberta

“Support Our Students Alberta absolutely opposes [Danielle Smith’s] proposed measures. These sweeping policies specifically target young Albertans who identify as LGBTQ2S+ and outright ban their access to safe schools, healthcare, medicine, and psychological support. In school settings, these students’ rights to safe self expression will also be banned. Queer and transgender students, especially those without affirming homes, are already vulnerable to alienation, isolation, suicide, and homelessness. Smith’s policies significantly multiply their risk of harm. [...]

Danielle Smith and her cabinet are not experts in LGBTQ2S+ health or sexual education. In fact, they failed to consult the impacted communities and experts. Alberta’s students need and deserve safe places to freely express their personal identity and exercise their right to access safe and well-rounded education. [...]

Support Our Students Alberta demands that the UCP government halt the introduction of these dangerous policies. Government should meaningfully consult with LGBTQ2S+ youth advocacy agencies to prevent insurmountable harm for these youth." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Ontario

Ontario Principals' Council

"We oppose [Danielle Smith’s] proposals and strongly urge the Alberta government to withdraw this uninformed, dangerous and disrespectful plan. As expressed in a previous statement on August 29, 2023, we remain concerned about potential policy changes impacting the wellness and safety of 2SLGBTQQIA+ students. With respect to parental consent on the use of preferred names and/or pronouns at school, we believe that the ideal situation involves including parents and guardians in conversations and decision making. However, we support current school board policy that centers students in the decision making, honouring their right to self identify, even when parental consent is not given, to foster an equitable and inclusive learning environment.

Students who do not have parental, family and/or community support that respects and validates their decisions about their identify and choice of name/pronoun often face higher risks of self-harm, emotional distress, isolation, deteriorating mental health and increased bullying. Gender-affirming practices help mitigate those risks, contributing to greater inclusion, belonging and success at school. We encourage all governments to implement and support policies that are fair, equitable, antioppressive and value the individual rights and dignity of students and staff, particularly the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)



National Organizations

Action Canada

"This week, the Alberta Government unveiled Canada's most aggressive package of policies to limit transgender rights. This decision targets some of the most marginalized members of our society, trans and gender diverse youth, and puts the safety of all youth at risk. [...]

Together, we say no to American-style wedge issues to distract us from what would make everyone safer and healthier. By working as a community, we can make it so that every student, parent, and educator feels safe, respected, and empowered." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Amnesty International Canada

"Amnesty International joins Egale Canada, Momentum and 2SLGBTQQIA+ communities in strongly condemning these policy measures. The changes not only violate the constitutional rights of 2SLGBTQQIA+ people but also pose inherent harm by perpetuating existing stereotypes, discrimination, stigmatization and exclusion.

"What Premier Smith and the Alberta government are proposing is, in a word, appalling," said Ketty Nivyabandi, Secretary General of Amnesty International Canada's English-speaking section. "Trans Albertans, including trans children and youth, have a right to compassionate and distinctions-based gender-affirming health

care, full stop. The potential long-term impacts of these policy changes on the health and wellbeing of 2SLGBTQQIA+ youth and communities are dire.”” (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Canadian Based Research Centre (CBRC)

"CBRC is deeply concerned by the recently proposed anti-trans policy changes in Alberta. These policies represent a cruel, harmful, and entirely unnecessary attack on access to gender affirming care, and on the health, safety, and rights of trans, non-binary, and gender diverse youth.

These policy changes contradict extensive research, and the positions of reputable medical associations in Canada and around the world, that support the importance of gender affirming care for the health and wellbeing of trans, non-binary, and gender diverse youth.

We strongly condemn these proposed anti-trans and anti-2SLGBTQQIA+ policy changes, and stand in solidarity with trans, non-binary, and gender diverse youth and their families." ([Source](#))

Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion

"As an advocate for the dignity and respect of all individuals, the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion (CCDI) stands in strong opposition to the recent policy updates proposed by the Government of Alberta. The proposed policy changes will not only create an unsafe environment for students in schools, exclude trans women from women-only divisions in sports, and restrict gender-affirming treatments for individuals under 18, but they also represent a significant step backwards in our journey towards a more inclusive Canada.

These policy updates contravene the fundamental rights to life, liberty, and security of the person, as stated in Section 7 of the Charter. They also violate the principle of equality before and under the law, without discrimination based on sex, age, or mental or physical disability, as outlined in Section 15. These updates also directly conflict with the Alberta Human Rights Act, which safeguards against discrimination based on various grounds, including gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation. These grounds were put in place to ensure protection in schools, workplaces, and housing.

Furthermore, they go against the Convention on the Rights of the Child's emphasis on children's rights to identity, respect for their views, and access to information promoting their well-being." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Egale Canada and Skipping Stone Foundation

"Egale Canada and Skipping Stone Foundation come together to jointly condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the policy measures announced by Premier Smith this afternoon. This is a direct and unprecedented attack on 2SLGBTQI+ Canadians, and trans and gender diverse youth in particular.

The draconian measures announced run directly counter to expert guidance and evidence, violate the constitutional rights of 2SLGBTQI+ people, and will lead to irreparable harm and suffering.

Egale and Skipping Stone will bring legal action to protect our communities.

The Government of Alberta is playing politics with some of the most vulnerable members of our society: trans and gender diverse youth, attacking them for cheap political points. We will not stand for it." ([Source](#))

Globe and Mail Editorial Board

"Provinces set guidelines for the treatment of gender dysphoria all the time without making the national news. There is a reason for that, though: They let their health departments act independently of overt political interference.

That is not the case in Alberta. In her video announcing the new policies, Ms. Smith says that "encouraging or enabling children to alter their very biology or natural growth ... poses a risk to that child's future that I as Premier am not comfortable with permitting in this province."

Not once does Ms. Smith mention medical science, statistics or relevant data that support her decision.

This is wrong. Her personal views, and the things she isn't personally comfortable with, while they might conveniently align with those of her socially conservative voters, should not in any way inform medical care in Alberta.

This is a dangerous and anti-scientific position for any premier to take. In Ms. Smith's case, it could harm children. [...]

Top surgeries on minors – a double mastectomy – is obviously controversial. But WPATH says it is a proven and safe treatment for gender dysphoria. It's fair to be concerned about this radical procedure for minors; banning it because a politician is uncomfortable with it is not.

Ms. Smith, a self-declared libertarian, is twisting herself in knots with her policies. By banning puberty blockers and hormone therapies for children 15 and under, who may well be fully developed before that age, she is robbing parents of transgendered children of their right to work with their child and health care professionals to decide on the best medical course of action. Parents will effectively be prevented from raising their kids as they see fit.

She is imposing limitations on the treatments recommended by people who actually went to medical school – political gatekeeping that libertarians used to decry.

If she had mentioned even once in her video that her decision was informed by experts in the Ministry of Health, or quoted just one study that demonstrated that she has an understanding of the current state of transgender health care, her policies might not have sparked such outrage.

But of course she didn't, making it all too clear her harmful policies have very little to do with children's health, and everything to do with politics." (Click [here](#) to read the full article)

LGBT Purge Fund

"Discrimination is shattering. Those of us who were purged from the government because we are part of the 2SLGBTQI know. That's why we are so opposed to the

discriminatory policies against trans youth that were proposed by the Alberta Premier. It's an attack on freedom. #abpoli

This policy would roll back the rights and dignity of queer and trans youth in Canada. This policy would put vulnerable youth at greater risk. And where are the rights for parents who want gender affirming care for their children?" ([Source](#))

LGBT Youthline

"LGBT YouthLine strongly condemns the anti-trans, anti-youth policies announced by Alberta Premier Danielle Smith yesterday.

We want to extend our solidarity to organizations in Alberta doing work to advocate for, support, and protect trans people." ([Source](#))

PFLAG Canada

"[...] "Premier Smith and the Government of Alberta have demonstrated a clear lack of interest in making fact-paced policy decisions that align with the realities of 2SLGBTQIA+ Albertans. The unfortunate result is the most discriminatory attack on our community in Canada yet.

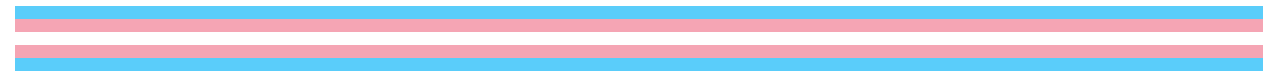
For years, as a community, we have watched news unfold from afar, naively believing, "it won't happen here". It has happened, it is still happening, and our youth will suffer as a result. pflag Canada unequivocally condemns the actions of the Government of Alberta and commits to working with our local and nation-wide partners in 2SLGBTQIA+ advocacy to fight this new wave of anti-queer hate sweeping the nation." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Pride at Work Canada

Colin Druhan - Executive Director

"The UCP's Proposed Policies on Gender Work Against Alberta's Interests. [...] If one sees 2SLGBTQIA+ communities as distinct and separate from the rest of society, then it's easy to believe these regressive policies only impact a small group of Albertans. However, they also have implications for the broader population. [...]"

There is something 2SLGBTQIA+ activists, advocates and allies in Alberta would rather be doing instead of protesting transphobic policies: literally anything else. We would all prefer them to be working towards better outcomes for themselves and their communities through positive action. But, it's hard to make improvements on a house when someone has set the roof on fire. When 2SLGBTQIA+ are kept on the defensive, positive momentum is impossible. The current situation adds significantly to the minority-stress felt by 2SLGBTQIA+ people and their allies, which hampers productivity at home and in the workplace." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement, or click [here](#) to read Pride at Work's article *The UCP's Proposed Policies on Gender Work Against Alberta's Interests*)



Two Spirit Organizations

Edmonton 2 Spirit Society (E2S)

"The Edmonton 2 Spirit Society (E2S) believes that the gender identity, sexual orientation, and human sexuality legislation proposed on January 31, 2024, by the UCP caucus in Alberta is in violation of Indigenous sovereignty, treaty rights, and traditional laws and culture of Indigenous Peoples. Under the medicine chest clause of Treaty 6, and as affirmed in case law, Indigenous peoples are entitled to the Aboriginal right to health. This important aspect of the treaty has yet to be realized, and this policy suite seeks to further deny Indigenous peoples access to our right to gender-affirming care as we determine necessary.

We call on all our relations, including all Albertans, to oppose this legislation and to call their MLAs, MPs, and municipal and tribal governments to stand up for our 2SLGBTQIA+ youth and adults." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

2Spirit Manitoba Inc.

"As advocates for the right and well-being of 2Spirit individuals, 2Spirit Manitoba condemns the recent wave of anti-trans and anti-queer legislation in Alberta. We firmly believe in the importance of fostering inclusivity, understanding, and respect for all gender identities and expressions. [...]"

We call upon Premier Danielle Smith and policymakers in Alberta to reconsider and reject any legislation that marginalizes or discriminates against trans and queer people. We advocate for a society that values and upholds the rights of all, fostering an environment where everyone can live authentically and without fear of discrimination." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)



Alberta Organizations

Centre for Sexuality

“The Centre for Sexuality strongly condemns the changes proposed at the recent announcement by the Government of Alberta. These changes will affect the most vulnerable in our community and negatively impact all youth across Alberta. [...]

The Centre supports members of 2SLGBTQ+ communities every day, including youth. One of the first questions we are consistently asked when supporting queer youth is: How do I come out to my parents? It isn't that they don't want to; sometimes it isn't safe and they may face consequences at home for simply being who they are. A safe peer, teacher, school or outside resource is key in the process. Taking this away in school environments is unacceptable – even cruel – and will surely intensify the already disproportionate numbers of 2SLGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness and mental health challenges.

Our work goes beyond the facts of sexual health and creates safer environments for all. When one population of students feels safer, it leads to safer schools overall. We support 2SLGBTQ+ students while also creating active allies. We also acknowledge and nurture the essential role of parents in their child's sexual health education. Parents are one of the most important sex educators in their child's life and we reinforce that through workshops specifically for parents. From our work counseling gender and sexually diverse youth, we know that youth who do not have accepting and affirming parents experience poor mental health outcomes, suicidal thoughts, homelessness and self harm.” (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Fyrefly Institute for Gender and Sexual Diversity, University of Alberta

"The Fyrefly Institute for Gender and Sexual Diversity resolutely opposes the newly announced policy by the Alberta government, which represents a direct assault on the rights, safety, and well-being of 2S/LGBTQ+ youth across the province. This shameful policy, unprecedented within Canada in its scope and harm, stands in stark opposition to reason, equity, and dignity. [...]

This policy goes beyond any existing measures in the country in its explicit attack on the rights and safety of 2S/LGBTQ+ youth, making all youth less safe by restricting access to sexual health materials and effectively silencing educators from speaking on 2S/LGBTQ+ issues despite the reality of queer lives and history. This enforced silence in educational settings further marginalises queer identities and denies students access to supportive, inclusive, and affirming information. [...]

The Fyrefly Institute calls upon the Alberta government to retract this deeply harmful policy immediately. We stand in solidarity with 2S/LGBTQ+ youth, educators, and all who are committed to fostering a society where every individual can live authentically and safely. We will continue to fight against policies that threaten our communities and we will continue to work tirelessly to support the well-being and rights of 2S/LGBTQ+ individuals based on research and evidence-based policy recommendations." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose (ISCWR)

"We, at the Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose, are deeply troubled by the recent announcement from Daniel Smith, which proposes significant setbacks to the healthcare and support systems for transgender and gender-diverse youth. This initiative not only undermines the rights of these young individuals to live their lives authentically but also introduces harmful barriers that could have life-threatening consequences. [...]

We call on Danielle Smith, the United Conservative Party and all policymakers to reconsider these measures, to listen to the voices of transgender and gender-diverse individuals, and to prioritize the health and safety of trans and queer youth. The cost of

inaction and regression is too high, measured in human lives and the well-being of countless families and communities.

Queer children are people, not property. We demand that the Alberta Government start treating them as such.” (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Library Association of Alberta

“[Alberta Premier Danielle Smith’s proposed] legislation aims to censor information on sexuality and LGBTQIA2+ perspectives and experiences, rendering educators unable to provide inclusive education on these essential topics. It also renders school libraries unable to provide information and resources that reflect the diversity of Canadian and Albertan experiences. This legislation would deny Alberta’s youth access to information and knowledge crucial to their understanding of their world, their peers, and themselves.

School library and classroom resources are evaluated and selected by trained educators and librarians within the context of established and researched guidelines. These guidelines uphold the universal principles of intellectual freedom as guaranteed to all Canadians, including children, in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Additional review and approval by the government is unnecessary, inefficient, and in violation of the principles of intellectual freedom that ensure our children have access to rich and diverse materials that offer them a full range of knowledge, ideas and opinions. [...]

We call on the provincial government and Premier Smith to uphold the values of intellectual freedom that are essential to a democratic society and renounce plans to introduce legislation that would embed censorship in Alberta’s classrooms and schools.” (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

OUTreach Southern Alberta Society

Kim Siever - President

In a letter to to Lethbridge’s two MLAs regarding the provincial government’s recent announcement that they plan to implement new policies that will harm queer youth in the province, Kim Siever wrote, “We were saddened to learn of the new policies that the Government of Alberta intends to introduce that will restrict the rights and

freedoms of 2SLGBTQ+ young people in this province. We were shocked at how extensive and draconian they are. [...]

With the introduction of these policies, Alberta will have the most anti-trans legislation in the country; although, some of these policies could also affect all young members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community, not just trans people.

These policies will increase the risk of suicide and at-home violence for 2SLGBTQ+ young people, as well as increase the risk of depressions, anxiety, and other mental health issues.

The government has framed these policies as being supportive toward 2SLGBTQ+ young people, but they are the opposite of support. They are endangering.

We strongly recommend that the Government of Alberta reverse this decision. We hope for your public support in speaking out against these harmful policies that go against the research and evidence of what is best for 2SLGBTQ+ young people.” (Click [here](#) to read the full letter)

Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton (SACE)

"The Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton (SACE) is deeply concerned about the safety and well-being of trans, non-binary, and Two-Spirit youth, particularly those in vulnerable situations or without supportive family environments.” (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

The Queer & Trans Health Collective (QTHC)

"In the last couple of days, the UCP government has unveiled a collection of transphobic and harmful political policies they plan to enshrine into law. While the government states that they wish to “depoliticize the issue,” any decision to restrict freedom, including freedom to access medical care, is inherently a political decision. [...]

We affirm that trans women are women and deserve access to women’s spaces including sport. The proposed policy of creating “biological women and girls” leagues runs counter to evidence that trans women and girls do not have measurable

advantages in sport. We denounce Premier Smith’s portrayal of trans women as a threat to safety in women’s sports. We believe that the government has no place in legislating the actions of sporting leagues beyond ensuring their adherence to human rights laws and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The UCP government’s proposed policies draw upon hateful rhetoric that pathologize gender diversity. These policies are designed to create a moral panic and portray gender diversity as a threat to the province and our society. The real threat is the incalculable harm that their policies will enact upon gender diverse individuals in our society, especially gender diverse children and youth.” (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)



Religious Organizations

The United Church of Canada

“Beamsville, Ontario. Ponoka, Alberta. Summerland and Delta, BC. These are all the towns where United Churches were vandalized during Pride Month last year. The provincial governments of New Brunswick, Alberta, and Saskatchewan have all either considered or implemented so-called parents’ rights bills that restrict consent for trans and questioning youth. [...]

The United Church of Canada joins Affirm United/S’affimer Ensemble and Affirming Connections in urging individuals and communities of faith across Canada to commit to concerted efforts to be Public, Intentional, and Explicit (PIE) in the public square. [...]

We believe that all 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals are created in the Divine image and that advocacy for their human rights is not antithetical to faith, but a central tenet of our religious faiths. [...]

Communities of faith are also called to show up in public places to support gender and sexual diversity, especially now when challenges to human rights in Canada are leading to vulnerability, silencing, and violence against 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

In her 2024 PIE Day message), The United Church of Canada Moderator, the Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, encourages faithful and intentional witness to this affirming work.

We are all called to be present—to broadly heed the challenge to actively work towards a vision of a more loving, boundless, expansive faith—a faith that breaks binaries and reminds us that we are all created in the diversity of God.” (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Regional Bodies of the United Church

The Chinook Winds Region

Rev. Joanne Anquist, Presiding Officer, and Treena Duncan, Executive Minister

"The Chinook Winds Region of The United Church of Canada is in solidarity with Affirming Communities of Faith, Pride organizations, 2SLGBTQIA+ advocates, Queer and Trans youth in Alberta in condemning the Alberta Government’s policy pronouncements that specifically, deliberately, and cruelly target Queer and Trans youth in Alberta.

We believe the policies announced by Premier Danielle Smith will have a direct and traumatic impact on vulnerable youth in our society, denying them the fundamental right to safe classrooms, communities and access to life-giving gender-affirming care.

As an Affirming Region of The United Church of Canada, in solidarity with our Affirming Communities of Faith, we know that God loves all people, and 2SLGBTQIA+ youth should know they are loved, valued and affirmed exactly as they are.

We strongly urge the Alberta Government to reverse its policy announcements and instead work WITH 2SLGBTQIA+ youth, Pride organizations, health care providers, educators, Trans and Queer athletes, and Affirming partners to protect the individual rights, freedoms and opportunities of Trans and Queer youth in Alberta, instead of against them." ([Source](#))

Northern Spirit Region

Rev. Helen Reed

"The announcement from Premier Danielle Smith treats Two Spirit, transgender, non-binary, and gender-diverse people – some of our most vulnerable folk- with such disrespect that it is unimaginable.

In these decisions, despite the Premier's claims that the proposed legislation respects them, some of our most vulnerable children are being sacrificed to an ideology that is discarding their worth and value. [...]

In these decisions the government has decided that it knows better than the folk who are living with family members who identify as transgender. For those who have supportive family or community units, this proposed legislation takes away the ability to fully accompany them in their journey. For those who do not have those avenues of support, it takes away the ability to find the support they need.

This is not compassionate. This is not caring. This is inhumane. These decisions remove support, remove hope, remove life.

Listen to the people that this impacts the most. Hear the despair, fear and anger they feel in this move that devalues them as people.

We must do better for those who are the most vulnerable. We need to speak out against this atrocious flaunting of power at the cost of lives, safety, and dignity. We need to be the places of support and hope and to show them that they are valued and loved for who they are, as they are. (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Prairie to Pine Region

"The current provincial policies in New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, and the proposed legislation in Alberta, are not based on evidence and will cause irreparable harm to trans and gender diverse youth. Ontario and immediate past Manitoba governments have in the recent past expressed the possibility of adopting similar legislation. No place in Canada is free from the threat of transphobic legislation, beliefs, and activities. [...]

Prairie to Pine Regional Council stands firm with Affirm United/ S’Affirmer Ensemble in support of 2SLGBTQ+ youth, and against any form of discrimination or intimidation that puts the lives of 2SLGBTQ+ youth at risk. [...]

This is a frightening time, but in faith, hope, and love there’s a lot we can and must offer. As a starting point, please look at this urgent call from Affirm United/ S’affirmer Ensemble and Alberta’s Affirming Connections. If you or your community of faith wish to write to Alberta Premier Danielle Smith to express concern about the proposed legislation, you are invited to do so using this action, which is open to people from across the country." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)



Canadian Labour Unions

National

Canadian Labour Congress

Bea Bruske - President

"Canada’s unions will not stand for Smith’s tactics to sweep the real issues under the rug at the expense of 2SLGBTQI+ youth. We need to prioritize the health and well-being of 2SLGBTQI+ youth by rejecting transphobic policies. " (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)

"These efforts are part of a growing scaremongering campaign to spread disinformation about trans people, especially trans youth. CUPE members will not stand by as governments and far right groups try to put trans young people in danger, sow division and score political points. We will use every tool we have to ensure that young people are safe and free, and workers are allowed to protect them." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

The National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE)

“On February 1, the Premier of Alberta announced a series of harmful policies attacking some of the most vulnerable members of our society—transgender youth and children. The National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE) condemns in the strongest possible terms these dangerous measures and stands with 2SLGBTQIA+ Canadians and their loved ones.

“I am appalled at the Premier’s and the Alberta government’s outright attack on 2SLGBTQIA+ Canadians, and transgender and gender-diverse children and youth in particular,” said Bert Blundon, President of NUPGE. “The government’s hollow rhetoric of love and support stands in stark contrast to the divisive policies announced last week. What these policies do is force young people to suppress their identities and put them at heightened risk.” [...]

NUPGE and its Components will continue to advocate for the well-being of 2SLGBTQIA+ people in Alberta and across the country and to speak out against hatred, bigotry, and misinformation everywhere.

Governments cannot be allowed to use right-wing dog whistles as a smoke screen to hide their failures of leadership. Alberta, like every other province, is facing severe crises in the cost of living, housing, the number of people experiencing homelessness, and more. It’s time to stop the manufactured moral panic over 2SLGBTQIA+ people, and for governments to focus instead on finding the tangible solutions the public expects.” (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Unifor

"Alberta Premier Danielle Smith’s new plans to block access to gender-affirming medical care for younger teens is a violation of fundamental human rights and will cause avoidable harm to transgender youth, says Unifor." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

United Steelworkers

"The USW maintains that the new legislation is a violation of human rights legislation, as well as equality rights protected under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and is part of a concerted effort to roll back gains by equity-seeking groups.

The union asserts that Smith is promoting division for political purposes." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Alberta

Alberta Federation of Labour

Gil McGowan - President

“We need to be clear about what’s going on here. This isn’t about protecting kids. It’s not even about supporting parents. It’s a political tactic ripped from the playbook of the extreme right in the US, Europe and South America. [...]

Another irony is that existing laws already require parental consent for all surgeries on children – whether it’s surgery for appendicitis or gender reassignment. So, in the name of “parental rights,” the UCP is actually taking away parental rights – which helps illustrate that this isn’t really about parental rights, after all. [...]

Finally, we need to make it clear to our fellow Albertans that, with these policies, the UCP is attempting to divide us, distract us, and manipulate us. It’s a cynical and dangerous political tactic. [...]

Albertans didn’t vote for this dangerous MAGA nonsense. It’s time for all of us to let the UCP know that we see what they’re up to – and that we won’t let them get away with it. They want to divide us. Let’s give them the opposite – an Alberta that is united against their toxic agenda and vile tactics.” (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Alberta Union of Provincial Employees (AUPE)

"On [February 1st], the UCP government in Alberta announced their latest attack on transgender health care, in a shameful disregard for decades of established care protocols for youth.

This decision goes against the recommendations of the Canadian Paediatric Society and countless other institutions which develop guidelines for transgender health care. Danielle Smith’s government continues to show just how desperate the UCP is in 2024 to drum up support through manufactured crisis and anti-science rhetoric.

Transgender children deserve safe spaces which allow them the opportunity to thrive. This is a blatant attack on human rights in Alberta. [...]

“These policies were designed to take away safe spaces and make it impossible for transgender children to be treated equitably,” says Bobby-Joe Borodey, AUPE Vice President and Chair of the Human Rights Committee.

“AUPE strongly condemns this overreach by the government to intrude in the lives of Albertans. When they’re allowed to restrict care for one group of people, the precedent is set for other potential violations,” says Borodey. [...]

AUPE is committed to ensuring that all Albertans are treated with the dignity they deserve, and we will continue to call-out such egregious abuse of power. " (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)



Sports

Canadian Women and Sport

"Canadian Women & Sport has advocated for an equitable and inclusive sport system that empowers girls and women for the past 42 years. We believe that inclusion for women and girls includes trans women and girls. This position is rooted in Canada’s human rights legislation and in our core values.

As equal and valued members of our communities, transgender girls and women have the right to fully access and reap the benefits of sport. " (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Physical and Health Education Canada (PHE Canada)

“The recent announcement of upcoming changes to Alberta’s policies with respect to gender identities is a direct affront to 2SLGBTQIA+ children and youth, and indeed all young people's, health and safety. Physical and Health Education (PHE) Canada unwaveringly supports the rights of 2SLGBTQIA+ children and youth to live as their

true, authentic, and accurate selves. Schools are designed to be safe, supportive environments where children and youth are able to learn equally about the world around them as they are about themselves. PHE Canada affirms that the policy changes undermine the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and go against the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms that protect Canadians from discrimination and hate crimes based on gender identity and expression.” (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

*For more information and resources about transgender inclusion in sport, see [this new report](#) created by The ReCreation Collective.

Rugby Canada

“Rugby participation in Canada will continue to be guided by the organization’s existing Trans Inclusion Policy and the Canadian Charter of Rights & Freedoms,” in which gender identity and expression are protected. It sets a strong precedent that a major rugby governing body has recommitted to ensuring that all participants, including transgender women, have access to programming that is comfortable, safe, and values their right to participate.” (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)



Canadian Politicians and Celebrities

Prime Minister of Canada

Hon. Justin Trudeau

"[Trudeau] said it is "telling" that the Alberta premier unveiled this package of "the most anti-LGBT policies of anywhere in the country," a week after sharing the stage with far-right fired Fox News host Tucker Carlson. ""As a federal government, we will always be there to protect the most vulnerable, particularly vulnerable LGBT youth who need to know that there are people across the country there to fight for them." ([Source](#))

Federal

Federal Minister of Employment, Workforce Development, and Official Languages

Hon. Randy Boissonnault

"We are going to look at every option that we have, and this is our NATO moment as an LGBTQ2S+ community. An attack on one of our communities is an attack on us all, and I need allies and champions to stand up." ([Source](#))

Federal Minister of Health

Hon. Mark Holland

Health Minister Mark Holland said he's "deeply disturbed" by the province's plan, which he said will put children at risk. "I thought we were at a place in this country where we're moving past this ... it's extremely dangerous to engage in this kind of thing, which I think is playing politics when you're talking about children's lives." "We know that the number one reason why kids take their life is problems around sexuality identity," Holland said. ([Source](#))

Federal Justice Minister

Hon. Arif Virani

"I think actually targeting that small minority for some political purpose in Alberta — as it seems that the premier is doing — is not becoming of her office and is in fact actually targeting and perhaps even demonizing those children." ([Source](#))

Federal Minister of Sport and Physical Activity Federal Minister of Sport and Physical Activity

Hon. Carla Qualtrough

"This is exclusion, not inclusion. Trans rights are human rights. All kids have a right to be included in sport." ([Source](#))

Federal Minister of Women and Gender Equality

Hon. Marci Ien

"Everything is on the table, anything that we can do," said Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth Marci Ien.

Speaking with reporters on Parliament Hill, Ien said as the Canadian government waits to see what tangible measures Smith brings in, she won't speculate on what exactly could be done. Instead, she'll be heading on the road to consult those impacted before coming back to the federal cabinet with suggested ways to respond." ([Source](#))

Federal NDP, Leader

Hon. Jagmeet Singh

NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh accused Poilievre and Smith of "attacking vulnerable communities. It should be a decision between a person and their health-care provider... not based on the opinion of Pierre Poilievre," Singh told reporters. ([Source](#))

Alberta

Alberta NDP, Leader

Rachel Notley

"Many Albertans were shocked to watch a message from the premier targeting Alberta's school children," she said, adding that she wanted to tell all children and youth in Alberta that they are loved, welcomed, respected "and there are many Albertans who stand shoulder to shoulder with you today." ([Source](#))

Mayor of Calgary

Jyoti Gondek

"The proposed gender identity legislation announced by the provincial government today is an infringement on human rights, including the rights of trans kids and supportive parents who are navigating a difficult journey." ([Source](#))

Mayor of Edmonton

Amarjeet Sohi

"I urge the Premier and her government to engage with healthcare professionals and other experts, children's advocates, teachers, and most importantly, the 2SLGBTQ+ community before implementing any new policy changes or legislation. Decisions must be based on evidence, not unfounded fear or ideology. [...]"

Government's should not marginalize and discriminate against those they are entrusted to serve. Decisions about access to health care should be made by doctors

on an individual basis and not by politicians. I am deeply worried that reduced access to services further stigmatizes and marginalizes 2SLGBTQ+ youth. Among those groups, mental health concerns, houselessness and suicide are already high. Nearly 1 out of every 3 houseless young people in Canada identify as 2SLGBTQIA+." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Edmonton City Councillor - Ward Papastew

Michael Janz

"Premier Danielle Smith's recent policy announcements are a wholesale attack on trans people. The UCP government has effectively placed itself between children, families and their doctors while removing choices for their healthcare. This will harm children. [...]

We call on Premier Danielle Smith to take action on poverty instead of importing american-style culture wars. Leave the welfare of children to parents, medical professionals, and teachers.

I call upon all my colleagues across municipal governments to affirm their support for trans youth and to denounce Premier Smith's cruel and misplaced priorities. To my trans and queer constituents, our office stands with you, we amplify your voices, and we will organize with you" (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Edmonton City Councillor - Ward Métis

Ashley Salvador

"The proposed gender identity legislation announced by the Premier is deeply saddening, and alarming. The disregard for the risks and consequences this will have for queer and trans kids is extremely concerning.

I urge the Premier and her administration to consult with medical experts, children's advocates, educators, and especially the 2SLGBTQ+ community immediately. Withholding access to healthcare for trans and gender diverse youth, and limited access to safe spaces outside of their home is reckless and harmful. It's crucial that decisions are informed by data and evidence, rather than bias, and ideology. We know that 2SLGBTQI+ youth are among the highest risk for homelessness, as often their families to not accept them for who they are, and government support is woefully

lacking. Many of them subsequently die from suicide, homelessness, and the remainder live with trauma of that rejection for the rest of their lives.

We must stand by our 2SLGBTQI+ community and oppose the erosion of the rights and equality they have earned through decades of struggle and oppression." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Northwest Territories

Department of Health and Social Services

"Gender-affirming health care services continue to be available in the NWT for transgender residents, including children and youth.

In instances where specific services are not available, health care providers have the option to refer to an out-of-territory provider. If the required service is not available in Alberta, alternative pathways for care are in place at other locations across Canada. Like any other insured service, medical travel benefits are provided to eligible residents who are required to travel to access necessary and appropriate health services, this includes gender-affirming care." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Ontario

Premier of Ontario

Doug Ford

"We're leaving everything alone" [we are not considering making similar changes] ([Source](#))

Ontario Minister of Health

Sylvia Jones

Health Minister Sylvia Jones emphasized Ontario would be keeping its gender surgery policy as is — no age restrictions and a requirement for approval from two doctors.

"We're not making any changes as it relates to gender affirming surgeries in the province of Ontario," Jones had said in Peterborough. ([Source](#))

Yukon

Government of Yukon Territory

Tracy Anne-McPhee, YT Minister of Health and Social Services; Jeanie McLean, YT Minister of Education and Minister responsible for WAGE

"Instead of marginalizing young adults who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+, we urge our partners in confederation to focus their resources on lifting children out of poverty, addressing the root causes of inequality and creating a society where every young person can thrive." (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

Celebrities

Artists Against Anti-Trans Legislation in Canada

More than 400 artists living in or hailing from Canada signed this letter to draw attention to the concerning rise of anti-trans legislation in the country, including proposed bans on inclusive healthcare for trans youth in Alberta, and infringement on the freedoms of gender-diverse youth to use their chosen names and pronouns at school without parental consent in New Brunswick and Saskatchewan.

The anti-trans policies taking root in Canada go beyond discrimination - they present a clear risk to the mental and physical well-being of trans individuals throughout the country. The undersigned artists stand against these alarming and destructive policies, and call on our communities and local and national policymakers to put a stop to this concerning surge in anti-trans policy. (Click [here](#) to read the full letter and see the artists who signed)

Tegan and Sara

"At the Juno Awards in Halifax on [March 24], Calgary-raised pop duo Tegan and Sara received a standing ovation after speaking out against policies Alberta's government is proposing that would affect transgender youth.

'If the world were not so hostile to 2SLGBTQ+ people, we would see ourselves purely as musicians,' Sara Quin told the crowd as she and her sister accepted the Juno Humanitarian Award for their work to advocate for LGBTQ2 people. 'Advocating for our community's rights is a great privilege, and we are dedicated to confronting any form of

discrimination that threatens the well-being of our community. Like the Alberta government's attempt to prevent trans youth from accessing vital care.” ([Source](#))

Vivek Shraya

At a NDP Trans Day of Visibility press conference on March 27, Vivek Shraya gave a speech saying, “It’s been devastating to see so much of the amazing progress that has taken place here in this province in the last few decades be threatened and dismantled. Particularly by the laws the UCP says they’ll bring forward. Forcing teachers to out their students to their parents is absolutely not an act of care. This actually forces 2SLGBTQ+ students, who have the right to explore and figure out who they are in school just like their peers to potentially hide who they are and suffer in silence. Refusing treatment and healthcare to kids pushes them to other extremes.” (Click [here](#) to listen to Shraya’s full speech.)



Joint Statements

Joint Statement Signed By 70 Canadian Feminist Organizations

“We, the undersigned, strongly condemn the Government of Alberta’s planned changes to gender-affirming care, education, and sports in the province. These changes amount to an attack on trans people, and in particular trans youth. [...]

The facts are stark and clear; trans, non-binary, and gender-diverse youth in Canada face rates of suicidality, self-harm, anxiety, and depression up to five times higher than same-aged cisgender youth. Trans youth aged 14-18 are the most at risk of experiencing mental health concerns. Supportive school environments, supportive communities, gender-affirming care, and comprehensive sexual education all contribute to improved safety and wellbeing for trans youth—and Alberta’s proposed changes threaten all these protective factors.

Premier Smith’s proposed intrusion into the health care choices of Albertan youth is not neutral, and the proposed changes are not in the best interests of Albertan youth and their families.

We join medical associations across Canada in expressing our concerns about the considerable negative health outcomes that will arise from banning or restricting access to gender-affirming care. Timely gender-affirming care has been widely associated with significant improvements in mental health concerns among trans youth.

Alberta’s announcement is part of an alarming trend of provincial governments throughout Canada infringing the rights of trans youth. This is connected to a wider, coordinated movement to attack gender justice and reproductive rights globally. This movement aims to politicize the health and safety concerns of women, trans, and non-binary people for political gain. Essential medical care and basic rights should not be politicized. [...]

We strongly urge Premier Smith to abandon the proposed policies announced on January 31. We also call on governments across Canada to prioritize protecting the rights and health of trans, non-binary, and gender-diverse youth.

Amid a global backlash against gender justice and trans liberation, we need policymakers to strengthen protections for trans youth and trans communities, not erode them.” (Click [here](#) to read the full statement)

- Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada
- Abortion Support Services Atlantic
- AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia
- Amnesty International Canada English Speaking Section
- Anti-Heroine Media
- Canadian alliance for sex work law reform
- Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies (CAEFS)
- Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity
- Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives
- Canadian Women’s Foundation
- Centre for Gender Advocacy
- Child Care Now
- Child Care Now Coalition of Saskatchewan

- Divergenres
- ElevateHER
Mental Health
Support Services
Canada
- Elizabeth Fry
Society of
Mainland Nova
Scotia
- End Sexual
Violence NL
- Ending Violence
Association of
Canada
- Ernestine's
- Faye Peterson
House
- The Feminist
Campaign School
- Fédération du
Québec pour le
planning des
naissances
(FQPN)
- Gender Affirming
Care Nova Scotia
- Gender Creative
Kids
Canada/Jeunes
identités
créatives
- Halifax Sexual
Health Centre
- Hiatus House
- Interval House
maison interval
d'Ottawa
- Jeunesse
Lambda
- Kingston Interval
House
- La Coalition des
Groupes
Jeunesse
LGBTQ+
- La Débrouille
- Labrador West
Status of Women
- LGBT+ Family
Coalition
- Mattawa
Women's
Resource Centre\
- Mokami Status of
Women Council
- Momentum
Canada
- NAF Canada
- North Shore
Women's Centre
- OCTEVAW
- Ontario
Association of
Interval &
Transition
Houses
- Ontario Council
of Agencies
Serving
- Immigrants
(OCASI)
- Out On Screen
- Oxfam Canada
- Planned
Parenthood NL
Sexual Health
Centre
- Sexual Health
Nova Scotia
- South Asian Legal
Clinic of Ontario
- South Shore
Sexual Health
- St. John's Status
of Women
Council / St.
John's Women's
Centre
- Stella, l'amie de
Maimie
- Tall Tree
Psychology
- Trafficking &
Exploitation
Services System
- TRAPs mtl
- Unifor
- West Coast LEAF
- Women of the
Métis Nation /
Les Femmes
Michif
Otipemisiwak

- Women Transforming Cities
- The Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF)
- Women's Network PEI
- Women's Shelters Canada
- Women's Centre for Social Justice (Womenatthecentre)
- YW Kitchener-Waterloo
- YWCA Canada
- YWCA Hamilton
- YWCA Metro Vancouver
- YWCA Moncton
- YWCA Ontario Coalition
- YWCA Peterborough Haliburton
- YWCA St. John's
- YWCA Sudbury

Joint Statement Signed By Organizations from Alberta

"As citizens of Alberta, we condemn the recent proposals by Premier Danielle Smith seeking to limit transgender healthcare and participation in society. The Premier's suite of measures seeking to restrict healthcare for transgender children, disclose private information regarding their gender identity without their consent and segregate transgender women from participation in sports do not reflect the values of our community.

Any proposal regarding the health and welfare of transgender children needs to include expert medical advice, and involve consultation with all concerned parties; teachers, social workers, families, legal professionals, and most importantly the transgender community. Instead, the UCP's proposal interferes with Canadians' protected charter rights and runs contrary to the evidence-based medical practices and research over the past 80 years.

If implemented, this suite of measures risks placing trans youth who have unsupportive families in harmful situations, segregates trans women from participation in social activities, and limits access to resources for trans youth, even with parental consent." ([Source](#))

- Canmore Pride
- Banff Pride
- Calgary Pride
- Innisfail Pride
- Okotoks Pride
- Pride Southeast Alberta
- Red Deer Queer Community Organization
- Pride YMM

- Taber Equality Alliance
- Calgary Outlink Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity
- Queer Youth Guardians
- Blackbird Electric Tattoo
- Festival of Animated Objects
- Calgary Animated Objects Society
- Body by Chai
- Queer Writers of Calgary
- Rise Above Foundation Red Deer
- Hivemind Projects
- Neighbour Knowledge
- Vegan Street
- Here and Queer Events YYC
- Gay it Forward
- Sew Gay
- Clinic Studio
- Cabaret Calgary Productions
- Detours
- Pansy Club
- HOME A Place for Youth to Live Red Deer
- Foothills Rainbow Connection
- Party Queens
- Fruitloop
- The Attic Bar & Stage
- Dickens Pub
- Rising Tides Taproom
- Congress Coffee
- Anacrusis Music
- Calgary without Patriarchy: Artists' Collective
- QriTical: Queer + Trans Research Hub
- Gender and Sexuality Alliance of Graduate Students' Association (GSA^2) at the University of Calgary
- Generic Lesbian Party
- See Change Collective
- Calgary Inclusive Hockey Association
- Twisted Element Club
- Went my Pants YYC



General 2SLGBTQ+ Calls for Action

Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls – 2SLGBTQQIA

Recommendations

Witnesses who testified at the National Inquiry emphasized the need for greater awareness of 2SLGBTQQIA issues, including the important history and contemporary place of 2SLGBTQQIA people within communities and ceremony, and practical supports and safe places for 2SLGBTQQIA people. Several priority areas were identified, including policing, education, justice, socio-economic priorities, health and healing, and child welfare. Witnesses also focused on guiding principles such as self-determined and culturally-specific solutions for 2SLGBTQQIA people, respect for

human rights, prevention in relation to violence and child welfare, and inclusion of all perspectives in decision making, including youth.

Submissions made to the National Inquiry, specific to 2SLGBTQQIA peoples, reflected the need for a distinctions-based approach that takes into account the unique challenges to safety for 2SLGBTQQIA individuals and groups, including youth.

1. We call upon all governments and service providers to fund and support greater awareness of 2SLGBTQQIA issues, and to implement programs, services, and practical supports for 2SLGBTQQIA people that include distinctions-based approaches that take into account the unique challenges to safety for 2SLGBTQQIA individuals and groups.
2. We call upon all governments and service providers to be inclusive of all perspectives in decision making, including those of 2SLGBTQQIA people and youth.
3. We call upon all governments, service providers, and those involved in research to change the way data is collected about 2SLGBTQQIA people to better reflect the presence of individuals and communities, and to improve the inclusion of 2SLGBTQQIA people in research, including 2SLGBTQQIA-led research.
4. We call upon all governments, service providers, and those involved in research to modify data collection methods to:
 - a. Increase accurate, comprehensive statistical data on 2SLGBTQQIA individuals, especially to record the experiences of trans-identified individuals and individuals with non-binary gender identities.
 - b. Eliminate “either-or” gender options and include gender-inclusive, gender neutral, or non-binary options – for example, an “X-option” – on reporting gender in all contexts, such as application and intake forms, surveys, Status cards, census data and other data collection.
 - c. Increase precision in data collection to recognize and capture the diversity of 2SLGBTQQIA communities: for example, the experiences of Two-Spirit women/lesbians, and differentiations between Two-Spirit and trans identified individuals and between trans-masculine and trans-feminine experiences.
5. We call upon all governments and service providers to ensure that all programs and services have 2SLGBTQQIA front-line staff and management, that 2SLGBTQQIA people are provided with culturally specific support services, and

that programs and spaces are co-designed to meet the needs of 2SLGBTQQIA clients in their communities.

6. We call upon all governments and service providers to fund and support youth programs, including mentorship, leadership, and support services that are broadly accessible and reach out to 2SLGBTQQIA individuals.
7. We call upon all governments and service providers to increase support for existing successful grassroots initiatives, including consistent core funding.
8. We call upon all governments and service providers to support networking and community building for 2SLGBTQQIA people who may be living in different urban centres (and rural and remote areas), and to increase opportunities for 2SLGBTQQIA networking, collaboration, and peer support through a national organization, regional organizations, advocacy body, and/or a task force dedicated to advancing action to support the well-being of Indigenous 2SLGBTQQIA persons in Canada.
9. We call upon First Nations, Métis, and Inuit leadership and advocacy bodies to equitably include 2SLGBTQQIA people, and for national Indigenous organizations to have a 2SLGBTQQIA council or similar initiative.
10. We call upon all governments and service providers to provide safe and dedicated ceremony and cultural places and spaces for 2SLGBTQQIA youth and adults, and to advocate for 2SLGBTQQIA inclusion in all cultural spaces and ceremonies. These 2SLGBTQQIA-inclusive spaces must be visibly indicated as appropriate.
11. We call upon all governments, service providers, industry, and institutions to accommodate non-binary gender identities in program and service design, and offer gender-neutral washrooms and change rooms in facilities.
12. We call upon all police services to better investigate crimes against 2SLGBTQQIA people, and ensure accountability for investigations and handling of cases involving 2SLGBTQQIA people.
13. We call upon all police services to engage in education regarding 2SLGBTQQIA people and experiences to address discrimination, especially homophobia and transphobia, in policing.
14. We call upon all police services to take appropriate steps to ensure the safety of 2SLGBTQQIA people in the sex industry.
15. We call upon all governments, educators, and those involved in research to support and conduct research and knowledge gathering on pre-colonial knowledge and teachings about the place, roles, and responsibilities of

2SLGBTQQIA people within their respective communities, to support belonging, safety, and well-being.

16. We call upon all governments and educators to fund and support specific Knowledge Keeper gatherings on the topic of reclaiming and re-establishing space and community for 2SLGBTQQIA people.
17. We call upon all governments, service providers, and educators to fund and support the re-education of communities and individuals who have learned to reject 2SLGBTQQIA people, or who deny their important history and contemporary place within communities and in ceremony, and to address transphobia and homophobia in communities (for example, with anti-transphobia and anti-homophobia programs), to ensure cultural access for 2SLGBTQQIA people.
18. We call upon all governments and service providers to educate service providers on the realities of 2SLGBTQQIA people and their distinctive needs, and to provide mandatory cultural competency training for all social service providers, including Indigenous studies, cultural awareness training, trauma-informed care, anti-oppression training, and training on 2SLGBTQQIA inclusion within an Indigenous context (including an understanding of 2SLGBTQQIA identities and Indigenous understandings of gender and sexual orientation). 2SLGBTQQIA people must be involved in the design and delivery of this training.
19. We call upon all governments, service providers, and educators to educate the public on the history of non-gender binary people in Indigenous societies, and to use media, including social media, as a way to build awareness and understanding of 2SLGBTQQIA issues.
20. We call upon provincial and territorial governments and schools to ensure that students are educated about gender and sexual identity, including 2SLGBTQQIA identities, in schools.
21. We call upon federal and provincial correctional services to engage in campaigns to build awareness of the dangers of misgendering in correctional systems and facilities and to ensure that the rights of trans people are protected.
22. We call upon federal and provincial correctional services to provide dedicated 2SLGBTQQIA support services and cultural supports.
23. We call upon coroners and others involved in the investigation of missing and murdered Indigenous trans-identified individuals and individuals with non-binary gender identities to use gender-neutral or non-binary options, such

as an X-marker, for coroners' reports and for reporting information related to the crimes, as appropriate.

24. We call upon all governments to address homelessness, poverty, and other socioeconomic barriers to equitable and substantive rights for 2SLGBTQQIA people.
25. We call upon all governments to build safe spaces for people who need help and who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, which includes access to safe, dedicated 2SLGBTQQIA shelters and housing, dedicated beds in shelters for trans and non-binary individuals, and 2SLGBTQQIA-specific support services for 2SLGBTQQIA individuals in housing and shelter spaces.
26. We call upon health service providers to educate their members about the realities and needs of 2SLGBTQQIA people, and to recognize substantive human rights dimensions to health services for 2SLGBTQQIA people.
27. We call upon health service providers to provide mental health supports for 2SLGBTQQIA people, including wraparound services that take into account particular barriers to safety for 2SLGBTQQIA people.
28. We call upon all governments to fund and support, and service providers to deliver, expanded, dedicated health services for 2SLGBTQQIA individuals including health centres, substance use treatment programs, and mental health services and resources.
29. We call upon all governments and health service providers to create roles for Indigenous care workers who would hold the same authority as community mental health nurses and social workers in terms of advocating for 2SLGBTQQIA clients and testifying in court as recognized professionals.
30. We call upon federal, provincial, and territorial governments and health service providers to reduce wait times for sex-reassignment surgery.
31. We call upon all governments and health service providers to provide education for youth about 2SLGBTQQIA health.
32. We call upon child welfare agencies to engage in education regarding the realities and perspectives of 2SLGBTQQIA youth; to provide 2SLGBTQQIA competency training to parents and caregivers, especially to parents of trans children and in communities outside of urban centres; and to engage in and provide education for parents, foster families, and other youth service providers regarding the particular barriers to safety for 2SLGBTQQIA youth.