

Objections to Anti-Homophobia Curriculum in Schools?

Here are some quick responses for educators when talking to parents

<p style="text-align: center;">Parent Rights</p> <p>“This is against our rights as parents to teach our own set of family values.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As teachers, we do not condone children being removed from our classes when we teach about Aboriginal People, people of colour, people with disabilities or gays and lesbians • You can teach your child your own values at home. Public schools teach everyone about respecting diversity and valuing everyone. • This is not about parent rights. Children have the right to an inclusive education free from discrimination. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Religion and Cultural Objections</p> <p>“This is against our religion / culture.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As teachers, we do not condone children being removed from our classes when we engage in anti-racism education. This issue is no different. • All children, including yours, have a right to an education free from discrimination. • Teachers and principals have a legal obligation to respond to all forms of harassment and discrimination in schools. • (Note: Don't enter into debates about meanings or merits of scriptural texts)
<p style="text-align: center;">Sexuality</p> <p>“It’s recruitment or teaching about sex!”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No one suddenly chooses to become lesbian or gay simply because they heard about the topic in school. • Anti-homophobia education at the elementary level does not include discussion about sex or sexual practices. • Secondary students need accurate information about relationships and safe sex. Lack of information can have tragic consequences for youth. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Age Appropriateness</p> <p>“My child is too young for this topic!”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are already learning homophobic slurs starting in the primary years. My job is to make school safe and counter all name calling. • All families deserve to be represented in the curriculum. The mandatory provincial curriculum includes diverse family structures. • It is our job as educators to teach accurate, up-to-date information to every child, including yours.