

CAFA's Statement on Government Attacks Targeting Transgender Youth

Released: December 6, 2024 - The Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations (CAFA) deplores the Government of Alberta's recently passed legislated restrictions targeting transgender youth and trans athletes in Alberta.

This legislation represents significant provincial government overreach into private medical care and child-rearing decisions that should be left to youth and their caregivers. The legislation will also hinder the ability of professional educators to attend to the needs of children under their tutelage.

CAFA believes the provincial government has no role in legislating limits on medical decision-making when it comes to the best interests of Two-Spirit, trans, nonbinary, and gender-diverse children and youth. Two-Spirit, trans, nonbinary, and gender-diverse youth and families should be free to seek medical care without government interference based on ideology.

CAFA is equally disturbed by the UCP's directive to prohibit professional educators from respecting students' chosen names and pronouns. The Alberta government's proposed legislation requiring teachers to deadname and misgender students undermines the professional autonomy of Alberta's educators and will damage the bond between teacher and student that is crucial for successful learning.

CAFA is particularly concerned about the impact these regulations will have on 2SLGBTQIA+ Education students currently in practicums at our universities and more generally about the impact on the next generation of teachers-in-training who will be required by law to not teach evidenced-based sex-education that are contrary to best-practices.

We also have concerns about how the Fairness and Safety in Sport Act will affect intramural sports programs on our campuses. CAFA has raised its concerns that this legislation will lead to boycotts of national championships held in Alberta and other sanctions against our students.

CAFA stands firmly with those who are affected by the proposed legislation that makes schools unsafe for youth. We demand that the Alberta government immediately exempt postsecondary institutions from this legislation's overreach into individuals' private lives and which infringes on our universities' autonomy.