

LONDON WEST GIRLS' GOVERNMENT PETITION

To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

Whereas the Government of Ontario has a responsibility to provide education in a way that is equitable and inclusive; and

Whereas 1 in 7 Canadian girls has either left school early or missed school entirely because she did not have access to period products, and one third of Canadian women under 25 have struggled to afford menstrual products, and menstrual products are a necessity not a luxury; and

Whereas school dress codes are seen by experts as having an unequal impact on male and female students, with typically-female clothing being more strictly regulated, girls being held morally accountable for the actions of other students in response to their clothing, and girls being disproportionately penalized for dress code violations; and

Whereas 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men will experience sexual assault in their lifetime, and women are at the greatest risk of experiencing sexual assault between the ages of 15 and 24, and knowing how to talk about these incidents is critical to getting support; and

Whereas class size increases will reduce the number of trained professionals and educators who are available in schools to support students in learning about healthy relationships and in dealing with dating violence and sexual violence;

Therefore we the undersigned petition the Legislative Assembly as follows:

That the Legislative Assembly increase funding for sexual assault centres to ensure that girls and young women have access to counselling and support, and require all school boards to:

- Provide free menstrual products to all students who may require them in both elementary and secondary schools;
- Involve students in the development and annual review of student dress codes;
- Incorporate the concept of consent in all curriculum about healthy relationships, and implement evidence-based programs about healthy relationships that are specific to boys and young men;
- Address issues around gender identity, sexual orientation, and understanding of self in age-appropriate ways beginning in grade 3, and involve community partners in the delivery of Health and Physical Education curriculum with regard to these topics;
- Provide resources and staff training to support students who have experienced dating violence or sexual violence, and
- Reverse class size increases.

Name	Address	Postal Code	Email or Phone Number