

# SOCIALLY CONSERVATIVE PARENTS' GROUP SETS OUT ON 17-CITY TOUR AGAINST GENDER IDENTITY BILLS



03.03.2017 [Jessica Smith Cross](#)

A socially conservative parents' group has embarked on a 17-city tour of Ontario, rallying support against the two bills that deal with gender identity rights for children.

Parents As First Educators (PAFE) will hold an information-action meeting in Scarborough Friday night, and has already held meetings in Ottawa, Etobicoke and Mississauga, said president **Tanya Granic Allen**, (pictured above, at a rally outside of Queen's Park).

PAFE played a role in the Progressive Conservative sex-ed letter drama that unfolded during the Scarborough-Rouge River byelection last year. PC Leader **Patrick Brown**'s former chief of staff had negotiated with the group for its support, including giving Allen a copy of the anti-sex-ed letter that Brown later recanted.

Sex-ed is on the agenda Friday night, specifically: "How to continue exposing Kathleen Wynne and her S/x-Ed Agenda, and Patrick Brown's support for it."

But the group is also focusing on two new pieces of legislation — Ontario Bill 89, which overhauls the province's child protection legislation, and the federal Bill C-16, the bill that adds gender identity and expression as to the federal human rights and hate crime laws.

Granic Allen said she has general concerns with Bill 89 about the government interfering too much in families' lives, specifically around the addition of language concerning children's rights being taken into account in the best interest of the child. The bill uses the Human Rights Code language, about the "child's race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, family diversity, disability, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression."

"What Bill 89 does do is push gender ideology into the family home, and most families in Ontario are not okay with the government doing that," she said. "I think families, where they may have a five-year-old child present or identify, or say they may feel like a girl or a boy today, or vice-versa, and if a family would not be supportive of that child transitioning, would that now be considered a crime?"

*(Update: Granic Allen says she did not intend to say "crime," and meant, "grounds upon which child services can intervene.")*

Nothing in the bill establishes any new crime. Children and Youth Services Minister **Michael Coteau** has [previously reassured conservative Christian groups](#) that raised similar concerns that the grounds for the apprehension or removal of a child from a home isn't changed by the bill and remain abuse and neglect.

However, he said, by way of example, that he would consider it abuse for LGBT teens to be told their identity is wrong and they should change. "I would consider that a form of abuse, when a child identifies one way and a caregiver is saying, no, you need to do this differently," he said.

Overall, Granic Allen she is concerned about how the law shifts in focus from parental rights, more toward the child's human rights. That is a specific intention behind the bill, referred to as Katelynn's principle, to place the child's rights and wishes at the centre of every decision about their care. It's named after **Katelynn Sampson**, who was abused and died at age 7. Where the child protection used to consider the religion of the family in placement decisions, the new legislation would consider the child's "creed."

"It's a diminishing of the parental role," she said.

Foster parents who love what they do — but don't support the idea that a child's gender identity could be different from biological sex — are worried they won't be able to foster any more, she said.

Granic Allen has similar concerns about C-16, and cited the views of controversial philosophy professor **Jordan Peterson** on the issue.

It should be noted that [C-16 doesn't criminalize any form of parenting either](#), short of "advocating genocide" and "the public incitement hatred" concerning gender identity or expression.

PAFE has teamed up with the Stop the New Sex-Ed Agenda Party in running candidates in recent byelections. The party intends to run a candidate in the Sault Ste. Marie byelection, but doesn't have one yet, Granic Allen said.

Bill 89 is scheduled for the continuation of second-reading debate Monday. So far, all three political parties have said they broadly support the bill and its goals, including Katelynn's principle.

However, PC Children and Youth Critic **Gila Martow** said in debate Wednesday that communities who have these concerns should have them addressed by the government.

“The bill also attempts to focus on the importance of a child's or youth's identity—for example, culture, race, sexual orientation, gender expression, etc.—in how and what services are provided. Many community organizations are raising concerns about what this entails exactly,” Martow said. “I am concerned myself that this Liberal government hasn't done enough to address those communities' concerns. I would like to see a lot of consultation.”