

Message sent to Palliser Regional School Division on February 19, 2018

To Whom it May Concern:

We are sending this message to the superintendent, trustees and principals of Palliser Regional School Division to express serious concerns regarding one of the keynote speakers invited to the Palliser Teacher's Convention on Thursday February 22nd.

Parents for Choice in Education, as an Alberta-based advocacy organization, represents parents and citizens across the province, including many within Palliser Regional School Division.

Based on Palliser's stated commitment to establish and maintain ["a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning and teaching environment for all members of the school community"](#), it is essential that the highest standards of professional public conduct are upheld by organizations and individuals who provide support and resources to the students and staff within Palliser School District.

One of the [keynote speakers listed for the Palliser District Teacher's Convention](#) on February 22nd is Dr. Kristopher Wells, Faculty Director for the University of Alberta's Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services (iSMSS).

We encourage you to review examples of the public conduct demonstrated by iSMSS and its directors*:

Social media sharing of highly sexualized and discriminatory content:

- advertisement featuring naked youth/young adults in sexual contexts
- divisive and inappropriate cartoon comparing Christians to Nazis
- derogatory cartoon of explicit sexual references
- re-tweet of an article that describes, and appears to condone, sexual activity in public spaces

Unprofessional contemptuous public behavior toward parents

- posting letters received from concerned parents to social media, inviting friends to mock parents
- media quote comparing thousands of concerned parents and teachers at a peaceful rally with a violent shooting in the United States

Providing & legitimizing use of sexually graphic material for audiences of children/youth

- provision of “community support” links for K-12 students which directed unsuspecting children to sexually graphic material including videos of naked adults participating in sexual acts, ads for sex toys, highly descriptive oral sex techniques and advice to “pay for porn” and “visit a group masturbation site at your local sex club.”

- legitimizing the use of the Sex A – Z cards with youth, including content such as F is for Felching (“the act of sucking semen from your partner’s butt”) or G is for Glory Hole (“A hole in a wall intended to have anonymous sex through often in washrooms, bars or bathhouses.”)

We fully support teachers receiving the appropriate professional training they require to meet the diverse needs of children in schools and urge Palliser School District leadership and staff to uphold their commitment to a welcoming, caring, safe and respectful learning environment by ensuring that anyone entrusted to provide support to staff and students exemplifies only the highest professional standards of public conduct.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Donna Trimble, PCE Executive Director
Theresa Ng, B.Ed, PCE Communications Advisor

*complete visual evidence is available at:

http://www.parentchoice.ca/school_district_professional_standards (WARNING: viewer discretion is advised)