



PARENTS FOR CHOICE IN EDUCATION

Advocating for excellence in education, through maximum parental choice

parentchoice.ca

June 14, 2019

Dear Speaker of the Alberta Legislative Assembly:

During Question Period on June 13th, 2019, the Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood stated the following:

“The Minister of Education has made a number of references to balance and the groups she’s consulted in her attempts to destroy GSAs and QSAs. In October of last year she hosted an event for a known anti-LGBTQ organization, Parents for Choice in Education, that’s been vocal about their opposition to GSAs. Can the minister please tell this House and all Albertans who else she’s consulted in relation to this hateful bill, and, specifically, has she consulted anyone who doesn’t agree with her on the attack on the rights of LGBTQ youth?” (Alberta Hansard, page 805)

These specific comments referencing our organization, Parents for Choice in Education (PCE), are not only demonstrably false, but are also an insult to the thousands of parents and citizens who stand together with us as we support Alberta students by advocating for excellence in education through maximum parental choice.

When it comes specifically to our advocacy regarding this issue, we [clearly state on our website](#):

Parents for Choice in Education (PCE) advocates for an excellent, quality-oriented, and choice-driven education system which recognizes parental authority.

Note that PCE does not have a stance for or against any specific clubs or activities. What we oppose are any mandates or measures that:

- *remove the capacity of parents and schools to be responsive to the actual needs of students in their schools*
- *undermine a school’s ability to ensure that all activities are cohesive with the foundation upon which the school exists and the reason parents have chosen that setting for their child.*

The statements of mischaracterization made by the Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood regarding PCE have a direct impact on the work we do to represent Alberta citizens on important issues relating to parental choice in education.

This inaccurate portrayal of [PCE’s mission, principles](#) and advocacy work have the potential to negatively impact the perception that elected MLAs have toward our organization, thus limiting our capacity to represent legitimate issues of concern on behalf of our tens of thousands of supporters who reside across the province, in all 87 constituencies.

In addition, an important aspect of our advocacy is equipping citizens to engage with their elected representatives. However, the false and demonizing comments made by the Member for Edmonton-

Highlands-Norwood regarding PCE severely undermine the trust and confidence that citizens have when seeking open, respectful dialogue with their MLAs.

It is a citizen's right to have their voices heard by those elected to represent them. Further, the reputation of public office is severely eroded when elected members misuse their position as a platform to malign Albertans.

This mischaracterization of Parents for Choice in Education by an elected representative from the floor of the Legislative Assembly is unacceptable.

We formally request that the Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood issue a public retraction of the inaccurate representation of our organization and that a correction be made in the record of the Assembly regarding the mission, principles and advocacy work of Parents for Choice in Education.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. Trimble".

Donna Trimble
Executive Director
Parents for Choice in Education