

## Objections to Anti-Homophobia Curriculum in Schools?

Here are some quick responses for educators when talking to parents

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“Parent Rights”</b></p> <p>“This is against our rights as parents to teach our own set of family values.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As teachers, we do not condone children being removed from our classes when we teach about Aboriginal People, people of colour, people with disabilities or gays and lesbians.</li> <li>• You can teach your child your own values at home. Public schools teach everyone about respecting diversity and valuing everyone.</li> <li>• This is not about parent rights. Children have the right to an inclusive education free from discrimination.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Religion and Cultural Objections</b></p> <p>“This is against our religion / culture.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As teachers, we do not condone children being removed from our classes when we engage in anti-racism education. This issue is no different.</li> <li>• All children, including yours, have a right to an education free from discrimination.</li> <li>• Teachers and principals have a legal obligation to respond to all forms of harassment and discrimination in schools.</li> </ul> <p>(Note: Don’t enter into debates about meanings or merits of scriptural texts)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sexuality</b></p> <p>“It’s recruitment or teaching about sex!”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No one suddenly chooses to become lesbian or gay simply because they heard about the topic in school.</li> <li>• Anti-homophobia education at the elementary level does not include discussion about sex or sexual practices.</li> <li>• Secondary students need accurate information about relationships and safe sex. Lack of information can have tragic consequences for youth.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Age Appropriateness</b></p> <p>“My child is too young for this topic!”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children are already learning homophobic slurs starting in the primary years. My job is to make school safe and counter all name calling.</li> <li>• All families deserve to be represented in the curriculum. The mandatory provincial curriculum includes diverse family structures.</li> <li>• It is our job as educators to teach accurate, up-to-date information to every child, including yours.</li> </ul>