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1. Public School Petition Overview

Under Section 269 of the School Act, if 2,000 electors in a city or 100 electors in a rural area sign a petition, the School Board has to convene a public meeting to consider the issues specified in the petition. This way parents will have a greater voice in the formulation of the policy in response to the School Act Section 45.1, 16.1 and the Guidelines recently released by the Provincial Government.

Once the petition is delivered to the school board:

- The board has to set a date for a public meeting within 21 days,
- The actual meeting has to be held within 90 days of the receipt of the petition,
- Once that meeting is called, a committee is to be formed to consider the issue:
 - 4 persons are elected at the public meeting to be the representatives of the parents on that committee;
 - 2 others are appointed by the school board;
 - that committee then has 30 days to form their policy and makes the recommendation to the school board.

2. Essential Petition Requirements (Sections 263-265 of the School Act)

Obtain the required number of signatures (For cities — the lessor of 2000 electors* or 25% of the electors*; For rural areas — 100 electors*):

- Each page of the petition must contain an identical statement of the purpose of the petition,
- Every signature on the petition must be witnessed by an elector (last column on the petition),
- Every signature must have a corresponding complete postal address,
- The same witness must witness all the signatures on any one page,
- Each elector who acted as a witness to the signatures must complete an affidavit and be sworn in front of a Commissioner for Oaths
- The original petitions with corresponding affidavits must be presented by one elector to the secretary of the school board office,
 - Together with a written statement, attached to the petition, as a cover letter:
 - Stating that the elector presenting the petition represents the petitioners, and
 - Stating that the elector presenting the petition is the person to whom the board may direct any inquiries,
 - And giving contact information for that elector.

This is all very important, as the secretary of the school board has to verify that the petition complies with the School Act.

3. Who Can Sign the Petition?

* Electors = All residents of the Public School District including landowners and tenants, over 18, who are entitled to vote in elections for public school trustees for that school district, may sign the petition (as an 'elector').

For more information on the issues go to www.familyshouldknow.com

Core Issues

On January 13, 2016, the Honourable David Eggen, Alberta Minister of Education, released the *Guidelines for Best Practices: Creating Learning Environments that Respect Diverse Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities and Gender Expressions* to all Alberta School Boards, strongly advising them to develop policies that align with the Guidelines. By completing this petition, we will be able to influence School Boards in drafting policies on these alarming core issues addressed in the Guidelines:

1. Parental Rights:

- Parents are recognized as legal guardians of children under Alberta law. Hence, it is unacceptable that children be able to change their identity (name) and gender in the public domain of a school system without parental consent, knowledge, or consultation. We do not accept the government (or school system as an extension of the government) assuming the role of the guardian of our children and particularly in the vital matters of identity, gender and gender expression.

2. Safety / Privacy Concerns:

- The intermingling of genders (male and female) in school athletic activities presents serious potential risks, especially for girls when taking into consideration the physiological and genetic differences in size, aggression and strength between boys and girls in sports and other activities.
- This combined with boys entering the athletic change and shower rooms of girls may displace girls from athletic activities, subject them to risk of injury and potential violations (e.g. emotional, verbal, physical) stemming from common, shared change room exposure. This may lead to potentially diverse legal action directed against the schools and school boards for failing to responsibly and adequately protect children.

3. Balanced Gender Rights:

- We honour and respect the fundamental rights pertaining to race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, gender identity, gender expression, physical disability, mental disability, age, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, source of income, family status or sexual orientation as outlined in the AB Human Rights Act. And to this end, endorse that a multi-gender washroom/change room be available for all students while at the same time preserving the physiological gender-based male/female washrooms and utilization protocol. We view this as a respectable and balanced application of human rights legislation, accommodating all people accordingly without disrupting washroom function of the vast majority of students who would face the potential risk of displacement if they were uncomfortable with shared gender washroom use.

4. Social Change:

- This intent to execute dramatic social change in the strategic arena of public education has intentionally avoided public and parental consultation. We view this as an extreme violation of parental and democratic rights. As citizens of Alberta and electors of the school board, we appeal that the March 31st, 2016 deadline to submit draft policies to the department of education be halted as we submit petitions as per Sections 263-265 and 269 of the School Act of Alberta. As electors we have the right to form a subcommittee under Section 269(5-8) to provide the necessary input in the drafting of all policies pertaining to this subject.

For more information go to www.familyshouldknow.com

AFFIDAVIT OF WITNESS TO PETITION

CANADA
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA
TO WIT:

I, _____ (name of witness)
of the city/town of _____
in the Province of Alberta,
MAKE OATH AND SAY:

1. That attached to this affidavit is a Petition, identified by my signature on the bottom of the page(s) (the Petition)
2. That I am eligible to vote in _____ School Board elections as I am a resident in the area, and a supporter of that school board, and I am therefore an "elector" within the meaning of the School Act (and the Local Authorities Election Act) of Alberta;
3. That I was personally present and did see each of the persons named in the within Petition, (who are to the best of my knowledge and belief also eligible to vote at an election for School Trustees in that school district, duly sign and execute the Petition for the purpose named therein.
4. That the Petition was executed in the Province of Alberta, and that I am the subscribing witness thereto.
5. That each of the said signatory parties are in my belief of the full age of 18 years.

SWORN BEFORE ME at the City/Town)
of _____ in the Province of Alberta,)
this ___ day of 2016)
_____)

witness sign

A COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS IN AND
FOR THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

