



Course Components Notice and Exemption – Health and Life Skills (Grade 8)

NOTICE PURSUANT TO SECTION 11.1 OF THE ALBERTA *HUMAN RIGHTS ACT*

January 5, 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian:

On September 1, 2010, Section 11.1 of the Alberta *Human Rights Act* came into effect. Pursuant to this Act, the Calgary Board of Education is now required to provide parents/guardians with notice "where courses of study, educational programs or instructional materials, or instruction or exercises...include subject matter that deals **primarily and explicitly** with **religion, human sexuality or sexual orientation.**"

Your child is currently enrolled in the Alberta Education **Health and Life Skills** Program of Study in grade eight. The program aims to enable students to make well informed, healthy choices and to develop behaviours that contribute to the well-being of self and others. Three General Outcomes serve as the foundation for Health skills. They include wellness choices, relationship choices and life-long learning choices.

Human sexuality education is offered in grade eight as a mandatory component of the Program of Study and is contained in the following learning outcomes:

Recognize and accept that individuals experience different rates of physical, emotional, sexual and social development; determine the signs, methods and consequences of various types of abuse; identify and describe the responsibilities and consequences associated with involvement in a sexual relationship; describe symptoms, effects, treatments and prevention for common sexually transmitted disease; identify and describe basic types of contraceptives

For more specific information about these learning outcomes, parents may wish to go to <http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/health/programs.aspx>

Instruction involving the subject matter is expected to be provided commencing on: January 12, 2015 (the "Commencement Date").

Pursuant to Section 11.1(2) of the Human Rights Act, you as a parent/guardian may request that your child be excluded from the above-identified instruction, without academic penalty, by having your child either:

- a | leave the classroom or place where the instruction is taking place or where the instructional material is being used for the duration of that part of the instruction; or
- b | remain in the classroom or place where the instruction is taking place without taking part in the instruction or use of the instructional material.

Attached to this Notice is a form. You have two choices:

- If you want your child included in the instruction, there is nothing for you to do. Your child will be included in the instruction.
- If you want to exercise your right to exclude your child by one of the means indicated above (a or b) sign then return the attached *Student Exemption under Section 11.1 of the Alberta Human Rights Act* form or otherwise indicate in writing, to your child's teacher on or before the Commencement Date of the instruction.

If your child's teacher does not receive this form prior to the Commencement date, your child will be included in the instruction.

Only complete and return the attached form if you want your child exempted.

If you would like additional information about the content of this notification, please contact the teacher at 403-777-7680.

Elizabeth Wood, Principal

Teacher



Student Exemption under Section 11.1 of the *Alberta Human Rights Act*

TO: Teacher of Annie Gale School (the "School"), of the Calgary Board of Education.

In response to the Notice provided to me by the Calgary Board of Education indicating that the Grade 8 Health and Life Skills Program of Study in which my child is enrolled, includes subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with human sexuality, I hereby request, in accordance with section 11.1(2) of the *Human Rights Act*, that my child be excluded from the instruction, the exercise or the use of instructional material identified in the notice.

I request that my child: *(check relevant box)*

- ☐ a | Leave the classroom or place where the instruction is taking place or where the instructional material is being used for the duration of that part of the instruction.

OR

- ☐ b | Remain in the classroom or place where the instruction is taking place without taking part in the instruction or use of the instructional material.

I confirm that I am the legal guardian of the student named **below** and have chosen to exercise my right to have my child excluded from the instruction described in the parent/guardian Notice from the Commencement Date and the following dates indicated in the Notice. I also confirm that it is my obligation to ensure that this form is returned to the teacher on or before the Commencement Date of the instruction indicated in the notice.

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date

Print Parent/Legal Guardian Name

Print Student Name

All personal information contained herein is collected by The Calgary Board of Education to fulfill the purpose set out above, is done so pursuant to section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Alberta) (FOIP Act), and is used under the authority of section 39(1)(a) of the FOIP Act.