

Local MLA Supports Bill 10 and Chides Court Challenge is the Only Recourse

Early in May 2016 an email was sent to MLA Greg Clark, with “CC” copies to various MLAs and School Board Chairs, making note of the ATA publication, *Gay-Straight Student Alliances in Alberta Schools – A Guide for Teachers, 2006* (see Section 2.0) and in part stating the following:

Every voice in this social debate speaks from some sort of value system. There can be no “neutral” answers to such far-reaching social issues. The problem is, while claiming only to discourage scapegoating, gay-affirming programs do much more. In reality, they promote a particular worldview, complete with truth claims all students are expected to adopt. These programs promote the value systems of particular social groups (secular humanists and homosexists) and denigrate the views of others (believers in a long-established faiths and heterosexists).

The Government of Alberta has chosen not to protect the millenniums-old Christian worldview espoused within Christian charter schools and Catholic schools, or the values of other traditional religions held within other faith-based educational institutions. Politicians have lost sight that parents have selected faith-based schools precisely because they want their strongly held views and values passed on to their children. The net result of Bill 10 and associated GSA guidance to teachers is parental “civil rights” have been violated and stripped away in an unconstitutional manner, I believe.

Could you please comment on your position regarding Bill 10 and what you believe the future holds for those Albertans wishing to raise their children in traditional religious beliefs and values?

The subsequent email trail went as follows:

Thank you for your email to the Calgary Elbow constituency office regarding MLA Clark’s position on Bill 10. Mr. Clark is a strong supporter of Bill 10 and LGBTQ rights, including the education guidelines that ensure schools are inclusive for transgender students, and others. Please feel free to remain engaged with the office on this, or any other matter. All the best, Constituency Manager, Calgary-Elbow

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To: 'Calgary Elbow'

Again, thanks for getting back to me on MLA Clark’s position on this matter of Bill 10 and related education guidelines, and for remaining “open” to further discussion. The Ministry of Education guidance for handling “diverse” gender identities and expressions in Alberta Schools declares:

- *Self-identification is the sole measure of gender identity (K to Grade 12);*
- *Students will be addressed by their self-selected names;*
- *Students will not be counselled on how to ‘fix,’ ‘change’ or ‘repair’ gender dysphoria;*
- *Personal self-identification information will not be disclosed to parents or guardians without the student’s explicit permission.*

Note that Facebook©2016 lists 58 gender options for users, including: Agender; Androgyne; Bigender; Cisgender; FTM; Gender Fluid; Gender Nonconforming, Questioning or Variant; Genderqueer; Intersex; Neutrois; Pangender; Trans/Transexual; and Two-Spirit.

I contend that “indifference” to a child’s gender expression is not a parenting “Best Practice.”

Could you please respond to the following questions:

Q1. Does Mr. Clark believe parents should be indifferent to gender dysphoria among their children?

Q2. Does Mr. Clark believe some students, regardless of their age, should be empowered to live a double life – dress, act and be called by one gender identity at home and secretly (without parental awareness) live at school in the opposite gender identity and under an assumed name?

Q3. If the answer to either or both questions above is yes, could Mr. Clark give an explanation of his view of the role, responsibilities and rights of parents in raising their children?

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From: Calgary Elbow

You have written to me several times regarding Bill 10 and LGBTQ issues. As I have responded previously, I am a strong supporter of Bill 10 and LGBTQ rights, including the education guidelines that ensure schools are inclusive for transgender students, and others. I appreciate that we live in a country where we are free to express our opinions and concerns and you have expressed those to me as your MLA. I hear your concerns and understand that you do not support Bill 10. **As I’m sure you are aware, as a Canadian citizen, you have the right to challenge any law in court.** I do not share your view in this matter and I will not be taking any action in the legislature to amend or repeal Bill 10. If you wish to contact me on other issues in the future, I would be happy to respond, but I will not be engaging further with you on this issue. [Bold text for emphasis]

Mr. Clark has pitched his political tent in the “LGBTQ rights” camp, anchored to the well organized and powerful GBLTQ lobby. Now complacent, he has turned a deaf ear to constituents who voice concerns with Bill 10. Similarly, the current Government is not interested in amendments to the Bill.

Many Albertans - social conservatives, religious adherents, parents for choice in education, and parents opposed to unwarranted state intrusion into family dynamics, have been politically disenfranchised. It is now up to the courts to hear their concerns, balance constitutional rights, set legal boundaries to the LGBTTIQ2S agenda, and redress grievances arising from Bill 10 and related policies and guidance.