



## DEFINE THIS HATE

Is name-calling of social conservatives “LGBTQ-phobes” appropriate? Many Albertans see this stereotyping as bullying to silence, intimidate and avoid merits of a dispute; manipulative tactics of identity politics. The application of “homophobia” has expanded to: “A disparaging or hostile attitude or a negative bias, which may be overt or unspoken and which may exist at an individual and/or a systemic level, towards people who are LGBTQ” (Ontario Curriculum). Media giant Associated Press in 2012 declared labelling a political stance as homophobia untenable grounds for journalism. Note the terms homophobia/homophobe are not found in the Alberta: Human Rights Act, Bill of Rights, Education Act, Family Law Act, or School Act. To prevent autocratic erosion of freedoms of speech and religion in our schools, we need to legally define what homophobia is and is not, following the Criminal Code 319 Hate Speech model, which includes grounds for defence. A defence text should read: Statements do not constitute homophobia: (1) which are true; (2) which are made in good faith, respectfully expressed to establish by argument an opinion on a religious subject or on a belief in a religious text; and (3) which are relevant to any subject of public interest, for public benefit, which are believed to be true. Alberta Education defines what bullying is not: “Bullying behaviour is sometimes confused with conflict. Conflict is disagreement about different beliefs, ideas, feelings or actions. It is a normal part of healthy relationships.” Social conservatives are not the bullies here.

### **CARMAN BRADLEY**

*(Contrasting opinions are shouted down, aka bullying, rather than debated without anger and name-calling.)*