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[Date]

Dear Premier and Ministers,

I am writing to you today as a resident of Fort McMurray, Alberta, to express my opposition to the new UCP policies banning medical treatments for transgender minors, restricting the ability of transgender female athletes to participate in women's sports, requiring parental consent to opt in to curriculum about gender identity, human sexuality and sexual orientation in school, and requiring parental notification if a student is using a different name and pronouns in school.

These policies are built on a basis of misinformation, stigma, and have not been created in consultation with experts in the fields of healthcare, education, athletics, or with transgender Albertans. They will cause direct and dire harm to transgender Albertans, by serving to erase them from public institutions and further legitimize the hate, violence, and ostricization already faced in disproportionate amounts by the transgender community. They will put the lives and safety of marginalized children and youth at risk, and will remove safe, inclusive spaces where they can live happily and freely.

In both the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Alberta Human Rights Act, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, and age are protected grounds. These new policies are unconstitutional and, as Albertans, we should not tolerate any policy that violates the dignity and threatens the human rights of any person in our province or country.

The UCP claims to be the party of individual freedoms. To enact a bill of parental rights directly contradicts the Charter rights of children, and in these policies specifically, the rights of transgender and gender diverse children. It is a parent's primary responsibility to protect, nurture, and educate their child, but that does not permit the right to take away a child’s autonomy over their identity or their access to safe environments. We know statistically and personally in our own community, that not all homes are loving and safe for the children whom these policies will directly centre and impact. For some transgender and non-binary children, school is the only safe space where they can be themselves and express themselves without retribution or rejection. School may also be the only place youth receive basic sexual health education, with accurate, age-appropriate curriculum.

Research states that when there is a lack of safe, affirming spaces, rates of: youth homelessness, school drop-out rates, youth suicide and suicide ideation increase. We must continue to protect the privacy, human rights, and safety of vulnerable transgender and non-binary children and youth. Schools are institutions where educational professionals are legally and ethically bound to ensure the safety and well-being of all children, which includes protecting transgender and gender diverse children from the harm of being outed against their will or being subjected to the psychological harm of gender dysphoria related to being misgendered or dead-named. Many policies already exist within Albertan public school boards, the Alberta Education Act, and teacher professional code of ethics that ensure parents and guardians are informed partners in their child’s education, and that all decisions surrounding the safety and well-being of children are treated with the highest ethical regard.

The proposed UCP policies also misrepresent the status of trans healthcare access in Alberta. They undermine the need for thorough consultation with those most impacted and those most equipped to make these informed decisions in their own healthcare: transgender people, parents and caregivers of trangender children, and their trusted medical professionals. To impose arbitrary bans on accessing medical treatments such as hormone replacement therapy or puberty blockers, and restricting Albertans access to choosing these as legitimate and evidence-based treatments, is a direct and concerning overstep on behalf of this government into the medical and bodily autonomy of Albertans.

As taken directly from the UCP Alberta Statement of Principles on the UCP website: “As a party, we stand united on the following principles that guide our vision for a stronger Alberta: Affirm the family as the building block of society and the means by which citizens pass on their values and beliefs and ensure that families are protected from intrusion by government.” Transgender Albertans and the families of transgender Albertans deserve to be represented by a government who is willing to universally and consistently uphold its stated principles regarding government intrusion, and this government remains accountable to them. These policies are not reflective of equal opportunities and freedoms for all Albertans.

Identities protected by Human Rights legislation and the Constitution should not be up for negotiation in policy or legislation. I urge you to listen to the voices of your constituents and speak out against these policies as they spread misinformation, and lead to an increase of discrimination and harm in our communities. I encourage you to recognize the voices of your constituents who are in favour of these policies as a need for policies to promote education, inclusion, and diversity, not stifle it. I urge you to stop the advancement of this into legislation and protect vulnerable youth and families who have the right to access evidence-based healthcare, safe schools, and inclusive education.

Please confirm receipt of this letter and advise me as to the next steps you will take in remaining accountable to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in Alberta and challenging these policies that remain in contradiction with human rights legislation and UCP Principles - in consideration of all Albertans.

Regards,

Your Name