

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA
(ON APPEAL FROM THE COURT OF APPEAL FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA)**

BETWEEN:

GLEN HANSMAN

Appellant
(Respondent)

AND:

BARRY NEUFELD

Respondent
(Appellant)

APPELLANT'S RECORD

(Pursuant to Rule 38 of the *Rules of the Supreme Court of Canada*)

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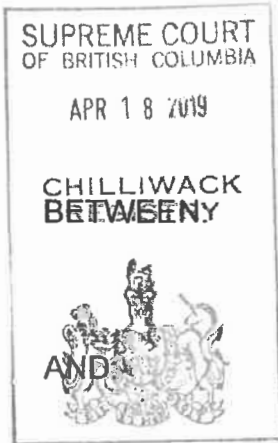
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PART IV (exhibits from trial): Nil

This is the 1st Affidavit
of Sara Dettman in this case
and it was made on April 17, 2019

No.S35152
Chilliwack Registry



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

BARRY NEUFELD

PLAINTIFF(S)

GLEN HANSMAN

DEFENDANT(S)

AFFIDAVIT

I, Sara Dettman, Paralegal, care of the British Columbia Teachers' Federation, Vancouver BC,
AFFIRM THAT:

1. I am a Paralegal with the British Columbia Teachers' Federation, (the "BCTF"), and as such I have personal knowledge of the matters deposed to in this Affidavit except where I depose to a matter based on information from an informant I identify, in which case I believe that both the information from the informant and the resulting statement are true.
2. Attached as Exhibits to this Affidavit is a sampling of Trustee Barry Neufeld's ("Trustee Neufeld" or "the Plaintiff") Facebook posts and media reports related to Trustee Neufeld and SOGI-related issues.
3. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "A"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of the Plaintiff's Facebook page on or around November 23, 2017.
4. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "B"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of a post on the Plaintiff's Facebook page on December 18, 2017 regarding two books.

5. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "C"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of a post on the Plaintiff's Facebook page on December 18, 2017 entitled "Article - Transgender women want male genitalia back after surgery".
6. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "D"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of a post on Natasha Neufeld's Facebook page on January 30, 2018 entitled "News Release by Barry Neufeld".
7. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "E"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of the Plaintiff's Facebook Page on February 14, 2018 concerning an article called "Trans Lobby seeks to Silence Healthy Debate".
8. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "F"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of the Plaintiff's Facebook page on March 19, 2018 on the topic of the medical profession.
9. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "G"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of is a true copy of the Plaintiff's Facebook page on an unidentified day in July 2018 entitled "The Activist Mommy".
10. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "H"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of the Plaintiff's Facebook page on August 29, 2018.
11. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "I"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of the Plaintiff's Facebook page on October 19, 2018 entitled "Elect Kaethe Jones for School Trustee".
12. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "J"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of the Plaintiff's Facebook page on October 19, 2018 with an article entitled "SOGI controversy won't end after the election".
13. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "K"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of the Plaintiff's Facebook page on October 22, 2018 on the topic of his re-election to the Chilliwack Board of Education.
14. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "L"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of the Plaintiff's Facebook page on October 30, 2018 regarding an anti-Semitism lecture at Congregation Schara Tzedek.

15. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "M"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of the Plaintiff's Facebook page on November 3, 2018 regarding the Defendant Glen Hansman and GoFundMe

16. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "N"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of the Plaintiff's Facebook page on November 17, 2018 with an article entitled "School has Seventeen Children Changing Gender".

17. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "O"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of the Plaintiff's Facebook page on November 20, 2018 with an article entitled "London doctor who treated transgender youth disciplined, ends practice".

18. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "P"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of the Plaintiff's Facebook page on November 30, 2018 on the topic of the Chilliwack School Board demonstrating its inclusiveness.

19. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "Q"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of the Plaintiff's Facebook page on December 9, 2018 with an article entitled "Kids are turning to black market sex-change hormones for secret transitions".

20. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "R"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of the Plaintiff's undated Facebook page with three photos of anti-SOGI supporters.

21. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "S"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by CTV News on October 23, 2017 entitled "Trans-friendly curriculum is 'biologically absurd': school trustee".

22. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "T"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by Global News on October 23, 2017, entitled "Chilliwack school trustee: letting kids choose their gender is 'child abuse'."

23. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "U"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by News 1130 on October 23, 2017, entitled "Chilliwack school trustee blasts LGBTQ-friendly school curriculum".

24. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "V"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Chilliwack Progress on October 23, 2017, entitled "Chilliwack trustee calls LGBTQ school program 'weapon of propaganda'".

25. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "W"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by News 1130 on October 23, 2017, entitled "Chilliwack trustee should step down after post about LGBTQ-friendly curriculum, says BCTF president".

26. No **Exhibit "X"** – removed as duplicate of Exhibit "U".

27. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "Y"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Abbotsford News on October 24, 2017, entitled "Abbotsford school board to hear about new LGBT policies, but also from SOGI opponent".

28. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "Z"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by CBC News on October 24, 2017, entitled "Calls for Chilliwack school trustee to resign following Facebook rant on school gender policies".

29. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "AA"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by CBC News on October 24, 2017, entitled "Chilliwack school trustee: Allowing children to 'change gender is nothing short of child abuse'".

30. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "BB"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by CTV News on October 24, 2017, entitled "School trustee's gender identity rant prompts emergency meeting".

31. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "CC"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by Global News on October 24, 2017, entitled "Chilliwack school trustee should apologize for LGBTQ Facebook post says fellow board member".

32. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "DD"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Huffington Post on October 24, 2017, entitled "Barry Neufeld, Chilliwack School Board Trustee, Slams B.C. Gender Inclusivity Program".

33. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "EE"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Langley Times on October 24, 2017, entitled "Langley school district answers top 10 parents' questions about SOGI education".

34. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “FF”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by News 1130 on October 24, 2017, entitled “Controversial Chilliwack school trustee not quitting, yet”.

35. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “GG”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Chilliwack Progress on October 24, 2017, entitled “Chilliwack school board to discuss trustee’s opinions on LGBTQ program”.

36. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “HH”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Chilliwack Progress on October 24, 2017, entitled “Educators speak out against Chilliwack school trustee’s anti-LGBTQ post”.

37. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “II”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Globe and Mail on October 24, 2017, entitled “B.C. school trustee criticizes gender policy, links it to child abuse”.

38. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “JJ”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Toronto Sun on October 24, 2017, entitled ““Nothing short of child abuse”: B.C. school trustee Barry Neufeld blasted for LGBTQ curriculum post”.

39. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “KK”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Vancouver Sun on October 24, 2017, entitled “Chilliwack school trustee blasted for linking gender inclusivity policy to child abuse”.

40. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “LL”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Vancouver Sun on October 24, 2017, entitled “Chilliwack school trustee slammed for comments about LGBTQ youth and anti-bullying curriculum”.

41. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “MM”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by CBC News on October 25, 2017, entitled “Chilliwack school trustee sorry for causing offence with post on gender identity”.

42. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “NN”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by CBC News on October 25, 2017, entitled “Parents deserve better communication of gender and sexuality lessons, says LGBT advocate”.

43. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "OO"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by CTV News on October 25, 2017, entitled "School trustee apologizes to those hurt by gender identity rant".

44. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "PP"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by Global News on October 25, 2017, entitled "Chilliwack school trustee apologizes for gender identity rant on Facebook".

45. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "QQ"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by Kamloops This Week on October 25, 2017, entitled "BASS: Let them be who they are".

46. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "RR"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by News 1130 on October 25, 2017, entitled "Chilliwack school trustee apologizes after controversial Facebook post".

47. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "SS"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Chilliwack Progress on October 25, 2017, entitled "Chilliwack trustee issues apology for Facebook comments".

48. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "TT"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Chilliwack Progress on October 25, 2017, entitled "UPDATE: Former Chilliwack student creates online petition".

49. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "UU"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Georgia Straight on October 25, 2017, entitled "Chilliwack trustee Barry Neufeld apologizes after launching broadside against gender theory".

50. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "VV"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Vancouver Sun on October 25, 2017, entitled "Chilliwack school trustee apologizes to those 'hurt' by LGBTQ comments".

51. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "WW"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Agassiz Harrison Observer on October 26, 2017, entitled "Throness weighs in on Neufeld controversy".

52. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "XX"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by CBC News on October 26, 2017, entitled "'People just don't understand': parent of transgender teen hoping to open debate on gender identity".

53. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "YY"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by CTV News on October 26, 2017, entitled "B.C. trustee apologizes after 'child abuse' comments about gender identity".

54. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "ZZ"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of letters to the Editor published by Surrey Now-Leader on October 26, 2017, entitled "LETTERS: Surrey students agree - LGBTQ lessons belong in schools".

55. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "AAA"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Chilliwack Progress on October 26, 2017, entitled "Column: Chilliwack school trustee should step down".

56. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "BBB"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by Xtra on October 27, 2017, entitled "Chilliwack trustee's ignorant comments show the limits of religion in public life".

57. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "CCC"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of letters to the editor published by the Province on October 31, 2017, entitled "Letters: Only Chilliwack voters should decide trustee's fate over gender comments".

58. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "DDD"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Chilliwack Progress on November 2, 2017, entitled "Chilliwack school district posts plan for sexual orientation talks".

59. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "EEE"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Abbotsford News on November 11, 2017, entitled "New SOGI policies will inform and protect students, LGBT youth say".

60. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "FFF"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of letters to the Editor published by the Province newspaper on November 3, 2017, entitled "Don't need '1950s point of view'" and "Neufeld should resign" (see highlighted page 2).

61. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “GGG”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Chilliwack Progress on November 7, 2017, entitled “Labour council calls for resignation of Chilliwack school trustee”.

62. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “HHH”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of a letter to the editor published by the Langley Times on November 16, 2017, entitled “Letter: SOGI oversteps its bounds”.

63. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “III”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Abbotsford News on November 21, 2017, entitled “Parents rally to support LGBT education in Abbotsford schools”.

64. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “JJJ”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of a letter to the editor published by Global News on November 21, 2017, entitled “Barry Neufeld, Chilliwack school trustee, compares gender transitioning to ‘child abuse’”.

65. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “KKK”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by News 1130 on November 21, 2017, entitled “Anti-SOGI rally and counter-rally in the Fraser Valley tonight”.

66. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “LLL”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Chilliwack Progress on November 21, 2017, entitled “Chilliwack school trustee Neufeld vows to run for re-election on anti SOGI platform”.

67. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “MMM”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Abbotsford News on November 21, 2017, entitled “Chilliwack trustee slated to speak at Culture Guard rally”.

68. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “NNN”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by CTV News on November 22, 2017, entitled “School trustee renews remarks against trans-friendly curriculum”.

69. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “OOO”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Chilliwack Progress on November 22, 2017, entitled “Education minister blasts Chilliwack school trustee on gender issues”.

70. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “PPP”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Abbotsford News on November 23, 2017, entitled “Liberal and NDP MLAs stand together in support of SOGI education”.

71. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “QQQ”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Vancouver Sun on November 23, 2017, entitled “B.C. education minister blasts Chilliwack trustee's 'shameful' behavior”.

72. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “RRR”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by Global News on November 26, 2017, entitled “Trans rights activist reaches out to Chilliwack school trustee who compared gender transitioning to ‘child abuse’”.

73. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “SSS”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Chilliwack Progress on November 29, 2017, entitled “Neufeld announces stepping back from some duties”.

74. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “TTT”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Chilliwack Progress on November 29, 2017, entitled “Select Chilliwack school trustees attend BCSTA ‘academy’”.

75. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “UUU”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of a letter to the editor published by the Chilliwack Progress on December 14, 2017, entitled “Who watches the watchers?”.

76. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “VVV”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Chilliwack Progress on December 18, 2017, entitled “Chilliwack school trustee calls himself a prophet”.

77. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “WWW”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Chilliwack Progress on December 20, 2017, entitled “Chilliwack school board chair blasts Neufeld over continued Facebook posts”.

78. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “XXX”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by Global News on December 21, 2017, entitled “Chilliwack trustee Barry Neufeld faces call from parents’ group to resign”.

79. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “YYY”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Chilliwack Progress on December 22, 2017, entitled “Anti-transgender posters dropped on lawns in Sardis”.

80. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “ZZZ”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Chilliwack Progress on January 5, 2018 entitled “Updated: Neufeld launches letter-writing campaign against DPAC chair”.

81. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “AAAA”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Chilliwack Progress on January 15, 2018, entitled “Chilliwack school board should check code of conduct, says provincial parent group”.

82. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “BBBB”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Chilliwack Progress on January 15, 2018, entitled “Union files human rights complaint over Chilliwack school trustee’s LGBTQ comments”.

83. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “CCCC”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Chilliwack Progress on January 16, 2018, entitled “SOGI rally disrupts school board meeting”.

84. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “DDDD”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by News 1130 on January 17, 2018, entitled “Chilliwack Teachers file motion of non-confidence against Board of Education”.

85. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “EEEE”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Vancouver Sun on January 18, 2018, entitled “Chilliwack teachers say education board has created a ‘toxic’ environment”.

86. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “FFFF”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by CBC News on January 19, 2018, entitled “Chilliwack school board asks trustee to resign over comments about transgender children”.

87. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “GGGG”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the National Post on January 19, 2018, entitled “Minister, board urge B.C. school trustee to resign over LGBTQ remarks”.

88. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “HHHH”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by CTV News on January 20, 2018, entitled “B.C. school trustee vows to stay following controversial LGBTQ remarks”.

89. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “IIII”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Vancouver Sun on January 20, 2018, entitled “Chilliwack trustee Barry Neufeld rejects government’s call for resignation”.

90. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “JJJJ”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of a letter to the editor published by the Province newspaper on January 25, 2018, entitled “Neufeld backlash a ‘disgrace”.

91. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “KKKK”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Abbotsford News on January 31, entitled “School board refuses to host meeting after anti-SOGI trustee plans to attend”.

92. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “LLLL”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Chilliwack Progress on February 14, 2018, entitled “Neufeld brings residential schools into SOGI debate”.

93. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “MMMM”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Chilliwack Progress on April 12, 2018, entitled “BCTF files human rights complaint against Chilliwack school trustee”.

94. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “NNNN”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the National Post on April 15, 2018, entitled “Chilliwack school trustee facing human rights complaint for LGBTQ comments”.

95. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “OOOO”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of a letter to the editor published by the Province on April 20, 2018, entitled “Rights complaint off base”.

96. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “PPPP”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by News 1130 on April 23, 2018, entitled “Duelling rallies outside the BCTF office over SOGI program taught in schools”.

97. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “QQQQ”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an opinion piece published by Burnaby Now on August 8, 2018, entitled “SOGI materials are about being inclusive”.

98. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “RRRR”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Vancouver Sun on September 9, 2018, entitled “Chilliwack school trustee election turning into fight over gender identity resources”.

99. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “SSSS”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Chilliwack Progress on September 28, 2018, entitled “A Chilliwack family’s story of gender identity and acceptance”.

100. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “TTTT”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Vancouver Sun on September 29, 2018, entitled “Government, teachers support SOGI, as opposing rallies staged in Victoria”.

101. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “UUUU”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of a letter to the editor published by the Chilliwack Progress on October 12, 2018, entitled “Former Chilliwack DPAC chair says time for change at school district”.

102. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “VVVV”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by News 1130 on October 16, 2018, entitled “Anti-SOGI trustees won’t be welcome in schools, warns outgoing Chilliwack board chair”.

103. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “WWWW”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by Press Progress on October 16, 2018, entitled “This Man is Probably The Worst School Trustee in British Columbia”.

104. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “XXXX”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Vancouver Courier on October 18, 2018, entitled “Pay attention to school board candidates’ views on SOGI says Vancouver DPAC chair”.

105. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “YYYY”** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Chilliwack Progress on October 19, 2018, entitled “Anti-SOGI school trustee files defamation lawsuit against BCTF president”.

106. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "ZZZZ"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Vancouver Sun on October 21, 2018, entitled "Election results: Voters ignore bulk of anti-SOGI school board candidates".

107. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "AAAAA"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of a letter to the Editor published by the Chilliwack Progress on October 28, 2018, entitled "A mother's perspective".

108. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "BBBBB"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Chilliwack Progress on November 13, 2018, entitled "New Chilliwack school board sworn in after divisive election".

109. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "CCCCC"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Chilliwack Progress on January 16, 2019, entitled "Chilliwack Trustee Barry Neufeld says he's the victim of workplace discrimination".

110. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "DDDDD"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of an article published by the Chilliwack Progress on November 23, 2019, entitled "UPDATE: Founders of defunct autism society shocked at Chilliwack school trustee's fundraiser".

111. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "EEEEEE"** to this my Affidavit is a true copy of a list of video media and video posts in our possession or available online relating to Trustee Neufeld and SOGI-related issues.

112. I affirm this Affidavit in support of the Application of Glen Hansman to have the Plaintiff's case against him dismissed.

AFFIRMED BEFORE ME at Vancouver,
British Columbia on April 17, 2019



A Commissioner for taking Affidavits for
British Columbia

STEFANIE QUELCH
Barrister & Solicitor
100 - 550 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 4P2
Telephone: (604) 871-1907



Sara Dettman

This is Exhibit WW referred to in the
affidavit of SARA DETTMAN
sworn (or affirmed) before me on
APRIL 17 20 19
S. J. Clark
A Commissioner for taking Affidavits
for British Columbia



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Kent-Chilliwack MLA Laurie Throness says Chilliwack school trustee Barry Neufeld is "a great and good person" and that he "feels an obligation to protect him." File Photo

Throness weighs in on Neufeld controversy

Says trustee "deserves respect and kindness"

NINA GROSSMAN / Oct. 26, 2017 9:45 a.m. / LOCAL NEWS / NEWS

Kent-Chilliwack MLA Laurie Throness weighed in on the online backlash brewing around Chilliwack school trustee Barry Neufeld after the District 33 trustee made a Facebook post against gender identity policies in schools on Monday.

[READ: Chilliwack trustee calls LGBTQ school program 'weapon of propaganda'](#)

Throness tweeted Wednesday that the trustee "deserves to be treated with respect and kindness."



Laurie Throness
@LaurieThroness

Trustee Barry Neufeld is a good man, loves children, would never countenance bullying. He deserves to be treated with respect and kindness.

30 8:09 AM - Oct 25, 2017 · Victoria, British Columbia

50 people are talking about this

"I've known Barry for a long time and he is really a great and good person," Throness says. "I feel kind of an obligation to protect him and to stick up for my constituents who I know are good people."

"People who oppose bullying should oppose bullying in all its forms," Throness adds.

"I think, it seems to me that he should be treated with respect and kindness and perhaps instead of demonizing him, we should ask, what caused this nice guy to respond so strongly?"

READ: [Chilliwack trustee issues apology for Facebook comments](#)

It's not the first time Throness has been vocal about matters involving gender identity.

In July, 2016 he spoke at the B.C. Liberal Caucus on Bill 27, the Human Rights Code Amendment Act, saying "gender is not divorced from one's identity."

Bill 27 introduced legislation that made B.C.'s Human Rights Code more explicit in protecting transgender people in the province, adding "gender identity or expression" to the protected ground covered by the code.

Throness told the Liberal Caucus that his beliefs about gender identity are rooted in the Christian faith, that "biology is destiny" and "how we are born is who we are meant to be."

He said that as a matter of law, "the bill was unnecessary."

"In my opinion, this special recognition reflects the strong and growing political influence of the LGBT community," Throness said. "Look at Vancouver or Toronto's Pride parade, these are all displays of power."

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“Politicians and academics, human rights tribunals, the public service, LGBT organizations and the media – all these elements of society are ready to descend on the head of any offender, wielding two great weapons: shame and condemnation at the mere rumor of discrimination.”

MLA Laurie Throness on Bill 27 - Human Rights Amend...



On the subject of Barry Neufeld, Throness says “there’s nothing wrong with openness and transparency and having an open discussion about any government policy.”

“I would defend Barry’s right to speak out strongly about what he believes.”

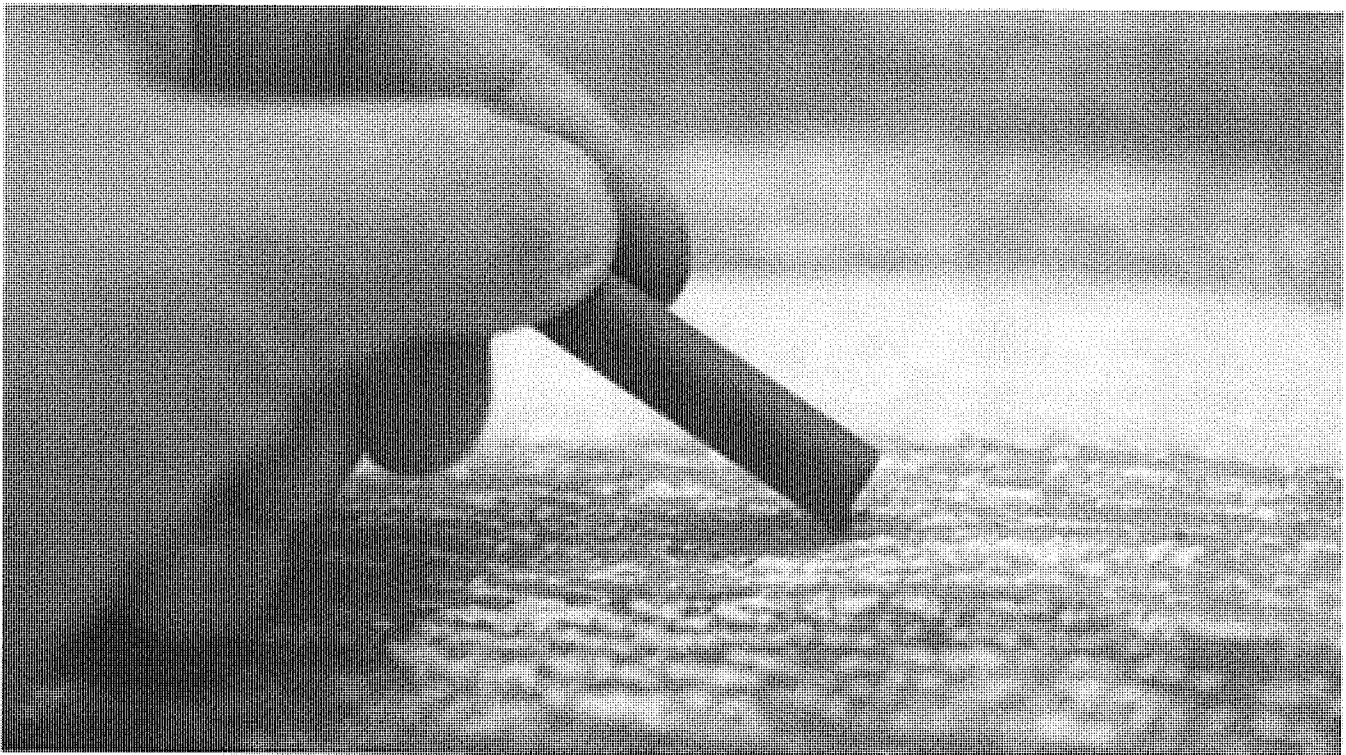
This is Exhibit XX referred to in the
affidavit of SARA DETTMAN
sworn (or affirmed) before me on
APRIL 17 2019
S. J. O'NEILL
A Commissioner for taking Affidavits
for British Columbia

'People just don't understand': parent of transgender teen hoping to open debate on gender identity



Chilliwack parent says there's lots of misconception around sexual orientation and gender identity

Tina Lovgreen · CBC News · Posted: Oct 26, 2017 5:07 PM PT | Last Updated: October 26, 2017



A Chilliwack parent wants to try and help eliminate misunderstandings people might have about gender identity. (Purple Sherbet Photography, Flickr)

Darren Kennedy's daughter was in Grade 10 when she began her transition from male to female.

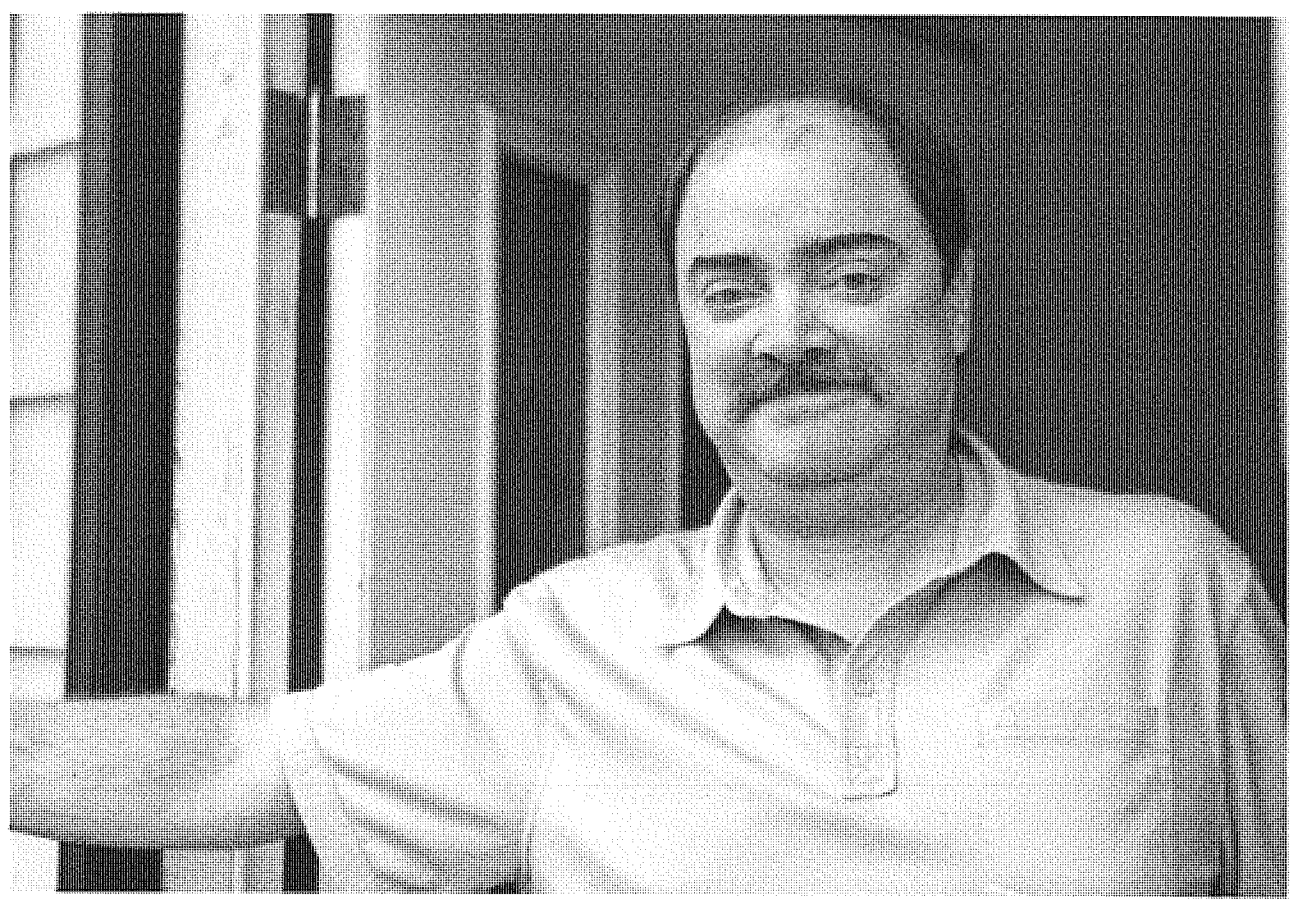
His biggest worry was how his community in Chilliwack would react.

"What are they going to think? All I could relate to was when I was in high school in the 80s," he said, worried his child would get harassed.

"She's going to get teased, bullied, beaten, hurt. You have these visions in your head that someone is going to put her in the hospital or worse," he said.

But he says none of those things happened.

"[Because] the kids understand, the kids were cool with it ... Kids, nowadays, understand what's going on. It's the older people that have the problem," he said.



Chilliwack parent Darren Kennedy is hoping to open debate and discussion around gender identity in the wake of the recent controversy over sexual orientation and gender identity. (Tina Lovgreen/CBC)

Kennedy says he's willing to talk to those who are against the B.C. sexual orientation and gender identity resource material (SOGI) available in the classroom, including long-serving Chilliwack school trustee Barry Neufeld who has since apologized for the way in which he denounced it in a Facebook post.

"I think the biggest problem is that people just don't understand and how do we solve that? Through debate and communication.

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Neufeld says he's against implementing SOGI without a review that engages parents and teachers.

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021

Trinity Western University education professor Matthew Etherington believes both sides need to be heard and understood, without being ignored or ridiculed.

But he says there needs to be an understanding that both sides will never fully agree on the topic.

"We will never [entirely] agree on this, ever. This will never be a topic we will all agree on, because it is an ethical issue," said Etherington.

However, Etherington says both sides share similar principles.

"Both believe in children's rights and believe in justice and care of the child — believe in all the same things but just look at it very,very differently," he said.

Neither side, he says, is advocating for hate, but yet, each side sees the other as the enemy.

"There is a winner and loser."

He says the divisiveness and name calling need to end.

This is Exhibit YY referred to in the
affidavit of SARA DETTMAN
sworn (or affirmed) before me on
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B.C. trustee apologizes after 'child abuse' comments about gender identity

A B.C. school official who used social media to rant against the province's new trans-friendly curriculum has now issued a public apology.

Barry Neufeld, a trustee for the Chilliwack School District, wrote on Facebook Monday that he felt that the school district's new curriculum which instructs teachers to recognize students' right to self-identify their gender is "biologically absurd."

He also wrote that gender theory is "the latest fad" and that "allowing little children choose to change gender is nothing short of child abuse."

On Wednesday, Neufeld issued a statement to say his remarks were directed at the lessons themselves, not certain people.

"I am critical of an educational resource, not individuals," he said in a written statement.

He said that those who have worked with him at the district for the last 24 years "know that I DO believe in inclusion and a safe learning environment for all of our students, that they should be protected from all forms of bullying and intimidation."

Neufeld added he believes in the importance of "respectful discussion and dissent," and that he hopes the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) 123 curriculum will be thoroughly reviewed by parents and teachers before it's implemented.

The SOGI 123 curriculum aims to educate children about gender identity, promote inclusion, and discourage bullying.

Neufeld's lengthy Facebook post, which is no longer public, was met with more than 100 comments, with most expressing alarm at his stance and calling for him to resign, and others congratulating him for speaking up.

The post prompted the Chilliwack Board of Education to hold a closed-door, emergency meeting Tuesday night.

The board later issued a statement to say it does not agree with the opinions Neufeld expressed in his Facebook post and that the new curriculum keeps the school district in line with the B.C. Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms as well as the province's Human Rights Code.

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(BCSTA image)

LETTERS: Surrey students agree – LGBTQ lessons belong in schools

Social justice students at Fraser Heights Secondary say they are disappointed in critics' reactions

Oct. 26, 2017 10:37 a.m. / [LETTERS](#) / [OPINION](#)

The Editor,

Re: "Opponents of LGBTQ program to file human rights complaint against Surrey School District," the *Now-Leader* online.

I am a Grade 12 student at Fraser Heights Secondary in Surrey. I believe that schools should be enforcing these LGBTQ topics in class to bring awareness to every single student.

It is absolutely crucial to be aware of the current society surrounding us. Not only does this help promote positive outcomes for LGBTQ youth, it also fosters a more accepting school environment.

- **Opponents of LGBTQ program to file human rights complaint against Surrey School District**

Many LGBTQ teenagers experience depression, anxiety and guilt or shame that stem from how family, friends and the public treat their sexual orientation or gender identity.

By talking about these issues in school starting from a young age educates students to accept these people just like anyone else.

Moreover, it leads to more acceptance and less bullying.

Schools should start incorporating these topics in not only high school, but elementary school as well.

Angela Chang, Surrey



Vera LeFranc
@VeraLeFranc

Congratulations to Fraser Heights students for these articulate, sensible and kind letters. Our children have a lot to teach us.

Surrey Now-Leader @SurreyNowLeader

LETTERS: Surrey students agree – LGBTQ lessons belong in schools
- surreynowleader.com/opinion/letter...

3 11:37 AM - Oct 26, 2017

See Vera LeFranc's other Tweets

The Editor,

I am a high school student at Fraser Heights Secondary and I am taking a social justice class that teaches about LGBTQ+ community issues.

In my opinion, this issue needs to be taught in schools. This topic is a civil rights issue and not teaching it in schools today would be like saying that students should not be taught about racism and discrimination. Moreover, many students who attend schools might be or are part of this community and do not feel that they are "normal." These discussions about the LGBTQ will help change their views about themselves and help students feel safe at school.

- **READERS REACT: Surrey School District refuses to rent Bell Centre for Parents United Canada rally**

Exposing students to this topic helps them be prepared for real life because the reality of the situation is that there will be people that aren't heterosexual. Some encounters will also consist of people identifying to themselves as a different gender than the birth gender. Students should know the correct political terms and make others feel comfortable. Importantly not adding the LGBTQ community in the curriculum would be saying that their history and struggles aren't real and important.

This topic also helps students become more empathetic and have an open mind towards others. Adding the LGBTQ community issues are important in civil rights movements and also broadening the horizons of students to prepare them to be better citizens.

Read more below

Muskan Jaswal, Surrey

The Editor,

I am a grade 12 student at Fraser Heights Secondary and I am enrolled in our school's social justice program. I am writing you to express my disappointment in the response from our community towards the SOGI activities and learnings within Surrey schools.

I have lived in Surrey my whole life and have always been proud to live in a community that is so accepting of multiculturalism and has always been a great place for kids to learn and explore new things.

- **Chilliwack trustee calls LGBTQ school program 'weapon of propaganda'**

This is why I am shocked that some of the parents of Surrey are not OK with their children learning about LGBTQ rights and that we are trying to break the barrier between homophobic mannerisms and the LGBTQ community.

The schools are not forcing children into homosexuality but rather they are educating them on the subject so that we can, as a community, as a country, and as a world united as one, accept LGBTQ people and be supportive of their decisions.

I am accepting of others opinions but as a Grade 12 student who has seen the effects of homophobia and kids growing up with improper education related to the LGBTQ community, it is evident that the SOGI curriculum is necessary.

Samuel Enchelmaier, Surrey

The Editor,

As a high-school student, currently learning SOGI curriculum, this article really hits home. I cannot express how thankful I am that I have been educated on this topic.

Open-mindedness is a skill not only valuable for its benefit to society but also in creating students who are well rounded, future members of the workforce. It is far too often that we dismiss these skills, in favour of students regurgitating information.

- **Educators speak out against Chilliwack school trustee's anti-LGBTQ post**

As a student, I am tired of having my educational desires, and needs misrepresented by a small number of adults, who are incapable of accepting change. It is paramount that these individuals who criticize this education, understand that the information being given to students is meant to make them more accepting and respectful individuals; it is not meant to take away from the personal views of families in the community.

Read more below

The Surrey school district is doing an excellent job of educating us on the value of being respectful citizens, and I hope that this curriculum continues for many more generations to come.

Victoria Kozar, Surrey

The Editor,

I agree that each individual has the full right to express one's opinion and thoughts with one another. However the world has come across a variety of significant changes and has advanced in so many ways which need to be considered.

It is essential to keep up or at least be aware of the improved society. Regardless of a person's moral views, it is a fact that humans have a diverse array of sexual orientations and gender identities.

To only teach about one sexual orientation, to ignore gender minorities and to suggest that a heterosexual marriage is the only acceptable relationship for sexual activity makes the experiences of the LGBTQ people invisible and portrays an inaccurate image of human sexuality.

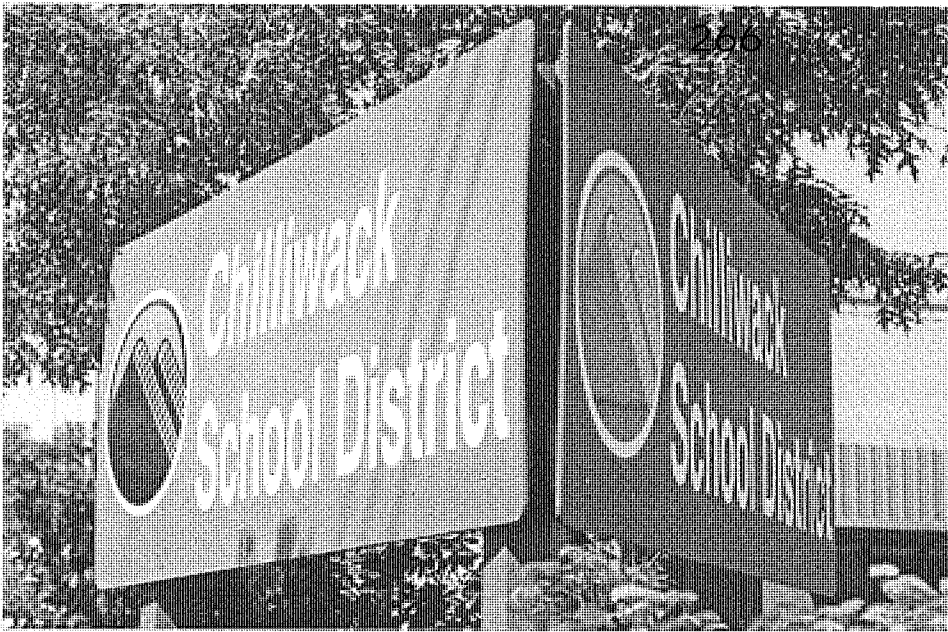
- **Being LGBTQ is a choice, say parents who packed Langley school board meeting**

We should prepare the youth of all sexual orientations and gender identities to feel good about their sexuality, teach them how to make safe and responsible choices involving relationships and sexual activity and allow them to appreciate or at least tolerate the gender and sexual diversity of their peers and community members.

Therefore, incorporating LGBTQ+ topics and perspectives into the curriculum is essential because everyone is unique in their own way and it is important to accept that we as humans deserve to be who we want to be, do as we wish unless it is disrespectful and against the law, and of course be able to love whomever we want.

Riva Verma, Fraser Heights Secondary

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Column: Chilliwack school trustee should step down

Fueling fear is not encouraging dialogue

GREG KNILL / Oct. 26, 2017 4:00 a.m. / COLUMNISTS / OPINION

Chilliwack school trustee Barry Neufeld is entitled to his opinion.

But when that opinion conflicts so profoundly with the institution he was elected to join, it is time for him to resign.

Neufeld sparked a storm of controversy this week by branding education ministry policy on gender tolerance as “propaganda,” driven by “radical cultural nihilists.”

His comments came in a public Facebook rant that has since been taken down. The target was the ministry’s Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity curriculum – SOGI.

That program has been several years in the making, begun by the previous Liberal government. It’s designed to provide educators with the tools necessary to create a more tolerant and inclusive atmosphere for students to learn in. It recognizes that the

traditional model of the nuclear family is at odds with reality, and that the language used in school can be hurtful to those students who don't fit that stereotype.

It was not created in a vacuum. SOGI reflects changes to B.C.'s Human Rights Code and the fact that all public school boards must have policies in place that protect students from harassment and bullying based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

This is not about being "politically correct." It accepts the evidence that a more tolerant and inclusive learning environment saves lives.

States B.C.'s education ministry: "Policies and procedures that explicitly reference SOGI have been proven to reduce discrimination, suicidal ideation and suicide attempts for all students."

Not everyone is convinced, and Neufeld is not alone in his criticism. One of the most outspoken groups is "Culture Guard," which has been organizing meetings throughout the Lower Mainland and appealing directly to "faith leaders" to "expose this evil and stand against it."

Like Neufeld, it cites the socially conservative splinter group "American College of Pediatricians" – created to oppose adoption by gay couples – for evidence.

According to Kari Simpson, the group's executive director, "SOGI lesson plans incorporate well-known brainwashing techniques, designed to create confusion in children, and to exploit their vulnerability."

Not true, say program supporters. The Chilliwack Teacher's Association and the Chilliwack School District say SOGI is not a class, but an approach that can be incorporated into any part of the school day.

Indeed, SOGI does not encourage a particular lifestyle, nor does it attempt to change anyone's sexual orientation. It simply acknowledges that there are differences and those differences should not be the subject of insult, ridicule or violence.

"How can teaching respect and inclusion be a bad thing," asks fellow Chilliwack trustee Dan Coulter.

Coulter wasn't the only trustee to distance himself from Neufeld's comments. The entire board met Tuesday evening, issuing a statement Wednesday morning reaffirming its commitment to a safe and inclusive school environment.

"The Board of Education strongly believes that its schools need to be safe and welcoming places for all students, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, race, religion or background, and that all students deserve to be welcomed, included and respected in a safe learning environment while being fully and completely themselves."

Neufeld has since apologized to anyone offended by his comments and has called for a full review by parents and teachers before SOGI is fully implemented in Chilliwack.

Hollow words from someone whose evidence is suspect, and whose mind is clearly made up.

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OPINION

🕒 3 min

Chilliwack trustee's ignorant comments show the limits of religion in public life

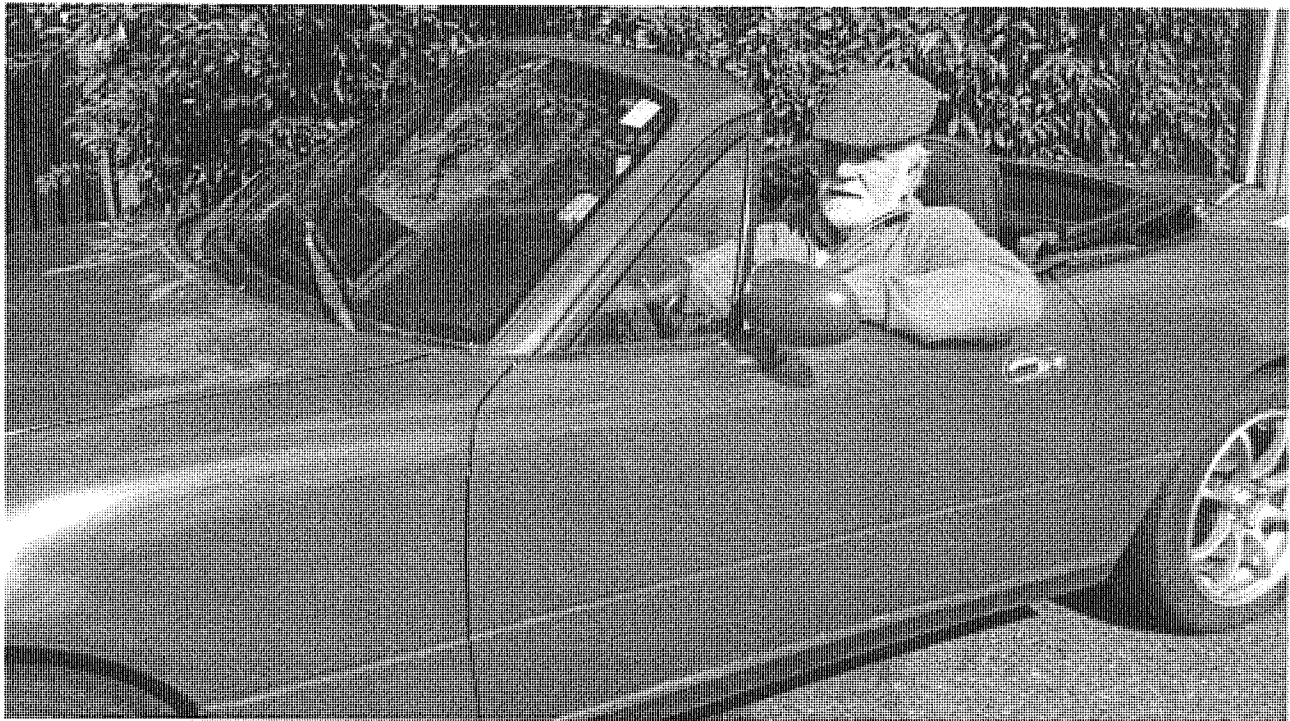
What Barry Neufeld has in common with Quebec's new niqab ban



By Arshy Mann

Oct 27, 2017, 6:10 PM EDT

Last updated Oct 28, 2017, 1:19 AM EDT



Credit: Barry Neufeld/Facebook

It's impolite to talk about religion in public. And that goes doubly in Canada, a country imbued with far less spiritual fervour than our neighbours to the south.

But the past few weeks, Canadians have become uncharacteristically interested in what goes on in the hearts of the godly.

Is a Toronto imam a virulent anti-Semite or a misunderstood man who flubbed a phrase? Does the new NDP leader want an independent Sikh homeland carved out of India? Did Bill Morneau provide a human sacrifice to our Reptilian overlords at this year's Bilderberg meeting?

And then of course there's Bill 62 in Quebec, which, in an attempt to bully a few dozen burqa- and niqab-wearing Quebecers, would also force people to take off their sunglasses and stare deep into their bus driver's eyes before they can enjoy the privilege of being crammed into a moving metal box.

Perhaps all of this renewed religious tension is inevitable. After all, it was 500 years ago this month that Martin Luther nailed what amounts to a medieval version of an overly-long tweetstorm onto a church in Wittenburg, sparking awkward theological discussions and 130 years of uninterrupted bloodshed.

I don't imagine that Barry Neufeld, a school trustee in Chilliwack, BC, and a devout Christian, has much love for the Protestant Reformation. Though he grew up in the Protestant tradition, he converted to Orthodox Christianity later in life.

And Neufeld takes religion very seriously.

He volunteers as a prison chaplain and sits on an interfaith advisory committee for the Correctional Service of Canada.

But it was because of his religiously-inflected comments on LGBT rights that Neufeld made headlines across the country this week.

"At the risk of being labelled a bigoted homophobe, I have to say that I support traditional family values," he wrote Oct 23 on his Facebook page, which is now private. "Allowing little children choose [sic] to change gender is nothing short of child abuse."

While the fact that a school trustee can have such poor grammar must strike terror in the hearts of educators, it was the bigoted content of his diatribe that got the most attention.

He cited as a source the American College of Pediatricians, a fringe group of doctors who founded their group to oppose LGBT rights. And he linked to an article by the Center for Family and Human Rights, which the Southern Poverty Law Center has named an anti-LGBT hate group.

"If this represents the values of Canadian society, count me out! I belong in a country like Russia, or Paraguay, which recently had the guts to stand up to these radical cultural nihilists," he wrote.

I wouldn't be offended if Neufeld chose to self-deport, his subsequent weak apology notwithstanding. But unfortunately, he's not the only religious person in a position of power making choices about LGBT youth.

On the other side of the Rockies, Alberta's Catholic schools are trying to introduce a parallel sex education system so they don't have to normalize such horrors as homosexuality, masturbation or gender. Like Ontario, Alberta has a publicly-funded Catholic school system.

While they've been thoroughly slapped down by the province's NDP government, both Jason Kenney and Brian Jean, the frontrunners for the United Conservative Party leadership, have sided with the Catholic schools.

Given these religiously-motivated outbursts, even the most chauvinistic Quebec-basher might start to think that Quebec secularists have a point. Maybe it is better to marginalize religion in the public sphere as much as possible.

But the proponents of Bill 62 have much in common with religiously-motivated Christians like Neufeld: they both seek to further marginalize oppressed minorities. When religion is used as a tool of oppression, it's unacceptable. When secularism is used as a tool of oppression, it's unacceptable.

But there can be a healthy role for religion in public life. It can motivate action against injustice and push people to provide comfort to the afflicted, something Neufeld has clearly done through his prison ministry.

Yet religion can also blind. Neufeld's views are soaked in homophobia and transphobia. If he could only see that queer and trans children in this country are suffering. They are not attempting to impose a nihilistic moral order on the faithful, but simply want to be protected from harm and seen as full human beings.

Neufeld is able to see prisoners as people worthy of compassion and love. It's a shame he can't see that same truth for queer and trans children.

Editor's note, Oct 28, 2017: An earlier version of this story misspelled Jason Kenney's last name.

This story is filed under [Education](#), [Sex ed](#), [Canada](#), [British Columbia](#), [Religion](#), [Gender](#), [Identity](#), [Opinion](#)

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Xtra

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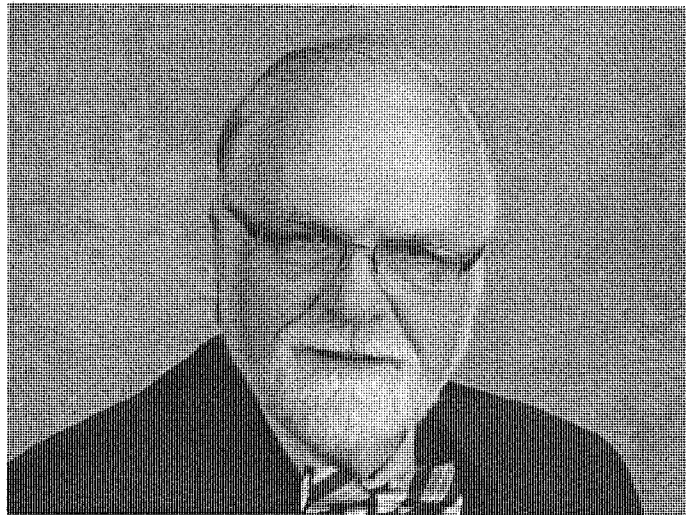
Letters: Only Chilliwack voters should decide trustee's fate over gender comments

U PROVINCE
OPINION
[More from Province Opinion](#)

Published:
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Filed Under:
The Province › Opinion › Letters



A Chilliwack school trustee has issued an apology after he shared a Facebook post that criticized LGBTQ-friendly and inclusive policies and curriculum. BARRY NEUFELD / FACEBOOK / PNG

Chilliwack school trustee Barry Neufeld has the right to an opinion, and just because his personal opinion does not espouse the politically correct line of the day, does not mean he is incapable of doing his job or is unwilling to obey the laws when doing it.

Having an opinion that goes against what some people feel is acceptable is not a reason to suggest he should be fired. B.C. Teachers' Federation president Glen Hansman's lack of tolerance and acceptance of Neufeld while demanding it from him is bigotry.

Special-interest and minority groups often lack the tolerance they are so quick to demand of others by attacking and labeling anyone who dares to disagree with them. History has shown us what happens when people are attacked, silenced and fired for daring to speak up, when those who claimed to have ownership over what people were allowed to think or say goose-stepped through the streets.

Neufeld has done nothing illegal. The only people who should have a voice in whether he keeps his job are the voters of Chilliwack during the next election.

Perry Coleman, Delta

Us versus them

TRENDING VIDEOS



LAW & ORDER: ADD Successful Defence on I Driving Charge

The people and groups trying to shame Chilliwack school trustee Barry Neufeld for his opinions on gender issues and claiming that those who do not share their views should be punished are lowering Canada to "them versus us."

If ever this is going to be an inclusive society, then counter-opinions should be allowed, according to the laws and freedoms we enjoy in Canada.

Steven James, Vancouver

'Discomfort' isn't too Canadian

Letter-writer Peter Randrup believes he is "defending the culture and customs" of a country he loves by expressing his "discomfort" with burkas and niqabs.

Canada has been a place of safe haven for refugees fleeing war since the days of Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier, before any of us were born. We've been a multicultural country for well over 40 years. We must, therefore, understand that what we consider to be Canadian culture is a reflection of the multicultural country in which we live, and that means our culture is representative of all the cultures that call Canada home.

Perhaps Randrup should consider that his discomfort with someone else's attire is in no way comparable to the discomfort felt by someone who has to deal with daily intolerance by others in a country that is also their home.

Scott Henderson, Vancouver

The law is the law

Wearing a veil has nothing to do with someone using a scarf for protection from the cold, as suggested by letter-writer Tariq Azeem. The Quebec law requiring removal of the veil for identification purposes is not a ban on wearing a veil.

Why does anyone think someone can refuse to show their face for identification when all others are required to? Everybody needs to follow the rules.

John Gledistch, Burnaby

Not down with D.S.T

Daylight Saving Time increases the risk of heart attack and/or stroke for days after the switch. It can also trigger mental illness, including depression, and has been linked to headaches and even miscarriages. According to studies, suicides and traffic and workplace accidents all increase.

If some sort of cigarette or environmental situation were to cause such havoc, folks would be shouting from the rooftops.

Setting our clocks forward or backward no longer serves a purpose and is detrimental in too many ways.

John Ratcliff, Ladner

THIS WEEK'S FLYERS



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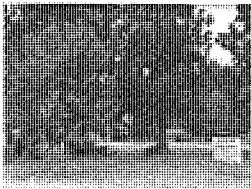
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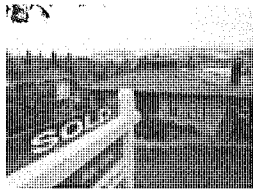
LAW & ORDER: ADD Successful Defence on Dangerous Driving Charge

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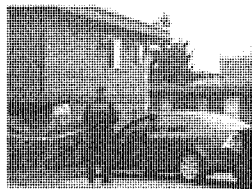
TOP STORIES



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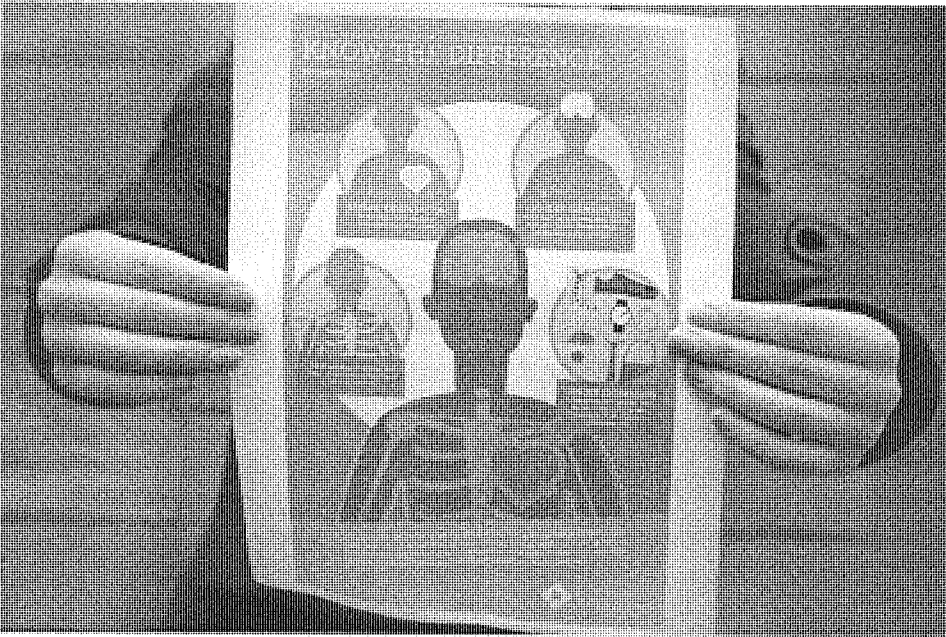
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Langley School District has created a top 10 Q & A for parents who want answers about SOGI education. (Langley Times file photo)

Chilliwack school district posts plan for sexual orientation talks

Issue kicked off by earlier Facebook post from trustee Neufeld

JESSICA PETERS / Nov. 2, 2017 10:04 a.m. / NEWS

The discussion on gender identity in Chilliwack is far from over.

The school district is under the spotlight following a public statement by a long-time school board trustee, slamming sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) curriculum that is now available to all teachers in the province.

That trustee, Barry Neufeld, has not responded to a request to speak about his views, but he did issue an apology two days after he posted a rant on his Facebook page.

In the original post, he commended Russia and Paraguay for their strength in fighting “cultural nihilists.” He likened gender identity acceptance to child abuse, and made it clear he is supporter of “traditional family values.”

In his apology two days later to those who may have been hurt by his words, he said that more discussion still needed to be had surrounding SOGI.

READ: Educators speak out against Chilliwack school trustee's anti-LGBTQ post

Now, the Chilliwack School District has published a PowerPoint presentation on their website that spells out the district's planned implementation of SOGI in schools. That report likely will be a part of the superintendent's report at the Nov. 7 public meeting.

"We strongly believe that our schools need to be safe and welcoming places for all, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, religion or background, and that everyone deserves to be welcomed, included and respected in a safe learning environment while being fully and completely themselves," it says.

That includes "all individuals regardless of where they identify on the sexual orientation or gender identity spectrums, including but not limited to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirit, heterosexual, pansexual and cisgender."

"Sexual orientation and gender identity" (SOGI) is a term used by the BC Human Rights Code to describe an area of prohibited discrimination, the presentation reminds the viewer. However a group that is backing Neufeld's initial statement, called the Culture Guard, is committed to shouting down SOGI and fighting for what they feel are Canada's values.

They have been holding meetings across the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley to garner support for their anti-SOGI movement, led by Kari Simpson.

They have not held a public event in Chilliwack to date. But while Neufeld has apologized for hurting people with his comments, the Culture Guard has latched onto his words.

In a petition of support they are publicizing, they say, "Let's send a clear message to the radical left-wing sex activists within the BCTF: that they don't get to abuse our children and the public education system for their political agenda."

The presentation on the Chilliwack School District website clears up some of the statements made by Culture Guard.

The main point is that there is "no separate and distinct SOGI program or curriculum. Sexual orientation and gender identity are important topics that are interwoven through several curriculum areas, most notably, physical and health education, language arts and social studies."

It gives a timeline for discussions to come over the next year, beginning with an update to the board regarding Strategic Planning and SOGI, curriculum connections and resources this fall.

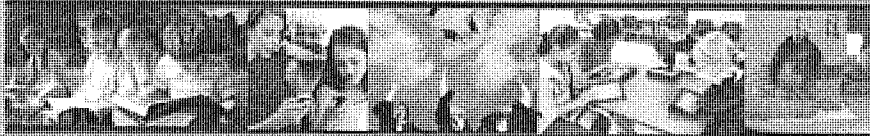
The discussion will continue to refer back to the Safe School Policy and be in partnership with the Ministry of Education. For those with more questions, the school district points to a website created by the Langley School District.

READ: Langley school district answers top 10 parents' questions about SOGI education

[SOGI PowerPoint Presentation by Jess Peters on Scribd](#)



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New SOGI policies will inform and protect students, LGBT youth say

KELVIN GAWLEY / Nov. 3, 2017 9:20 a.m. / NEWS

Emmet Gebhart was a 16- or 17-year-old W. J. Mouat Secondary student and reading online about asexuality and non-binary gender identities.

“And I thought, ‘Oh, that makes sense. I guess that’s me.’”

Gebhart didn’t learn about different sexual orientations and gender identities in school. Before that day, Gebhart hadn’t processed the idea that there were people who did not feel sexual attraction or identify as either male or female.

Now 18 and studying business at the University of the Fraser Valley, Gebhart says new school policies teaching about sexual orientation and gender identity can only help the next generation.

“I probably would have come out in middle school because it was something I was aware of but I thought something was wrong with me.”

0:00

In February, the Abbotsford board of education passed a provincially mandated anti-bullying administrative procedure spelling out gender identity and sexual orientation as protected classes. A set of education materials, known as SOGI 123, is now available to teachers across B.C. to help them address the topics.

The policies have come under fire from a group of parents and activists who say schools are trying to brainwash students into becoming gay or transgender.

"It's kind of painful to watch," Gebhart said of coverage of anti-SOGI activists and online commentary.

"I don't think education is going to change your child's identity, unless they were already questioning," Gebhart said. "And it's OK to question sometimes. It's good to kind of learn more about yourself and if it's for you, it's for you, and if that's not who you are, then you pretty quickly figure that out."

SOGI policies are more than theoretical words on district documents; they can keep kids safe when executed properly, says Gebhart's friend Kaleb Boulter.

While a student at Abbotsford Senior Secondary, Boulter, who also identifies as non-binary and asexual, was not yet "out" to their parents when a teacher nearly did so without Boulter's consent.

(Boulter prefers the gender-neutral pronouns “they,” “their” and “them.”)

At Boulter’s request, teachers were using their preferred name – Kaleb – but did not have permission to use that name on an interim report card sent home.

“Luckily, my parents’ initial response was. ‘Oh, [the school] must have a mix-up in the files. That’s totally fine.’”



But if Boulter’s parents were more transphobic and learned about their child’s identity that way, they could be put in danger, Boulter said.

Boulter, 17, transferred to Mouat and eventually to studying by distance, in part to escape a difficult social environment for a queer kid.

Ashes Hansen, another non-binary, asexual-identifying member of the friend group who also uses gender-neutral pronouns, said they have looked over the SOGI material.

Hansen said students, starting from a young age, will now essentially be taught that there are a variety of gender identities and sexual orientations and identifying with them is OK.

“God, I wish I had those resources,” the 19-year-old said, referring to their time as a younger student.

The resources will also help teachers better understand sexual orientation and gender identity, and be able to support their students, Hansen said.

Hansen was asked what they would say to community members concerned about the effects of SOGI education in Abbotsford schools.

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"You've definitely met queer people before and it was definitely OK," they said.

"Your grandkids, your kids, they're going to be fine; they're going to learn about other people or maybe about themselves and, all around, they're going to be more educated and maybe happier and better people because it's easier to empathize and be kind to people when you have a better understanding of them."

@KelvinGawley

kelvin.gawley@abbynews.com

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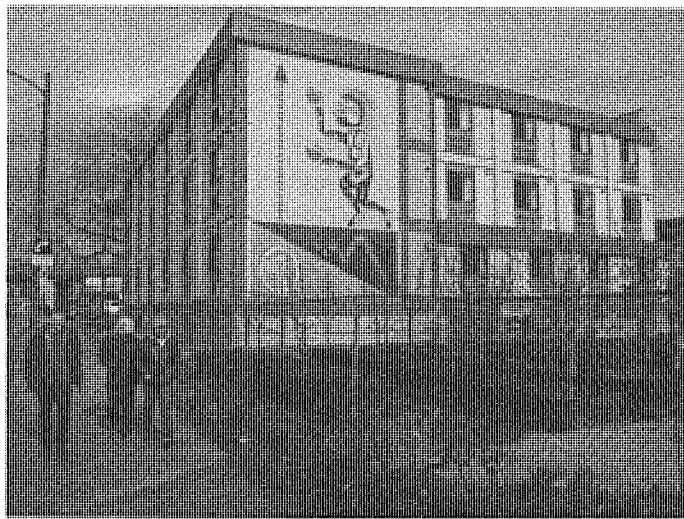
Letters: Putting homeless housing near two schools a 'goofy plan,' says reader

0 PROVINCE
OPINION
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November 2, 2017

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November 2, 2017 10:00 PM PDT

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[The Province](#) › [Opinion](#) ›
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Vancouver's first modular housing project was officially opened in February on Main Street at Terminal Avenue. The city hopes to build 600 more such units, spread across up to a dozen complexes throughout Vancouver by the end of this winter. Jason Payne / PNG

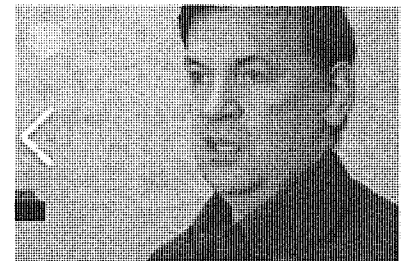
Vancouver City Hall's announcement last week about the construction of modular housing for the homeless at 650 West 57th Ave. is politics run amuck and jaw dropping, to say the least.

The project is a Frisbee throw from Winston Churchill Secondary and Sir Wilfrid Laurier Elementary. No doubt some of the residents in the shelter will be harmless, but among them will be people who colour outside the lines of social norms. Parents drive their children to school in part to avoid interaction with ne're-do-wells, so does it make sense to drop them off where those very individuals may be congregating?

Child-raising is challenging enough without putting kids in the position of witnessing drug culture and overdoses. The only positive in all this will be the students getting to marvel at the skills of the first respondents who will be working on some poor soul, comatose, on their school grounds.

I'm going out on a limb here to say that none of the politicians and advocates behind this goofy plan live in this area or have their kids

TRENDING VIDEOS



LAW & ORDER: ADD Successful Defence on Driving Charge

Barry Craig, Vancouver

Must have affordable housing

The never-waning greed and lust for profit of developers needs to be reined in yet again. The absence of social housing in the new 105 Keefer St. proposal in Vancouver should be the red flag for city council to deny this once more.

ADVERTISEMENT



Every commercial, residential project should have a mandatory amount of affordable housing. This is the only way that working-class citizens can survive in the Vancouver housing market.

George Porter, Vancouver

Don't need '1950s point of view'

When I read that people say Chilliwack school board trustee Barry Neufeld is entitled to his opinion about the LGBTQ community, that is true. But as a trustee, a certain level of competence and truth is required.

We are supposed to have progressed beyond Neufeld's pathetic, ignorant, deplorable 1950s point of view. Only people like U.S. President Donald Trump and his supporters, with their regressive policies, want to claim the past as being relevant today.

Edward Fox, Surrey

Neufeld should resign

Schools are public services covered by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the B.C. Human Rights Code. School trustees like Barry Neufeld in Chilliwack who are unwilling or unable to respect those two fundamental laws as they relate to students should step down.

There is a precedent in B.C. that there should be no discrimination against the LGBTQ community in schools. Twelve years ago, a B.C. teacher who espoused anti-gay views was disciplined by the employer and by the regulatory body overseeing teaching certificates. The discipline was upheld by the courts.

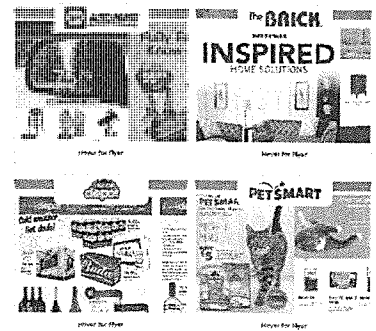
Neufeld can have his personal views and express them. However, where this intersects with his role in the public education system, he must check his personal and discriminatory views at the door.

Glen Hansman, president, B.C. Teachers' Federation

Not too skookum

I agree that Stanley Park is busy enough and that putting the Skookum event there is a bad idea.

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will be forced to drive. That will not only affect the West End, it will also affect commuters from the North Shore, creating gridlock on both bridges.

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The city should pick a more central location so people can get there from all directions.

Teresa Mireault, Vancouver

Letters to the editor should be sent to provletters@theprovince.com. The editorial pages editor is Gordon Clark, who can be reached at gclark@postmedia.com.

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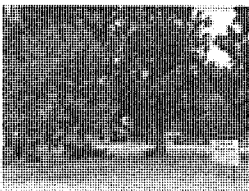
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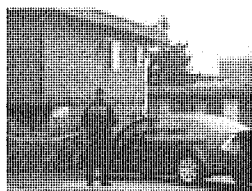
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Labour council calls for resignation of Chilliwack school trustee

Fraser Valley Labour Council had endorsed Barry Neufeld in past election

Nov. 7, 2017 4:00 p.m. / NEWS

The Fraser Valley Labour Council has withdrawn its support for Chilliwack school trustee Barry Neufeld and has called for his resignation.

The labour group says Neufeld's comments on the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity program (SOGI) deny students and staff a safe learning environment, and put the school district at risk of breaching the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

"Comments like these have the potential effect of denying students a learning opportunity to ensure success," said FVLC president Danielle Pohl. *(Read entire letter below)*

If Neufeld does not step down voluntarily, the FVLC said, he should be removed.

The labour council's comments come in the wake of a statement Neufeld posted in October on Facebook, calling the SOGI program a "weapon of propaganda," driven by "radical cultural nihilists."

READ: [Chilliwack trustee calls LGBTQ school program 'weapon of propaganda'](#)

Said Neufeld: "I can no longer sit on my hands. I have to stand up and be counted."

His comments, while drawing some support, were widely condemned. Both the Chilliwack Teachers' Association and the B.C. Teachers' Federation called for his resignation. Education minister Rob Fleming stopped just short, saying he hoped Neufeld would eventually change his position. The Chilliwack school board issued a statement citing its support for inclusiveness.

Neufeld did [issue an apology](#) to anyone offended by his comments.

But that apology did not go far enough, said Pohl.

"The apology issued does not address accountability, responsibility, the seriousness of harm caused or the reparation of that harm. I urge the chair and entire board to take steps to repair the harm that has been caused."

Pohl said SOGI equips teachers and school districts "with the necessary awareness and education to create safe and inclusive environments and protect themselves and school districts from discriminatory practices and human rights code violations."

The SOGI program was on the agenda at the Nov. 7 school board meeting, where trustees were [given an overview](#) of its intent and plans for its implementation. Neufeld was absent from the meeting, but trustee Heather Maahs spoke out against SOGI. She called on the Minister of Education to reconsider the implementation of

SOGI, saying she is concerned about parental authority and teachers “undermining parents in regards of when and what is being taught.”

“This is all so woven in,” she said. “The lines are very fuzzy when we’re talking about sex and sex ed.... the SOGI program is clearly an overstep.”

Trustees Walt Krahn, Bob Patterson and Paul McManus spoke in favour of creating safe spaces for all students.

“We are here for all students, and all students means just that, all students,” Krahn said.

Patterson said to meet their goal of providing academic achievement, students need to be comfortable about who they are, while McManus said it’s ultimately up to parents to to be initiating conversations with their own children’s teachers and administrators.

Read the entire letter from the FVLC here:

[FVLC Re Barry Neufeld by Jess Peters on Scribd](#)

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Letter: SOGI oversteps its bounds

28063

Nov. 16, 2017 5:00 a.m. / LETTERS / OPINION



Editor: RE: SOGI needs to go back to the drawing board (the *Times*, Nov. 8).

I agree that SOGI (Sexual Orientation and

Gender Identity) needs to go back to the drawing board.

Some of the goals of SOGI are good — such as the need to address the issues of protection and inclusion where in the past there has been marginalization.

Absolutely every child should be treated with dignity and respect at school.

The problem with SOGI is that one of its stated goals is to compel students to “recognize and value” certain ideas about sexual-orientation and gender identities and expressions.

Whoever wrote SOGI knew that not everyone agrees with the position taken on these issues, myself included, yet no provision was made for these people who disagree.

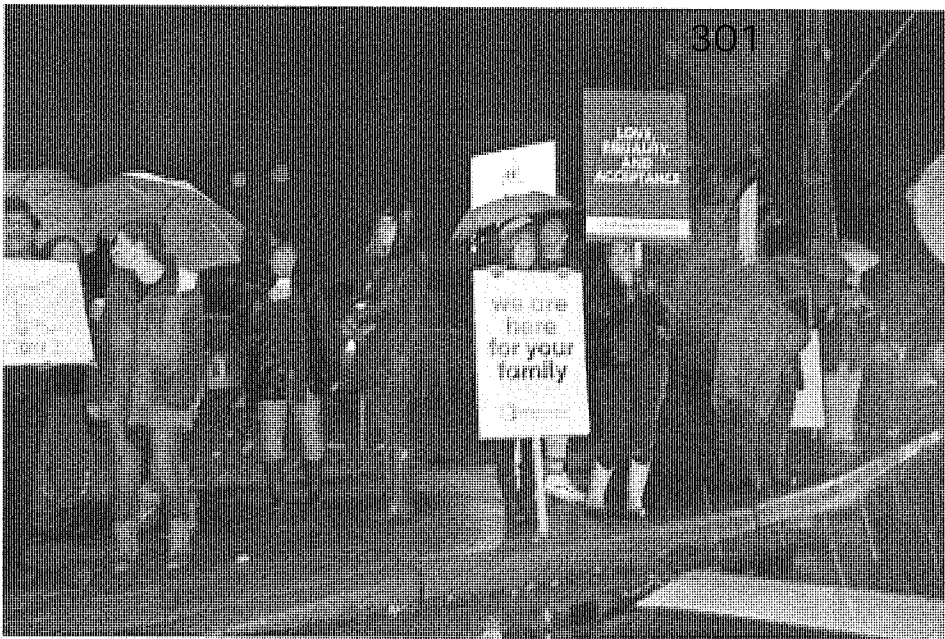
It is possible in democratic society to respect other people, even when not everyone shares the same beliefs.

SOGI oversteps its bounds by compelling students to embrace something that many disagree with, rather than respecting their right to hold their own beliefs.

Send SOGI back to the drawing board.

Nick Schock,

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Parents rally to support LGBT education in Abbotsford schools

Small demonstration held in the rain to counter anti-SOGI rhetoric

KELVIN GAWLEY / Nov. 21, 2017 7:05 p.m. / NEWS

Undeterred by a damp, cool evening, approximately 50 people rallied in favour of inclusivity in Abbotsford schools Tuesday.

The demonstration was organized by BC Parents for Inclusivity in response to recent opposition to provincially mandated anti-bullying policies and education materials relating to sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI).

READ: [Conservative activists rail against LGBT curriculum in Abbotsford](#)

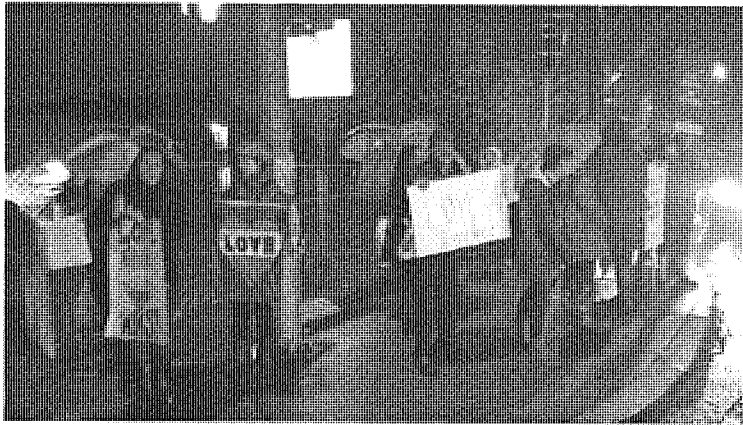
Ralliers stood in the rain in front of Colleen and Gordie Howe Middle School on Clearbrook Road. They waved to passing cars with signs reading “love wins” and “you can’t fix hate but you can vote it out,” among others.

Opponents to the policies, passed by the Abbotsford school board last February, have called them "brainwashing" that will make more students gay, lesbian and transgender.

READ: New SOGI policies will inform and protect students, LGBT youth say

Colin McKenna, president of PFLAG Vancouver, said the rally was meant to bring attention to the issue and counter misinformation about SOGI 123 education.

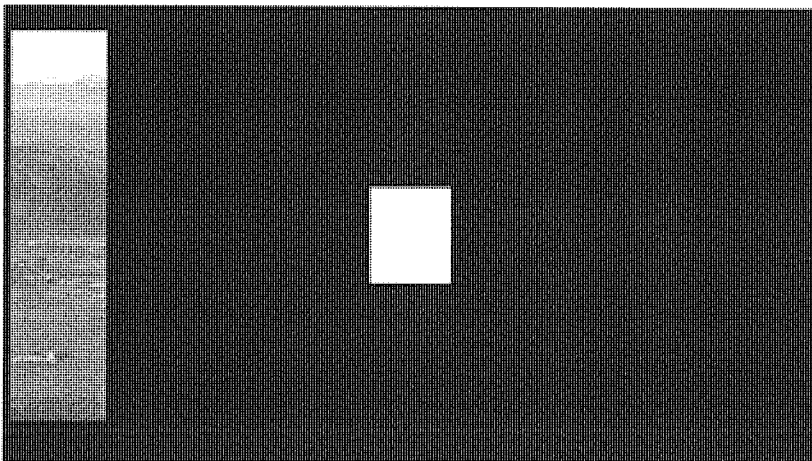
Kelvin Gawley @KelvinGawley · Nov 21, 2017
Some very brave and wet people are rallying in favour of #SOGI #LGBT education in #AbbySchools. #Abbotsford #bced #bcpoli



Kelvin Gawley @KelvinGawley

A little video from this evening's damp rally for inclusion in #AbbySchools. #Abbotsford #bced #bcpoli
pic.twitter.com/6p1pVN5iDI

3 6:23 PM - Nov 21, 2017



See Kelvin Gawley's other Tweets

"There's a lot of fear, there's a lot of misinformation being spread about the curriculum and about the intent," he said. "What we really want to ensure is [that] people know that LGBTQ people are here, they matter."

Charlene Ciabarella, whose transgender daughter graduated from the Langley school district, said she wishes the SOGI policies had been in place earlier.

"I think if the SOGI program had been in her kindergarten, grade 1, if she had it growing up, her life would have been completely different ... she told me she knew when she was three but she just didn't know what it was," Ciabarella said. "She wouldn't have had to feel like an outsider."

@KelvinGawley

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Barry Neufeld, Chilliwack school trustee, compares gender transitioning to 'child abuse'



By Jesse Ferreras

Online Journalist Global News

WATCH: After initially apologizing, Chilliwack school trustee Barry Neufeld is now doubling down on his criticism of a curriculum that supports LGBTQ inclusivity. Aaron McArthur reports.

Last month, Chilliwack school trustee Barry Neufeld wrote a Facebook post in which he said allowing kids to choose their gender was "child abuse."

Two days later, he issued an apology to "those who felt hurt" by his opinion.

On Tuesday night, Neufeld made similar remarks to a roomful of people at Chilliwack's Evergreen Hall, where he said that rushing into gender reassignment treatments such as hormone therapy is "child abuse."

WATCH: Chilliwack trustee rallies against LGBTQ program

Neufeld's remarks came as part of an event organized by Culture Guard, a group that works to end what it calls the "political tyranny of politically-correct idiotology."

The event was a rally aimed at stopping the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) program, an educational resource that is aimed at supporting "marginalized LGBTQ students."

"SOGI in my opinion is an institutionalization of co-dependency, encouraging and enabling dysfunctional behaviour and thinking patterns," Neufeld said.

He then said that students in Chilliwack schools are coping with various problems such as addiction — an issue that has to be treated "assertively."

Neufeld then called gender confusion a "sexual addiction."

WATCH: Backlash after school trustee criticizes LGBTQ program

"Instead of coddling and encouraging what I regard as the sexual addiction of gender confusion, I believe children should be gently encouraged to be comfortable with their bodies," he said to applause and cheers.

Neufeld subsequently referred to SOGI as a "subtle but powerful suggestion that perhaps there is something wrong with the child. That all children should consider rejecting their own gender identity."

Here's a full video of Neufeld's speech, posted to Facebook by Laura-Lynn Tyler Thompson, another speaker at the rally:

He cited *Red: A Crayon's Story*, a book about a red crayon who discovers that he's actually blue. It's recommended as a book about gender identity in a SOGI lesson plan.

"In kindergarten books like *Red: A Crayon's Story*, educators perpetuate the lie that a child might actually be a girl in a male body or vice versa," Neufeld said.

"This is gaslighting, the attack on the foundation of a child's being, which is child abuse.

"Furthermore, I consider that the rushing into the use of puberty blockers, hormone therapy and gender reassignment is child abuse."

But not everyone at the rally was there to support what Neufeld was saying.

Also present at the Evergreen Hall were people who support the SOGI curriculum.

One of them was Morgane Oger, a former BC NDP candidate who narrowly lost to BC Liberal MLA Sam Sullivan in the riding of Vancouver-False Creek during May's provincial election.

Oger said people at the rally were putting forward an image of SOGI that is "not based on fact."

"The fact of the matter is the SOGI curriculum, the issue at hand here, is an extension of the law," she said.

"The Human Rights Code requires that this material be taught, it's the same material we have for anti-racism, protection of newcomers, First Nations, anti-sexism.

"It's a standard curriculum that all children learn, it's a requirement based on our Human Rights Code."

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Morgane Oger.

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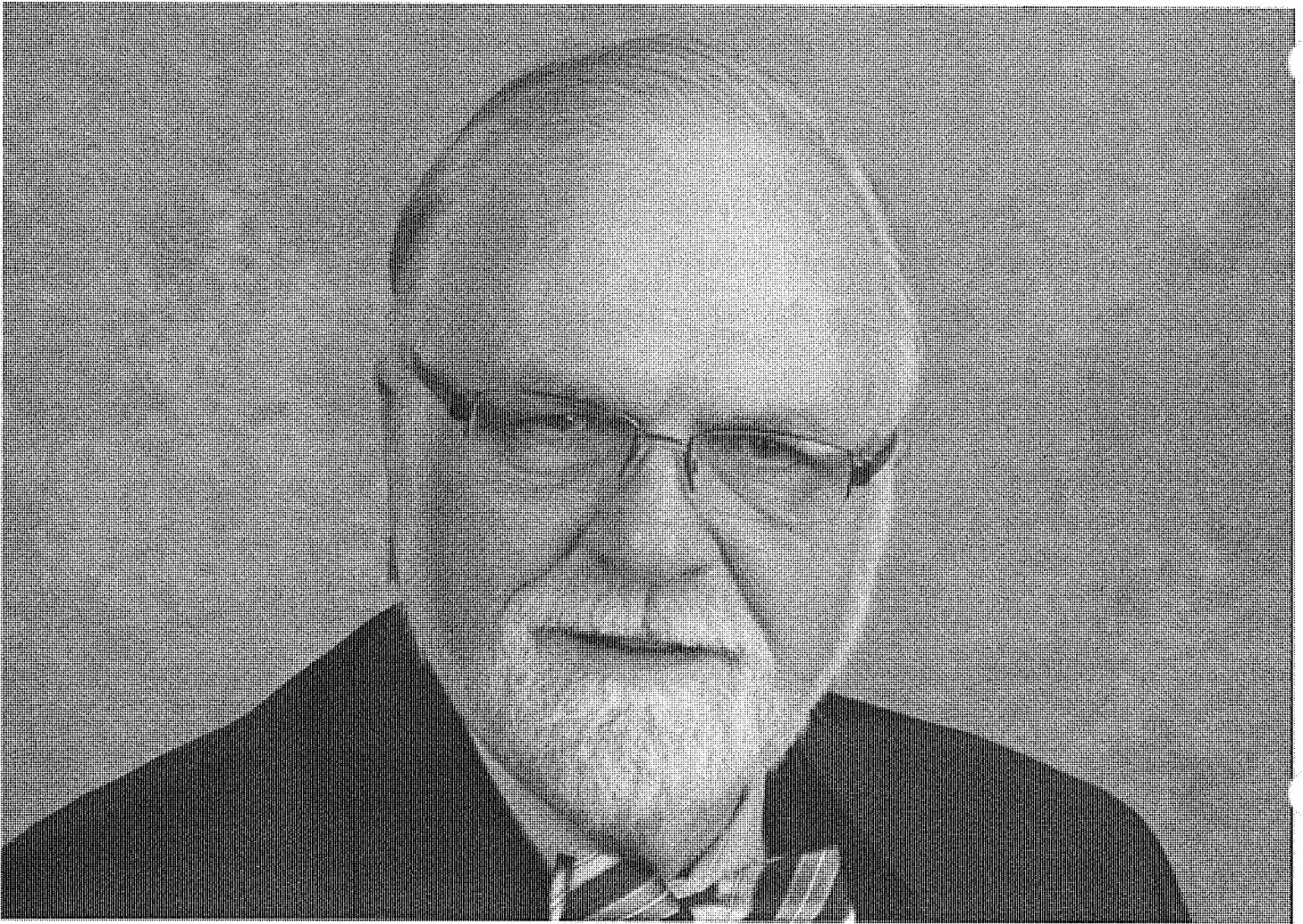
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NEWS INSIDERS

Anti-SOGI rally and counter-rally in the Fraser Valley tonight

BY MIKE LLOYD ([HTTPS://WWW.CITYNEWS1130.COM/AUTHOR/MIKE-LLOYD](https://www.citynews1130.com/author/mike-lloyd))

Posted Nov 21, 2017 7:30 am PST Last Updated Nov 21, 2017 at 7:41 am PST



(Photo courtesy Barry Neufeld, via Facebook)

CHILLIWACK (NEWS 1130) – A school trustee from Chilliwack who has criticized curriculum meant to support LGBTQ students is back in the spotlight. A rally backed by Montreal-based CultureGuard (<http://www.cultureguard.com/>) will be held tonight to thank Barry Neufeld for his views.

But a counter-demonstration has also been planned in the Fraser Valley, which organizers are calling a stand against hatred and disinformation.

“We are rallying in support of parents throughout the Valley,” says Stacey Wakelin with BC Parents for Inclusivity (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/143442099597105/>). “There have been a lot of comments made by Mr. Neufeld and other groups and we are just speaking out in support of parents with LGBTQ kids and in support of the SOGI 123 initiative.”

SOGI 123 — or Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity — is the provincially mandated, anti-bullying curriculum meant to support marginalized LGBTQ students. Last month, Neufeld posted comments on Facebook (<https://www.news1130.com/2017/10/23/chilliwack-school-trustee-lgbtq-school/>) (*see below article*) criticizing the initiative, but later apologized (<https://www.news1130.com/2017/10/25/chilliwack-school-trustee-apology-controversial/>).

“It was a nice gesture, I guess. But having now seen Mr. Neufeld speaking alongside the leader of the Culture Guard and also sitting with members of that group at an Abbotsford School Board meeting, it feels like a hollow gesture,” Wakelin tells NEWS 1130 (<https://twitter.com/news1130>).

Culture Guard bills itself as a protector of children’s and parental rights.

“As a result of Trustee Neufeld’s, and others’, willingness to speak out, opposition to SOGI 123 is growing rapidly, as educational stakeholders are increasingly becoming aware of how this abusive political agenda is gripping BC schools,” the group says in a release.

Related articles:

Chilliwack school trustee apologizes after controversial Facebook post
(<https://www.news1130.com/2017/10/25/chilliwack-school-trustee-apology-controversial/>)

Chilliwack trustee should step down after post about LGBTQ-friendly curriculum, says BCTF president
(<https://www.news1130.com/2017/10/23/bctf-chilliwack-facebook-step-down/>)

Chilliwack school trustee blasts LGBTQ-friendly school curriculum
(<https://www.news1130.com/2017/10/23/chilliwack-school-trustee-lgbtq-school/>)

Culture Guard’s rally in Chilliwack in support of Neufeld will be attended by the chair of the Trans Alliance, Morgane Oger.

“Not in support of Mr. Neufeld but to actually hear what they are saying [and] make sure it is truthful. Hopefully, I won’t have to stand up and correct misinformation,” Oger explains. “I think it’s very important that people not spread lies and misinformation and I look forward to the truth coming to the surface no matter what people say.”

The activist and one-time provincial NDP candidate says it is unfortunate people are rallying by Neufeld’s side in a “misconceived belief” that they are on the side of free speech.

“This man is responsible for making decisions that affect transgender children and the statements he made are contrary not only to factual understanding of what being transgendered is but also contrary to his job as a trustee,” Oger tells NEWS 1130. “The laws of British Columbia include protecting trans children from people who say things like he did.”

The pro-Neufeld rally starts at 7 p.m. at the Evergreen Community Centre in Chilliwack.

Wakelin says the pro-SOGI rally will start at 5 p.m. outside the Abbotsford School District office.

"There are a lot of of parents with non gender conforming children who feel that their children's right to safety and being respected at their school is being jeopardized by groups like the Culture Guard and trustees like Barry Neufeld. We are just offering a different voice, speaking out with love and support for inclusive education," says Wakelin.



Barry Neufeld

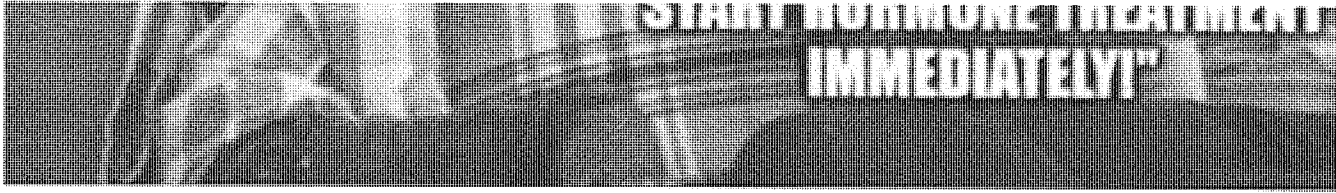
1 hr · 🌐

Okay, so I can no longer sit on my hands. I have to stand up and be counted. A few years ago, the Liberal minister of education instigated a new curriculum supposedly to combat bullying. But it quickly morphed into a weapon of propaganda to infuse every subject matter from K-12 with the latest fad: Gender theory. the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) program instructs children that gender is not biologically determined, but is a social construct. At the risk of being labelled a bigoted homophobe, I have to say that I support traditional family values and I agree with the College of paediatricians that allowing little children choose to change gender is nothing short of child abuse. But now the BC Ministry of Education has embraced the LGBTQ lobby and is forcing this biologically absurd theory on children in our schools. Children are being taught that heterosexual marriage is no longer the norm. Teachers must not refer to "boys and girls" they are merely students. They cannot refer to mothers and

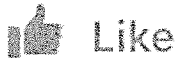
merely students. They cannot refer to mothers and fathers either. (Increasing numbers of children are growing up in homes with same sex parents) If this represents the values of Canadian society, count me out! I belong in a country like Russia, or Paraguay, which recently had the guts to stand up to these radical cultural nihilists. https://c-fam.org/turtle_bay/parents-defeat-gender-ideology-paraguay/

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Support for the SOGI program inside Evergreen Hall in Chilliwack Tuesday night.
(Jessica Peters/ The Progress)

Chilliwack school trustee Neufled vows to run for re- election on anti SOGI platform

Chilliwack crowd cheers condemnation of education ministry's program on sexual orientation and gender identification

JESSICA PETERS / Nov. 21, 2017 10:02 p.m. / NEWS

Chilliwack school trustee Barry Neufeld has doubled down on his criticism of gender orientation resources being introduced to Chilliwack schools, saying he'll campaign on the issue when he runs for re-election next year.

Neufeld, who called the B.C. education ministry's program on Sexual Identity and Gender Orientation "a weapon of propaganda," told a packed rally in Chilliwack Tuesday that he won't back down from criticisms he's made about the program.



Jessica Peters
@CHWKcommunity



Neufeld reads statement saying words and thoughts are his own

♥ 1 7:34 PM - Nov 21, 2017

See Jessica Peters's other Tweets



He called SOGI an indoctrination, echoing condemnation by the self-proclaimed "Culture Guard" who organized the rally. They say parents should be the only ones to address issues of gender with children.

Neufled was the "guest of honour" at the rally and earned applause from the 400-plus people who turned out for the event – people that included fellow trustee Heather Maahs and former Chilliwack MLA John Les.



Jessica Peters
@CHWKcommunity



Neufeld just announced he will run in 2018 on this platform then shook Kari Simpson's hand, roaring applause.

♥ 7:43 PM - Nov 21, 2017

See Jessica Peters's other Tweets



Outside the rally, there was a counter-rally. A group of about two dozen protesters showed up with signs and flags, and chanted as people entered and exited Evergreen Hall. They were mostly parents, teachers and advocates from Chilliwack. They are calling for Neufeld to resign. But in his speech, he stated that while he won't go against the wishes of the board, he will be running on a platform of parent involvement and against SOGI implementation, when it's time to vote for school trustees in the fall of 2018.



Jessica Peters
@CHWKcommunity



Protesters chanting "Barry Neufeld's got to go"

♥ 5 7:10 PM - Nov 21, 2017

👤 See Jessica Peters's other Tweets



The issue of how to deal with gender identity in the classroom remains undecided in Chilliwack. But, the resource material is available for any teacher to use in B.C., following changes to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

[@CHWKcommunity](#)

jpeters@theprogress.com

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Protesters outside a rally called by Culture Guard. (Jessica Peters/ The Progress)

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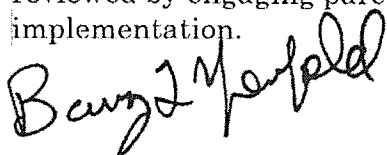
Read more below

Oct. 25, 2017

News Release

My post on Facebook has created a lot of controversy and first of all, I want to apologize to those who felt hurt by my opinion, including members of the Chilliwack Board of Education. I am critical of an educational resource, not individuals. Those who have worked with me for over 24 years know that I DO believe in inclusion and a safe learning environment for all of our students: that they should be protected from all forms of bullying and intimidation.

I believe that in a free and democratic society, there should be room for respectful discussion and dissent. I firmly believe that implementation of the SOGI 1 2 3 resources needs to be reviewed by engaging parents and teachers in conversation on this topic before full implementation.



Barry Neufeld, Trustee

Barry Neufeld issued an apology, following an emergency meeting of the board to discuss his views on SOGI.

Chilliwack trustee slated to speak at Culture Guard rally

Barry Neufeld listed as honoured guest by group that rallies against LGBTQ discussions in schools

JESSICA PETERS / Nov. 21, 2017 2:12 p.m. / NEWS



Culture Guard has announced that Chilliwack school board trustee Barry Neufeld will be an honoured guest and special speaker at a rally here.

The meeting is planned for Tuesday, Nov. 21 at the Evergreen Hall in Chilliwack, beginning at 7 p.m.

The meeting will likely focus on a sexual orientation and gender identity curriculum resource, called SOGI 123, that has been approved by the Ministry of Education for B.C.'s teachers to use day to day in the classroom. Culture Guard has rallied against SOGI 123 in communities across the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley.

In October, Neufeld also spoke out publicly against the curriculum resource, in a long Facebook post that likened parents who support their transgender children to child abusers (*read the full post at bottom of this story*). He also stated that he did not feel in line with the values of Canada, and would rather live in a country like Russia. He called those who support SOGI "cultural nihilists."

While he released an apology "to those who felt hurt by his opinion", the apology underlined his intent to bring SOGI 123 resources to the forefront for more discussion. Neufeld has not yet responded to a request for an interview with *The Progress* from that time.

And he has several supporters who feel the same way. However, the school district is moving ahead with discussing SOGI 123 and they held their first discussion at their Nov. 7 board meeting. Neufeld was absent from that meeting, attending a conference elsewhere.

Now, his name has shown up in a press release from Culture Guard, announcing their Chilliwack meeting.

"A rally and STOP SOGI123 information meeting is being organized in support of Chilliwack School Trustee Barry Neufeld, to honour and recognize his courageous stand in protecting children and exposing the SOGI 123 agenda that is being smuggled into BC schools," the release says. "Trustee Neufeld, the guest of honour, will be there to continue his efforts to protect children and stop SOGI 123."

They continued, saying Neufeld's act of speaking out has brought many others out to say they feel the same. They also quote him as saying: "As a trustee I have a duty to protect all children, and to respect the rights of parents to be informed about what is transpiring in the school and classroom."

Other speakers will include Laura Lynn Tyler Thompson, a Christian broadcaster and free speech advocate and Kari Simpson, executive director for Culture Guard.

When Neufeld spoke out in October, the Chilliwack School District, Ministry of Education, Fraser Valley Labour Council, Chilliwack District Parent's Advisory Council, the BC Teachers' Federation, the BC School Trustees' Association, and many others responded that they continue to support everyone in the LGBTQ community. The labour

council asked for his resignation, while Minister of Education Rob Fleming said he would hope Neufeld would familiarize himself with the issues.

READ: Chilliwack trustee calls LGBTQ school program 'weapon of propaganda'

Evergreen Hall is a city-owned facility, and was rented by the group through the city.

A statement from the city regarding the rental says they are bound by law to rent out to groups that meet certain criteria, although it doesn't mean the city endorses said groups.

"The City is subject to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms," the statement says. "Section 2(b) of the Charter guarantees freedom of thought, belief, and opinion. This guarantee is interpreted broadly by the courts and includes any non-violent activity that conveys or attempts to convey meaning, including religious and political meaning. As a result of the freedom of expression guarantee, the City is not permitted to distinguish between various groups on the basis of whether or not the City supports the messaging of those groups. However, we emphasize that the City's rental of its facilities to a particular group, including Culture Guard, should not be seen as an endorsement by the City of that group's message."

@CHWKcommunity

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Barry Neufeld

52 mins · 🌐

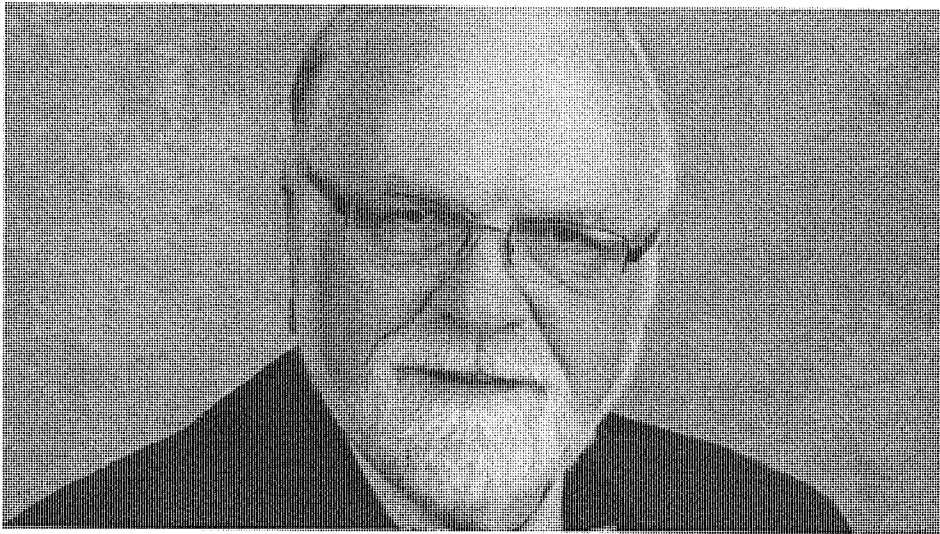
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Okay, so I can no longer sit on my hands. I have to stand up and be counted. A few years ago, the Liberal minister of education instigated a new curriculum supposedly to combat bullying. But it quickly morphed into a weapon of propaganda to infuse every subject matter from K-12 with the latest fad: Gender theory. the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) program instructs children that gender is not biologically determined, but is a social construct. At the risk of being labelled a bigoted homophobe, I have to say that I support traditional family values and I agree with the College of paediatricians that allowing little children choose to change gender is nothing short of child abuse. But now the BC Ministry of Education has embraced the LGBTQ lobby and is forcing this biologically absurd theory on children in our schools. Children are being taught that heterosexual marriage is no longer the norm. Teachers must not refer to "boys and girls" they are merely students. They cannot refer to mothers and fathers either. (Increasing numbers of children are growing up in homes with same sex parents) If this represents the values of Canadian society, count me out! I belong in a country like Russia, or Paraguay, which recently had the guts to stand up to these radical cultural nihilists. <https://c-fam.org/.../parents-defeat-gender-ideology-paraguay/>

Barry Neufeld's Facebook account was made private or removed a day after it went public. (Screenshot from Facebook)

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School trustee renews remarks against trans-friendly curriculum



Barry Neufeld was first elected to Chilliwack's Board of Education in 1992. (Barry Neufeld/Facebook)

Dario Balca , Web Journalist, CTV Vancouver
@DarioBalca

Published Wednesday, November 22, 2017 10:07AM PST
Last Updated Wednesday, November 22, 2017 3:20PM PST

A Chilliwack school trustee has once again sparked controversy after alleging that B.C.'s inclusive gender identity curriculum enables "dysfunctional behaviour and thinking patterns," a month after apologizing for making similar remarks on social media.

"I consider that rushing into the use of puberty blockers, hormone therapy and gender reassignment is child abuse," Barry Neufeld told a crowd at a meeting in Abbotsford Tuesday.

"This will have the effect of confusing children, disturbing their personal security and mental health."

RELATED STORIES

[School trustee's gender identity rant prompts emergency meeting](#)

[School trustee apologizes to those hurt by gender identity rant](#)

The event was held in protest of the province's Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI 123) program which is aimed at providing support for LGBTQ students in public schools.

"Instead of coddling and encouraging what I regard as the sexual addiction of gender confusion, I believe children should be gently encouraged to be comfortable with their bodies," Neufeld said. "The message of SOGI is a subtle but powerful suggestion that there is something wrong with the child, that all children should considering rejecting their gender identity."

Neufeld, who was been on the Chilliwack Board of Education since the early 1990s, came under fire last month over a Facebook post that made similar remarks, calling the trans-friendly curriculum "biologically absurd."

"At the risk of being labelled a bigoted homophobe, I have to say that I support traditional family values," he said in the post. "Allowing little children to change gender is nothing short of child abuse."

Neufeld later deleted the post and apologized for his rant amid mounting public backlash.

The school board announced he would not lose his job, but his remarks prompted an emergency meeting in the district.

On Tuesday, Neufeld also defended himself against the fallout from the Facebook post

"Many people have been shocked at the outpouring of vicious name-calling, abusiveness and even threats by my critics in the media," he said. "The supporters of SOGI are the true bullies and want to shut down any further discussion."

Critics have condemned Neufeld's comments, calling his point of view dangerous the LGBTQ community.

"I think he's absolutely wrong," said Education Minister Rob Fleming. "He's on the wrong side of history on this issue."

Morgane Oger, a transgender woman and NDP candidate, has also spoken out, calling Neufeld's remarks "disgusting" and "unacceptable."

"The trustee's role as an elected official is to ensure that everybody is safe in the Chilliwack school district," Oger told CTV News in October. That trustee has made it so that today, students and staff who are transgender are less safe and less looked after."

Others, however, are defending the trustee's comments.

In a Facebook post Wednesday, Laura-Lynn Tyler Thompson, a Vancouver author who attended the event, called Neufeld "a hero in our culture."

"(Transgender) kids are at risk of being put in a very high suicide category and yet these irrational parents and some teachers see no issue at all with full support of an illogical, unscientific state of mind. Just stop!" she wrote.

Meanwhile, education officials have been caught in the crossfire as they try to strike an awkward balance between the trustee's right to express his opinions and the district's mandate to protect the sensitivities of those most affected by SOGI 123.

"Being an elected official on the school board, you have to consider the things you say and the opinions you express because people will mix the two up," said school board chair Paul McManus.

Neither the ministry nor the Chilliwack School District have responded to the Neufeld's most recent comments.

With files from The Canadian Press

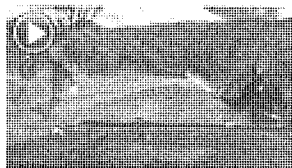
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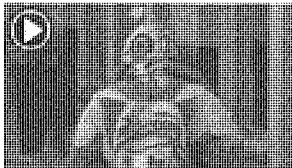
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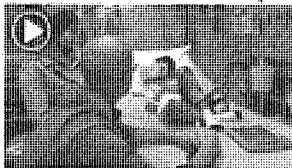
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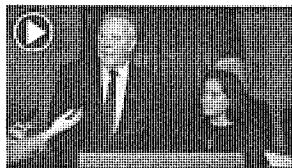
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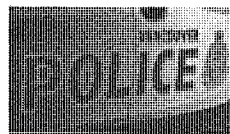
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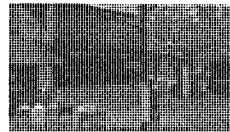


Baby found in Mission, B.C. dumpster dies in hospital

A newborn baby who was found abandoned in a dumpster in Mission, B.C. last month has died in hospital, according to police. 1



From bike thefts to homicides: Vancouver police launch crime stats hub



Vancouver opens warming centres amid extreme weather alert

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Education minister blasts Chilliwack school trustee on gender issues - Chilliwack Progress

Jessica Peters Nov. 22, 2017 6:25 p.m. News

The Minister of Education has spoken out against the actions of a Chilliwack school trustee who has aligned himself with Culture Guard.

Trustee Barry Neufeld was a highlighted speaker and honoured guest at a Culture Guard meeting on Tuesday night. Culture Guard and Neufeld are both against the use of a Ministry of Education approved teaching resource called SOGI 123.

“As Minister of Education, a father of two school-aged children and a public school student in the 1980s – when LGBTQ students were not at all supported and were actively targeted for widespread bullying – I can say unequivocally that our province will keep moving forward. There is no turning back,” Minister of Education Rob Fleming said in a statement emailed to The Chilliwack Progress on Wednesday.

“It’s disturbing that Chilliwack School District Trustee Barry Neufeld attended and spoke at the hateful event held last evening by “Culture Guard”. Clearly the apology in October was not sincere. Elected trustees are supposed to advocate for students not hurt them. In the same week that the Prime Minister of Canada announced an apology is coming for decades of discrimination and persecution of the LGBTQ community – Mr. Neufeld and ‘Culture Guard’ was spreading the same bigoted views that are part of Canada’s painful past.”

Fleming added that children will be affected by Neufeld’s stance against inclusion.

“This sort of shameful behaviour can and will lead to suicide and this is unacceptable,” he said. “As a society we cannot allow discrimination against people for who they identify as or choose to love. I applaud hundreds of parents, students and members of the community who rallied in support of SOGI and to stand up for inclusivity in our schools. It is crucial that we help to ensure all students feel welcome in BC Schools, regardless of who they choose to love or who they identify as.”

On Thursday, Fleming gathered with other politicians, including Liberal MLA and former education minister Mike Bernier, in Victoria to pledge their support for sexual orientation and gender identity programs:

READ: Liberal and NDP MLAs stand together in support of SOGI education

Calls for resignation

Another Chilliwack school trustee, Dan Coulter, called for Neufeld’s resignation on Wednesday.

“It is with sadness and disappointment that I must call for the resignation of Trustee Barry Neufeld from the Chilliwack Board of Education.

As Trustees responsible for the wellbeing and safety of all students in our district, we are tasked with fostering a safe and inclusive environment where all students feel like they belong. This work requires us to be able to leave any prejudices at the door. Barry Neufeld is no longer capable of that.

Words and actions matter. As Trustees, we must understand the impact of our actions before we take them. Trustee Neufeld has proved repeatedly that he cannot do this and is unable to move past his own narrow worldview. Time and again Trustee Neufeld has referred to transgender people as “mentally ill”, and said that allowing students to talk about gender is “child abuse” and “biologically absurd”. He has lamented that opposition to his views means that he “belongs in a country like Russia, or Paraguay, which recently had the guts to stand up to these radical cultural nihilists.”

“Last night he attended a rally against implementation of the SOGI curriculum by the Chilliwack school district. As he has before, he made disparaging comments about the program, calling it “an indoctrination” and that he plans to run next year on a campaign opposing it.

“Sexual orientation and gender identity are specifically protected under British Columbia’s Human Rights Code. If we don’t respect the human rights of all our students, they mean nothing. Barry Neufeld was my friend, but I regret that the time has come for him to resign as a Trustee with the Chilliwack School District.”

The Progress attended the Culture Guard rally on Tuesday night, tweeting out videos and information as the rally carried on.

READ: [Chilliwack school trustee says he will run on ‘gender-positive’ platform next year](#)

READ: [Column: Chilliwack school trustee should step down](#)

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Liberal and NDP MLAs stand together in support of SOGI education

Bipartisan support for materials that teach about sexual orientation and gender identity

KELVIN GAWLEY / Nov. 23, 2017 4:05 p.m. / NEWS

Politicians from both major political parties in B.C. literally stood together in support of school policies that have garnered loud opposition in the Fraser Valley in recent months.

NDP MLA Spencer Chandra Herbert tweeted a picture of himself standing with his party's NDP Education Minister Rob Fleming and BC Liberal Mike Bernier, who headed the ministry when it mandated that all school district in the province implement sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) educational materials and anti-bullying policies.

The politicians are joined by representatives from Parents for Inclusivity, ARC Foundation and PFLAG.

READ: Parents rally to support LGBT education in Abbotsford schools

The SOGI materials have come under fire in recent months from social conservative activists who claim it amounts to brainwashing children.

Fleming recently called for the resignation of Chilliwack school trustee Barry Neufeld, who has harshly criticized SOGI materials.

READ: Education minister blasts Chilliwack school trustee on gender issues



S Chandra Herbert
@SChandraHerbert

Proud to stand with Education Minister @Rob_Fleming , @pflagvancouver, Parents for Inclusivity, the Arc Foundation, + MLA @Mike_A_Bernier to show our support for Sexual Orientation + Gender Identity policies in BC schools. #SOGI123 #LGBT #bcpoli

138 2:16 PM - Nov 23, 2017

52 people are talking about this

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B.C. education minister blasts Chilliwack trustee's 'shameful' behaviour

TIFFANY CRAWFORD ([HTTPS://VANCOUVERSUN.COM/AUTHOR/TIFFANYCRAWFORD13](https://vancouversun.com/author/tiffanycrawford13)) Updated: November 23, 2017



[PNG Merlin Archive] Vancouver Sun VANCOUVER SUN

B.C. Education Minister Rob Fleming says it's "disturbing" that Chilliwack school trustee Barry Neufeld spoke at a "hateful" event this week to oppose the province's LGBTQ curriculum.

Last month, Neufeld criticized the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity program, or SOGI, and wrote on social media that allowing kids to choose their gender was "child abuse."

He later apologized, but Fleming said his apology seems "insincere" since he repeated the controversial comments earlier this week at a Culture Guard rally against SOGI. Culture Guard is an activist group which bills itself as protecting "community values", like parental rights and the sanctity of life.

In an emailed statement Thursday, Fleming blasted Neufeld, stating it's "disturbing" that a school trustee "spoke at the hateful event" held by Culture Guard.

On Tuesday night, Neufeld again said that allowing kids to have gender reassignment treatments such as hormone therapy is child abuse, according to a Global News report. The rally was also met with a counter protest Tuesday, with demonstrators calling for human rights, and the resignation of Neufeld.

"Clearly the apology in October was not sincere," said Fleming. "Elected trustees are supposed to advocate for students not hurt them."

Fleming, who has two children in the school system, recalled being a student in the 1980s when LGBTQ students were targeted for widespread bullying.

"I can say unequivocally that our province will keep moving forward. There is no turning back," he said.

"In the same week that the Prime Minister of Canada announced an apology is coming for decades of discrimination and persecution of the LGBTQ community — Mr. Neufeld and Culture Guard was spreading the same bigoted views that are part of Canada's painful past."

Fleming went on to say that Neufeld's "shameful behaviour" would lead to suicide, which he called unacceptable.

"As a society we cannot allow discrimination against people for who they identify as or choose to love. I applaud hundreds of parents, students and members of the community who rallied in support of SOGI and to stand up for inclusivity in our schools. It is crucial that we help to ensure all students feel welcome in B.C. Schools, regardless of who they choose to love or who they identify as."

The board and Neufeld have been contacted but have yet to respond to Fleming's statement.

Culture Guard's executive director Kari Simpson, said in an email Thursday, that she has consulted legal counsel about Fleming's comments, which she claims are defamatory.

The Chilliwack Board of Education has stated that Neufeld's comments are his own and do not reflect the views of the board.

The B.C. Teachers' Federation has called for Neufeld to step down.

ticrawford@postmedia.com (mailto:ticrawford@postmedia.com)

TRENDING IN CANADA

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Player grades: Kiefbom the late hero again as Edmonton Oilers topple Kings

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This Week's Flyers



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barry neufeld SOGI 123 November 26, 2017 2:30 pm

Trans rights activist reaches out to Chilliwack school trustee who compared gender transitioning to 'child abuse'

By Estefania Duran and Kyle Benning CKNW

After initially apologizing, Chilliwack school trustee Barry Neufeld is now doubling down on his criticism of a curriculum that supports LGBTQ inclusivity. Aaron McArthur reports.

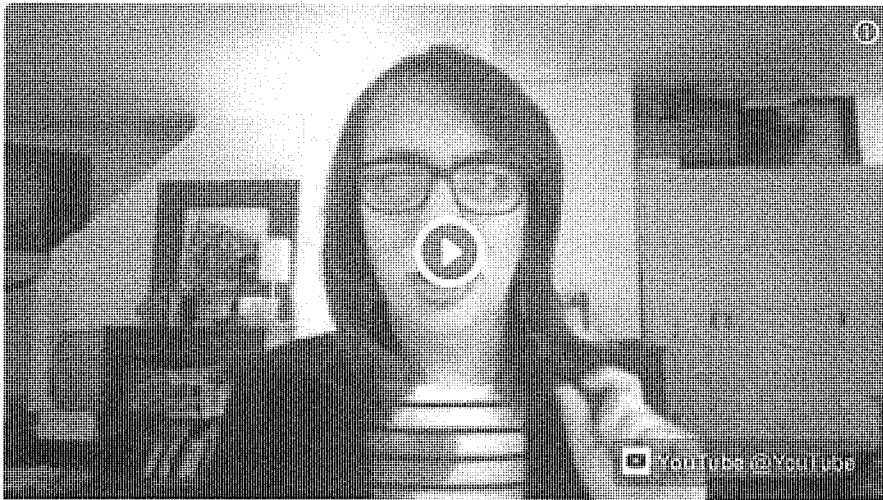
The Trans Alliance Society is asking a Chilliwack School Board trustee to sit down and have a conversation after comparing gender transitioning to "child abuse."

Last month, the Chilliwack school trustee wrote a Facebook post in which he said allowing kids to choose their gender was "child abuse." Neufeld issued an apology but earlier this week made similar remarks at Chilliwack's Evergreen Hall, where he compared gender reassignment treatments as "child abuse."

READ MORE: Barry Neufeld, Chilliwack school trustee, compares gender transitioning to 'child abuse'

In response, the alliance released a YouTube video on Saturday where chairperson Morgane Oger invites Neufeld to discuss the SOGI 123 (sexual orientation and gender identity) curriculum.

"I call on you to call me and to chat and to discuss how you went wrong when you publicly said that helping trans kids is [child] abuse.



Morgane Oger M.S.M.
@MorganeOgerBC



Hi Barry Neufeld, @ChilliwackSD33 Trustee,
Here's a video message 4 U.

We met Nov21 at a really mean Culture Guard anti-#SOGI123 event.

You and your friends said awful things. First impressions are so cruel. We need to talk...youtube.com/watch?v=x9cd43...

@BC_STA #bcd @sd33Dpac

♡ 34 7:34 PM - Nov 25, 2017

20 people are talking about this



"You are entrusted to look after our children in schools and if you don't understand why what you said was horrifically wrong and simply not reasonable in 2017, I'd like to help you understand it," Oger said.

READ MORE: Chilliwack school trustee should apologize for LGBTQ Facebook post says fellow board member

She went on to say Neufeld should step down if he continues with this train of thought or children will be harmed, adding that the SOGI curriculum is aimed at protecting the most vulnerable students.

"So sir, Mr. Neufeld, please lead by example so we don't have to use you as a case study," added Oger.

Neufeld declined to comment.

WATCH: Backlash after school trustee criticizes LGBTQ program

~With files from Jesse Ferreras

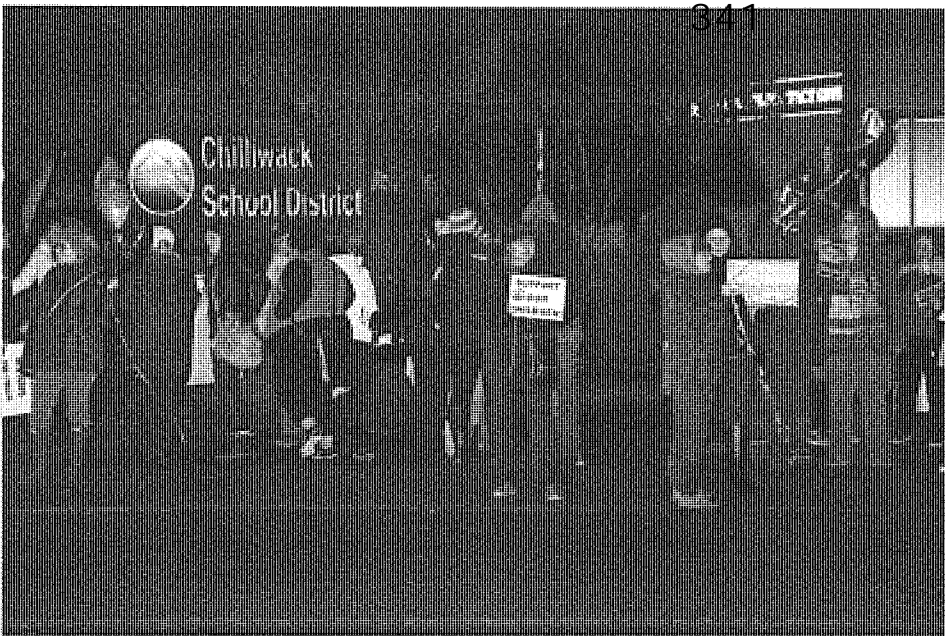
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About 350 people showed up for a rally outside the Chilliwack School Board office on Tuesday night, to show their support for LGBTQ students, teachers, staff and parents. Meanwhile, inside the board office, Trustee Barry Neufeld was announcing he is stepping back from some of this duties, but not all of them. (Greg Laychak/ The Progress)

Neufeld announces stepping back from some duties

Chilliwack trustee makes announcement at board meeting Tuesday, as hundreds rally outside building

JESSICA PETERS / Nov. 29, 2017 4:40 p.m. / NEWS

Jessica Peters

The Progress

Chilliwack School Trustee Barry Neufeld announced Tuesday he will be voluntarily stepping back from some of his duties, following his controversial statements regarding a new teachers' resource.

The resource, SOGI 123, educates teachers on how to address LGBTQ2+ issues in the classroom. It includes a glossary of different gender identities, and provides age-appropriate lesson plans for Kindergarten through Grade 12. It is approved by the Ministry of Education, and conforms to the new B.C. curriculum.

The news that Neufeld will quit his committee work came out of a question period at the beginning of this week's board. At the same time, a rally of about 350 people to support teachers and students carried on outside the board office, with horns honking, rainbow and BCTF flags waving, and First Nation drumming.

Clint Johnston, 2nd VP for the BC Teachers' Federation and former president of the Chilliwack Teachers' Association (CTA), asked the board what they intend to do "when you have a member of your board actively working contrary" to the board. Neufeld spoke at Christian-based, right wing rally last week against SOGI 123, and has stated that those who support children who are transitioning are committing child abuse.

"To have one person who is my employer stating that, should I teach SOGI in my classroom, I'm a child abuser, I think that crosses all sorts of lines," Johnston said. "I don't really understand why it hasn't been addressed by the board, and in my opinion even higher powers than the board."

Board chair Paul McManus said the board's "commitment to you is to move forward."

Neufeld then said he would like to respond.

"Because I put the board in an awkward situation, I have voluntarily withdrawn from any committee involvement and liaison schools for the balance of the term — which is about 10 months I believe," he said.

He was asked later in the meeting, during the second question period, what he would be doing as a paid trustee during that time. Parent Mallory Tomlinson said her children have been directly affected by Neufeld's statements. She also asked if he would run again, to which he stated he would.

He also dialed back previous statements against SOGI 123.

“I believe that there are many good parts in the ³⁴³ SOGI agenda but I think there needs to be some work done on it to make it acceptable to all members of our community,” he said. “The one thing that I’m really concerned about is if we implement this program, is that all parents, not just activist parents, are not just aware of it but part of it.”

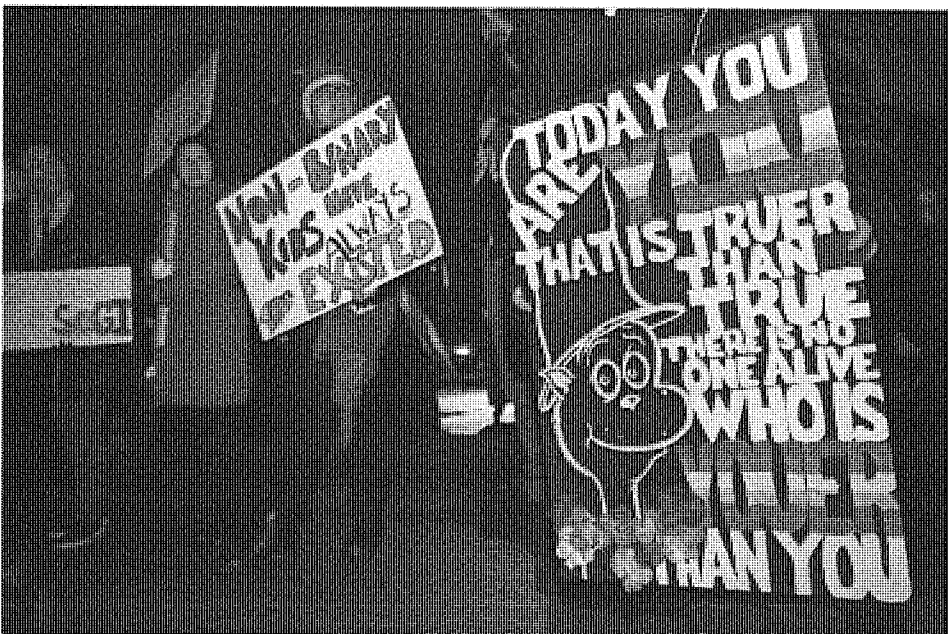
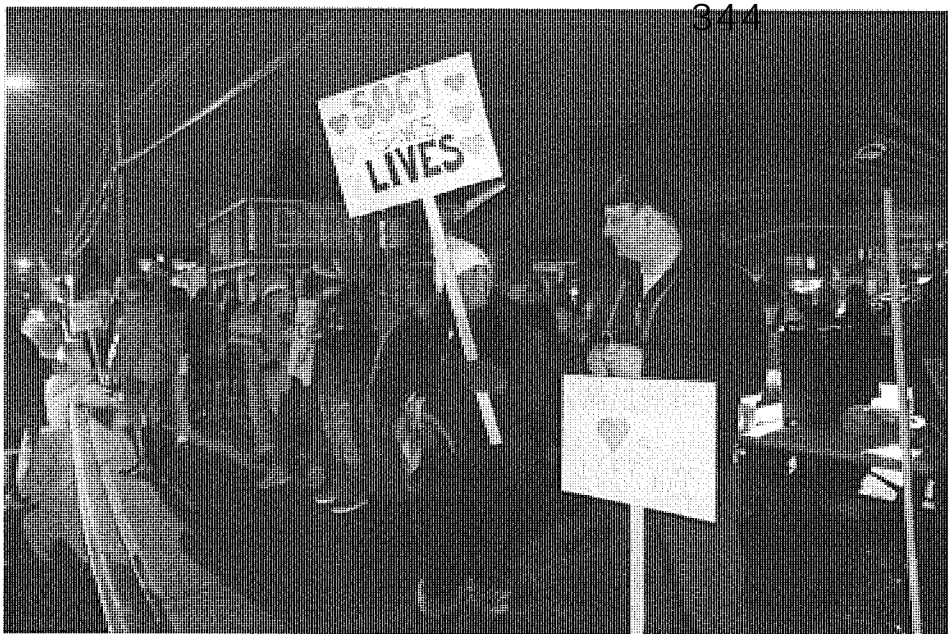
Neufeld said his job will consist of “the usual trustee activities, however I will have a bit more time now to do research into the agenda items that come up for the regular board meeting.”

He was on the scholarship committee and the education policy advisory committee. He will also not be attending the BC Provincial Council in February. His liaison schools were Evans Greendale and Sardis Elementary, A.D. Rundle middle and Sardis secondary.

The rally that was taking place outside the board office on Tuesday night was a pro-LGBTQ rally, and pro SOGI. It was a large group of about 350 parents, students, teachers, staff and community members, holding large rainbow flags, handmade and printed posters, with slogans like “Hate Cannot Educate” and “Christians Support LGBT Kids.”

The rain held off for the rally, which lasted almost four hours. A few people from the rally came inside to take in the board meeting. Throughout the meeting, honking cars and cheering could be heard. Joining the rally participants was Vancouver’s Morgane Oger, a transgender advocate and the B.C. NDP’s vice-president. She approached Neufeld prior to the meeting and reminded him that she’s offered up a phone call to talk about transgender issues — an offer he has not yet taken up.

He has also not yet responded to requests from *The Progress* to discuss his views.



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Superintendent Evelyn Novak and Trustee Dan Coulter were among the audience for a talk from Matt Carruthers, the B.C. SOGI Education lead, at the annual BCSTA Trustee Academy in Richmond over the weekend. (Photo: BCSTA)

Select Chilliwack school trustees attend BCSTA 'academy'

Sexual orientation and gender identity hot topics among provincial school trustees

JESSICA PETERS / Nov. 29, 2017 9:18 a.m. / NEWS

School trustees had the chance to learn more about the sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) teacher resources over the weekend, and a handful of Chilliwack's trustees took that offer.

Trustees Dan Coulter, Bob Patterson, and board chair Paul McManus joined Chilliwack School District superintendent Evelyn Novak at the BC School Trustee Association's annual Trustee Academy in Richmond. While the focus of the academy covered a wide breadth of education topics, with numerous speakers, the two-day event also included much discussion surrounding SOGI and transgender awareness.

Coulter says the weekend was "terrific," and really opened his eyes to how strongly other districts have embraced transgender students, teachers, staff and parents.

"There are no trustees, other than in our district, that are against it that I can find," Coulter said. "And the minister [of education] said he was interested in implementing despite the efforts of one 'small but well-funded' group. He was not deterred by them."

'They' are Culture Guard, and its leader Kari Simpson. They are against teachers using a government-approved resource called SOGI 123. And so is Chilliwack trustee Barry Neufeld; he took to Facebook to argue against its use back in October. Neufeld quickly apologized for offending people, but has since aligned himself with Culture Guard. They held a rally to support Neufeld and defend their views last Tuesday, where Neufeld spoke as a special guest.

At the rally Neufeld accused the government of ushering in a pro-LGBTQ agenda without consultation or explanation. Trustee Heather Maahs, who also has spoken up about fears surrounding SOGI 123, was also at the rally but not as a speaker.

Niether trustee attended the BCSTA's Trustee Academy. Either did trustees Silvia Dyck or Walt Krahn. The plenary speakers included a transgender advocate and author, Ivan Coyote, and Matt Curruthers, the B.C. SOGI education lead.

Matt Carruthers, BC SOGI Education Lead, #SOGI123 on Resources for Trustees #TrusteeAcademy2017 #BCED #BCSTA pic.twitter.com/yV7UID0bFS

— BCSTA (@BC_STA) November 24, 2017

Coyote's presentation had the room enraptured, said Coulter.

"They were terrific, an amazing storyteller," he said.

While SOGI and SOGI 123 were a focus of the weekend, he added that this is not the first anyone has heard of it, despite Culture Guard saying it's been ushered in quietly.

"It's been talked about for a long time, and Kari [Simpson] has been talking about this a long time," he said.

Still, the messages are important to hear, Coulter said.

"What really resonated for me was that we run public institutions, a public school system. Why can't every single person access them? You can't really call it a public school if it's not for everyone," he said.

"I'm in a wheelchair. Public buildings are all made accessible for me. Why aren't they accessible for everyone?"

He said whether school boards accept SOGI 123 teacher materials or not is both relevant and irrelevant.

"It's irrelevant because schools have to follow the Human Rights Code," Coulter said. "If they're not using the actual SOGI they're using something that approximates it. But you need the leader of the school district to support all students, and it really sends a message throughout the entire school district if you have trustees taking shots at it, or targeting transgender students."

And to be clear, he said, those who don't support SOGI often don't support other rights of the LGBTQ community, such as gay marriage or same sex couples adopting.

"These things are not controversial in the rest of Canada, gay marriage is legalized by a Conservative government," he added. "(Culture Guard's) views are extreme, including the views on transgender people."

It's estimated that 10 per cent of the population have a different sexual orientation or gender identity than their birth gender.

"That's 1,300 of our students (in Chilliwack)," he said.

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335 **114**

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Who watches the watchers? - Chilliwack Progress

Dec. 14, 2017 6:30 a.m. Letters

Last [Tuesday] I made the trip from Vancouver to Chilliwack to attend the rally in support of LGBTQ+ Youth and the public meeting of the Chilliwack School Board regarding SOGI 123. It was a night of mixed emotions for me. I was born in Chilliwack and am a teacher employed by SD33. I was returning to my home.

My heart swelled when I saw the number of people who had shown up in dismal weather to stand in support of equity and inclusion in our schools. There were parents, teachers, children, union members—a very diverse crowd from as far as away as Vancouver, Mission, and Surrey. And then I went in to the meeting: that was the hard part.

Trustees are tasked with overseeing education in their districts and senior staff—specifically the superintendents—are tasked with providing advice, direction, and support. I heard trustees talk about “listening to their community” while limiting speakers to one question with no chance to provide background. I watched discussion on a motion aimed at providing the Board with powers beyond their mandate. Trustees are not allowed to vet curriculum resources and proscribe those they do not approve (see Surrey Book Banning, SCC 2003). Yet not a single person in the room raised the problematic nature of the motion. At least it was referred to the superintendent instead of being passed.

I heard trustees repeatedly refer to the need to “discuss SOGI 123 and hear opinions before deciding.” Again, not a single person in power in the room raised the fact that there is no more discussion needed or possible. This is a Ministerial mandate with Ministry-approved and developed resources. This is a legal obligation of the school board centered on the BC Human Rights Code.

It appeared to me that the trustees feel they have an option about whether they do or do not accept this element of their job. They don't. Yet, again, not a single person in the room who is charged with leading the district raised this point. Do they not know? Are they unwilling to do their job? There is only one trustee, Dan Coulter, who has publicly spoken out on the impropriety of Barry Neufeld's recent actions, and I thank him for being a lone voice in defence of diversity and respect.

I have heard from many parents, teachers, and students who are deeply concerned about the developments in their school community and the actions (or lack thereof) of their leadership. They are all asking the same question: Who do we turn to for help in ensuring our leaders fulfill the legal obligations of their job? The answer might be our elected MLA Laurie Throness, if he had not already come out publicly in support of the trustee who spoke at a hate group rally last week. So that oversight is gone.

Thus, we are left with the age-old question: Who watches the watchers?

I would also like to publicly state my appreciation to Jessica Peters for her excellent

reporting of this ongoing situation in the Chilliwack School District. She has provided a factual account that allows me to stay well-informed even from a distance.

Clint Johnston

BCTF Second Vice-President

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Chilliwack school trustee calls himself a prophet - Chilliwack Progress

Jessica Peters Dec. 18, 2017 9:15 a.m. News

Chilliwack school trustee Barry Neufeld has likened himself to a modern-day prophet, as he hardened his stance against the LGBTQ community.

He made headlines two months ago when he argued that sexual orientation and gender identity discussions should not be included in the classroom, and called those who support transgender and gay and lesbian children “cultural nihilists” and even child abusers.

He posted another long statement on his Facebook page on Sunday morning, stating among other things that the government may be starting to take children away from families and placing them “in homes where they will be encouraged to explore homosexuality and gender fluidity.”

He then said that it is possible, considering what the “Canadian government” did to Aboriginal families in the past.

(Note: While his post was public on Sunday, he removed it shortly after this story was published online.)

READ MORE: Neufeld announces stepping back from some duties

His post also included language that suggests he sees himself as a prophet.

“It seems that I have been suddenly thrown into the role of a prophet: speaking out to the lawmakers in Victoria and trying to motivate lukewarm Christians who are sitting idly by as all of society “Slouches towards Gomorrah” in the words of the late Judge Robert Bork. It is difficult to engage in the Culture wars. One pays a heavy price for criticizing the prevailing worldview: one gets called a bigot and a hater and even WORSE!

He continues, including his thoughts as an elected official:

“As a school trustee, my role is different than a counsellor or a pastor. I am not dealing face to face with children and their parents who are struggling to find a solution to gender Dysphoria. My heart goes out to those families who are struggling under the threat: “Do you want a dead son or a living daughter?” My job description is that of a policy maker. And the current emphasis is on inclusion. I do not want to give in to the self serving agenda of the LGBTQ+ groups who want to be given priority as the most downtrodden of victims. One person mentioned that the many new categories that are included in the long list of letters now added after LGBTQ are a new “Caste system.” They are no longer satisfied with mere tolerance or inclusion, they want to be celebrated and given priority. I can’t and won’t go there.”

He also goes so far as to add his own prophecy to the post:

“The scary thing is that it has already demonized people of faith who believe that God created humans male and female: In the Image of God. Here is my prophecy to the Church. If you don’t get off your duffs and push back against this insidious new teaching, the day is coming (maybe it is already here) when the government will apprehend your children and put them in homes where they will be encouraged to explore homosexuality and gender fluidity. There already is a Special group foster home for LGBTQ+ kids in Red Deer, AB.

“You think that is impossible? Well the Canadian government did exactly that to Aboriginal families until a few decades ago. Determined to destroy the traditional teachings of their culture and re educate children into the prevailing worldview of the government. The Government have already ensured that families with traditional Family values will not be approved as foster homes and are refused the right to adopt children. But the government has always done a horrid job of being a parent.”

UPDATE:

On Monday, the Ministry of Children and Family Development provided an official statement to The Progress in response to Neufeld’s statement.

“These allegations are completely false,” they said. “Rhetoric like this is harmful and has no place in our province. The ministry does not discriminate against caregivers, nor does it discriminate against children. People of all gender identities are welcome and their rights respected equally.”

The full post reads:

I am currently reading two books that I downloaded and read in Kindle.

“Why Gender Matters, 2nd Edition” by Dr. Leonard Sax. Very helpful and sure different than the prevailing view of militant feminists who taught my class in Adolescent sex role development at SFU back in 1980. My professor passionately denied that there were any differences between men and women. She believed that sex role differences could all be explained by how children were brought up and socialized. Recent research has proved her opinion wrong. So much for intellectual fads!

The other book is “Understanding Gender Dysphoria” by Mark Yarhouse, an very scholarly Christian. He delves into the very complex issues surrounding this “new” phenomenon, and gives practical advice to pastors who are counselling members of their flock who are struggling with identity issues.

It dawned on me that for a Christian, there are two approaches to take. The pastoral approach is one of compassion and empathy while firmly refusing to buy into their client’s delusional thinking. As one pastor said to a transgender person: “it is my responsibility to love you: but it is God’s job the change you.” However, while helping me grasp a better understanding of gender Dysphoria, the issue is so complex that it is hard to apply these insights in a debate at the political level, especially on Facebook.

The other approach is what I would call “prophetic.” In the Bible, the Old Testament prophets upbraided the Kings and rulers for their wickedness and lack of Justice. In the New Testament, the prophetic gifts were used to admonish the WHOLE church and all of society. (not private fortune telling like some misguided Christians

indulge in)

When I thought about it, there were clearly gifts of prophecy in the Early Church. St. Athanasius, St. Cyril of Jerusalem, and even St John Chrysostom: all venerated by Orthodox, Catholic and Protestants. They spoke boldly to the ruling powers, condemning unrighteousness and injustice and they got into a lot of trouble for their outspokenness. They were persecuted, banished (several times) and jailed for their sermons. St. John Chrysostom, perhaps the most beloved Saint of the Orthodox Church (his liturgy is recited every Sunday) was banished by the Empress from his Bishop's throne in Constantinople and he died on the long journey to the little village where he had been ordered to go and live in obscurity.

Not a very pleasant prospect, but it seems that I have been suddenly thrown into the role of a prophet: speaking out to the lawmakers in Victoria and trying to motivate lukewarm Christians who are sitting idly by as all of society "Slouches towards Gomorrah" in the words of the late Judge Robert Bork. It is difficult to engage in the Culture wars. One pays a heavy price for criticizing the prevailing worldview: one gets called a bigot and a hater and even WORSE! As a school trustee, my role is different than a counsellor or a pastor. I am not dealing face to face with children and their parents who are struggling to find a solution to gender Dysphoria. My heart goes out to those families who are struggling under the threat: "Do you want a dead son or a living daughter?" My job description is that of a policy maker. And the current emphasis is on inclusion. I do not want to give in to the self serving agenda of the LGBTQ+ groups who want to be given priority as the most downtrodden of victims. One person mentioned that the many new categories that are included in the long list of letters now added after LGBTQ are a new "Caste system." They are no longer satisfied with mere tolerance or inclusion, they want to be celebrated and given priority. I can't and won't go there.

A few years ago, the gays and lesbians did not want to be associated with transgender persons. They viewed the process of gender reassignment as the ultimate in repulsive reparative therapy, which was being outlawed in several jurisdictions (I.e. Ontario) However, there IS some reparative therapy that works, despite what critics say...but I digress. Every Transgender person I have talked to complains how the medical establishment used to frustrate them and not help them. So the physicians gave up and decided: "If you can't beat them, join them!" And the controversial and unscientific gender fluidity theory was developed to normalize gender Dysphoria. Instead of encouraging children to accept their bodies, they are encouraged to be "unique." Gays and lesbians liked this new theory, so they banded together with the trans folk and became an even more powerful lobby group. They mistakenly think that promoting this gender bending theory to impressionable children will create a brave new world where everyone's differences will be accepted and even admired.

But the scary thing is that it has already demonized people of faith who believe that God created humans male and female: In the Image of God. Here is my prophecy to the Church. If you don't get off your duffs and push back against this insidious new teaching, the day is coming (maybe it is already here) when the government will apprehend your children and put them in homes where they will be encouraged to explore homosexuality and gender fluidity. There already is a Special group foster home for LBGTO+ kids in Red Deer, AB.

You think that is impossible? Well the Canadian government did exactly that to Aboriginal families until a few decades ago. Determined to destroy the traditional

teachings of their culture and re educate children into the prevailing worldview of the government. The Government have already ensured that families with traditional Family values will not be approved as foster homes and are refused the right to adopt children. But the government has always done a horrid job of being a parent.

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Chilliwack school board chair blasts Neufeld over continued Facebook posts - Chilliwack Progress

Jessica Peters Dec. 20, 2017 7:00 a.m. News

Chilliwack's school board chair has released a public statement chastising a fellow trustee for comments he's made on social media about a provincially-used teacher resource, and transgender people in general.

Trustee Paul McManus spoke out on Tuesday afternoon, sending a letter to *The Progress* via email, in which he says he cannot stay silent on the topic any longer. He was referring to the ongoing saga of Chilliwack Barry Neufeld, who has spoken against the use of the SOGI 123 teacher resource, spoken as a guest speaker for a group called Culture Guard, has had to step down from his regular trustee duties due to conflicts, and has had numerous educational bodies calling for his voluntary resignation. He has used his Facebook page numerous times to post lengthy comments against sexual orientation and gender identity policies.

Most recently, he said he was prophesying that the government would soon (if not already) be apprehending children and putting them in homes to explore their homosexuality.

READ: Chilliwack school trustee calls himself a prophet

He has refused to resign, and has said multiple times he intends to run for re-election in October 2018. He has been a school trustee in Chilliwack for about 20 years and is also a deacon of an Orthodox church.

McManus wrote in his letter that he is disappointed Neufeld "has chosen to utilize social media once again to make his personal views public."

"According to Board Policy 204, Governance Principles, 'The Board is a corporate board and speaks with one voice.' Trustee Neufeld appears to believe that this policy does not apply to him. Through his extensive public statements on social media, including 18 Facebook posts so far this month that relate to the LGBTQ and transgender community, he has made it clear that having discussions with fellow trustees, in the appropriate setting, which the Board has planned for early in the new year, is not a priority and of no interest to him. By continuing to make his views known through social media, he is creating anxiety and concern amongst trustees, staff, parents and students. He is therefore no longer deserving of my silence on these issues."

At a previous board meeting, McManus tried to allay fears of the public during question period by saying the board would be discussing the subject in the future, as set out in the plan by superintendent Evelyn Novak. He did not address the content of Neufeld's previous comments, such as calling parents of supported transgender children child abusers. That changed with Tuesday's letter.

“An elected official should not make public comments or statements that are offensive to any group. Trustee Neufeld has made numerous comments that have offended many of our students, staff, and parents, with some of his comments being referred to as hate speech and fear mongering. As a result some students and staff are now feeling unsafe in their school environment. This is unacceptable and completely inappropriate.

“While Trustee Neufeld has voluntarily stepped away from his school liaison duties, as well as committee work that involves staff and students, he has made it clear that he intends to run again in the 2018 municipal elections. Given his latest statements on social media, it is questionable as to how he expects to perform his duties as a School Trustee, now or in the future.

“I anticipate having another conversation very soon with Rob Fleming, the Minister of Education, about our Board and these issues. I am hopeful that our Board of Trustees can refocus on the responsibilities that we have been tasked to do, most notably student achievement, and all factors that impact it.”

The Chilliwack School Board indeed had not discussed SOGI issues at all as a board until it was addressed by Neufeld on his own Facebook in a public post in October. That set off a firestorm, combined of backlash and support. The group called Culture Guard came to Chilliwack from Surrey to hold a rally against SOGI, and some 450 people attended, with a small contingent of protesters outside. The following week, about 450 showed up to the regular school board meeting for an inclusion rally for SOGI, filling the streets outside the school board. Likewise, a handful of protesters showed up for that event.

The next school board meeting is to be held on January 16.

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Chilliwack trustee Barry Neufeld faces call from parents' group to resign

By Estefania Duran and Michelle Morton CKNW

Comments made by a Chilliwack school trustee about B.C.'s new sexual orientation and gender identity programs are generating controversy. Tanya Beja reports.

The Chilliwack District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) is calling for school trustee Barry Neufeld to resign following a series of public comments against the province's LGBTQ curriculum, including comparing gender transitioning to child abuse.

Although he has apologized to people who felt "hurt" by his opinion, he resumed his controversial posts on social media.

LISTEN: Chilliwack School Board's chair joins Steele & Drex

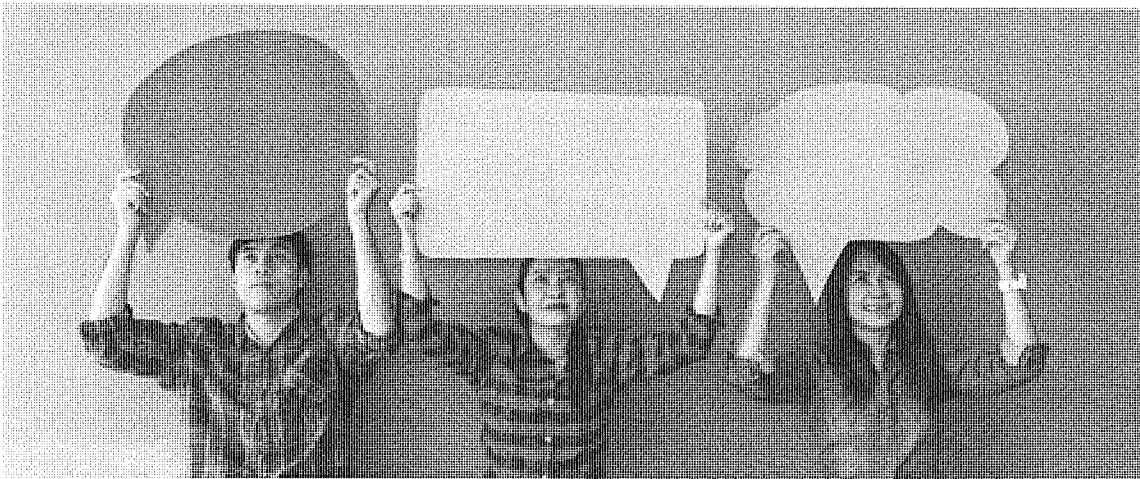
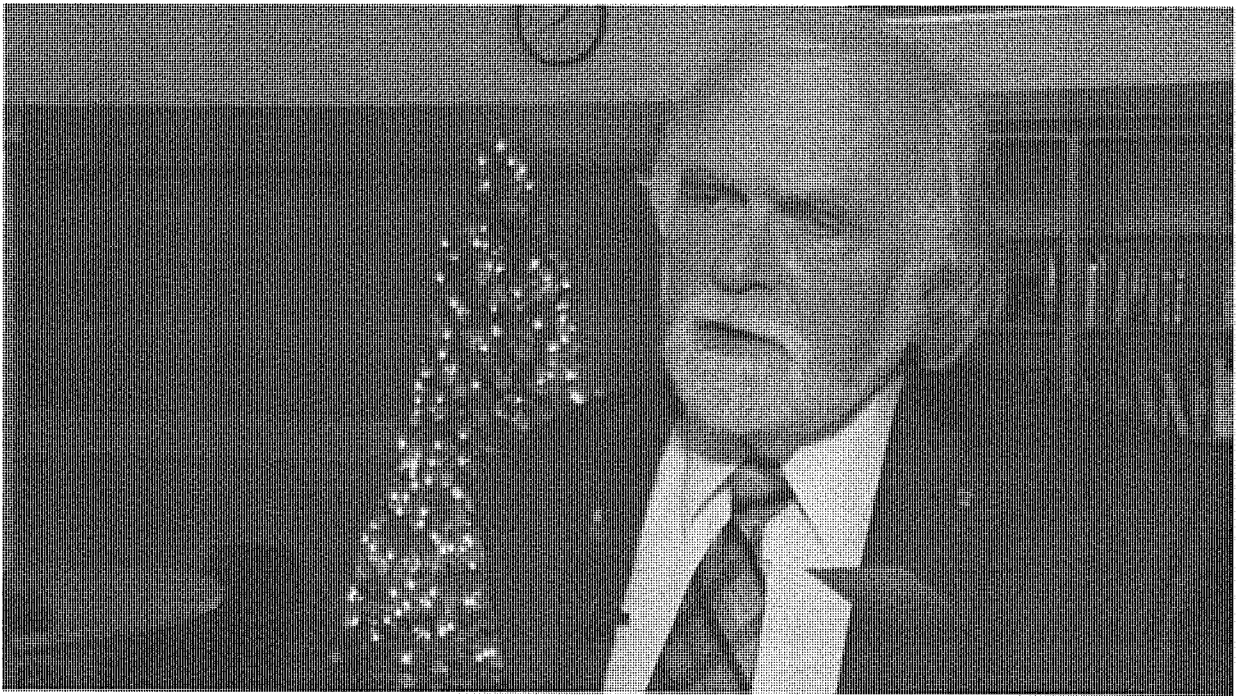
"DPAC is committed to fostering a culture of acceptance, diversity, and inclusion in our public schools," said a release.

"We no longer have confidence that trustee Barry Neufeld will make those same commitments."

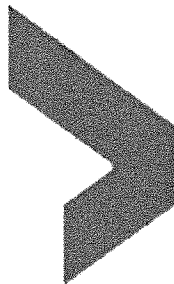
DPAC also added that, even though parents have a right to demonstrate their own beliefs, all students, staff and their families should feel welcome and safe.

WATCH: Global News coverage of Barry Neufeld

Chilliwack school trustee repeats criticism of LGBTQ curriculum



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“We’re working with members of the community who are interested in running in the municipal elections coming up in October so we will just make sure that we put our support behind progressive candidates,” said DPAC chair Justine Hodge.

When speaking to Global News, Hodge added that Council won't support an inclusion program put together by Neufeld, and are asking him to step down.

"We're working with members of the community who are interested in running in the municipal elections coming up in October. So we will just make sure that we put our support behind progressive candidates."

Earlier this week, B.C. Education Minister Rob Fleming said Neufeld's rhetoric was "dangerous," adding that he had had enough.

Meanwhile, Chilliwack school board chair Paul McManus said his hands are tied.

READ MORE: 'It's getting worse': B.C. Education Minister on Chilliwack school trustee's LGBTQ comments

"We have to work our way through these conversations and that's obviously the big problem, these conversations are not happening in the boardroom," said McManus.

He said posting on social media is the worst way to have a discussion about the curriculum.

Global News has reached out to Neufeld for comment.

READ MORE: Chilliwack school trustee should apologize for LGBTQ Facebook post says fellow board member

~With files from Kyle Benning

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Anti-transgender posters dropped on lawns in Sardis - Chilliwack Progress

Jessica Peters Dec. 22, 2017 2:24 p.m. News

“If your (sic) confused and don’t know what sex you are today, use a tree out in the backyard.”

That was the big, bold message thrown out on lawns and driveways in Chilliwack on Thursday night, in the now-familiar packaging of a clear baggie and a handful of rice. The heading of the letter said ‘TRANSGENDER,’ and the writer? Apparently a fan or even a member of the hate group, the Klu Klux Klan. The bottom included a phone number and a website where people could call to donate money (*Black Press has removed the contact information from images in this story*).

Numerous calls have come into Chilliwack RCMP over the day on Friday, confirmed Cpl. Mike Rail.

“They were left in around Wiltshire and Spruce and the South Sumas area,” he said, the area around Sardis secondary school. “We have had calls come in and we are investigating.”

The letter says “Transgender is an abomination according to the Kings (sic) James Bible Deuteronomy 22:5.”

TRANSGENDER

Is an abomination according to the Kings James Bible

Deuteronomy 22:5

"A woman shall not wear that pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: For all that do are an abomination unto the Lord Thy God.

These freaks are jeopardizing the safety of bathrooms all across the nation for our women and children. This needs to STOP

There is no confusion

if you have a PENIS – Use the MENS ROOM

if you have a VAGINA – Use the LADIES ROOM

if your confused and don't know what sex you are today

USE A TREE OUT IN THE BACK YARD

JOIN AND HELP US STAND UP AND BOYCOTT THIS ABOMINATION



It also says "if you have a penis, use the mens room, if you have a vagina, use the ladies room."

The posters come amid the continued debate surrounding school trustee Barry Neufeld's

controversial position on a transgender-inclusive teaching resource called SOGI 123.

One of the messages this time happened to land on school trustee Dan Coulter's lawn, one of only two trustees who have publicly spoke against Neufeld's often divisive messages he has been posting on Facebook since October. Coulter was the first to speak against Neufeld, while board chair Paul McManus spoke up earlier this week.

READ: Chilliwack school board chair blasts Neufeld over continued Facebook posts

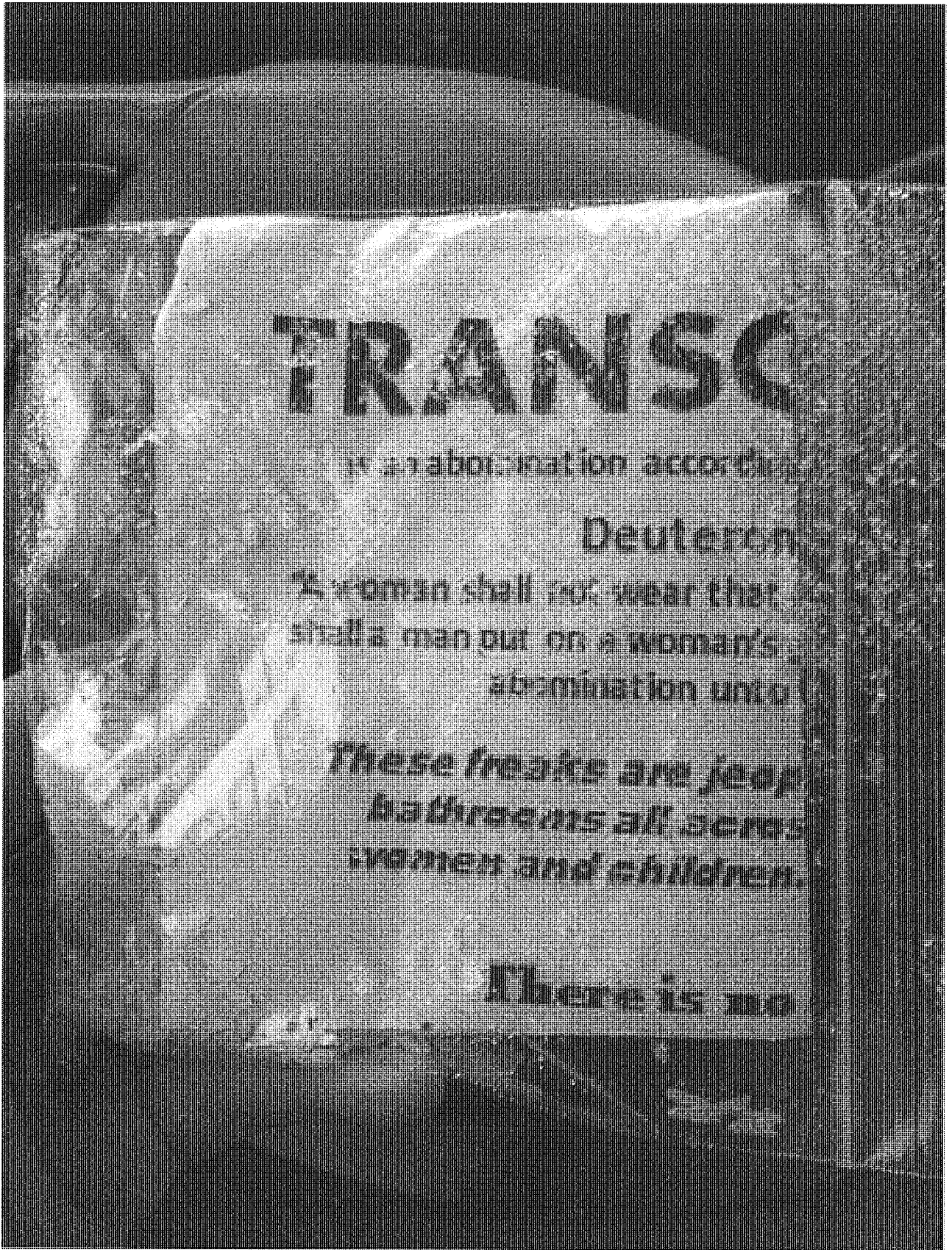
It's not the first time people with a strong message of hate have thrown bags of rice with posters onto lawns in Sardis in the middle of the night. A flyer previously was about interracial marriages with a similar message from the KKK, announcing White Lives Matter. Similar tactics have been used in Mission and Abbotsford.

READ: RCMP investigate distribution of hate material in Chilliwack

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Hate literature has once again been distributed in the Fraser Valley, this time targeting transgender people. (Submitted photo)

TRANSGENDER

Is an abomination according to the Kings James Bible

Deuteronomy 22:5

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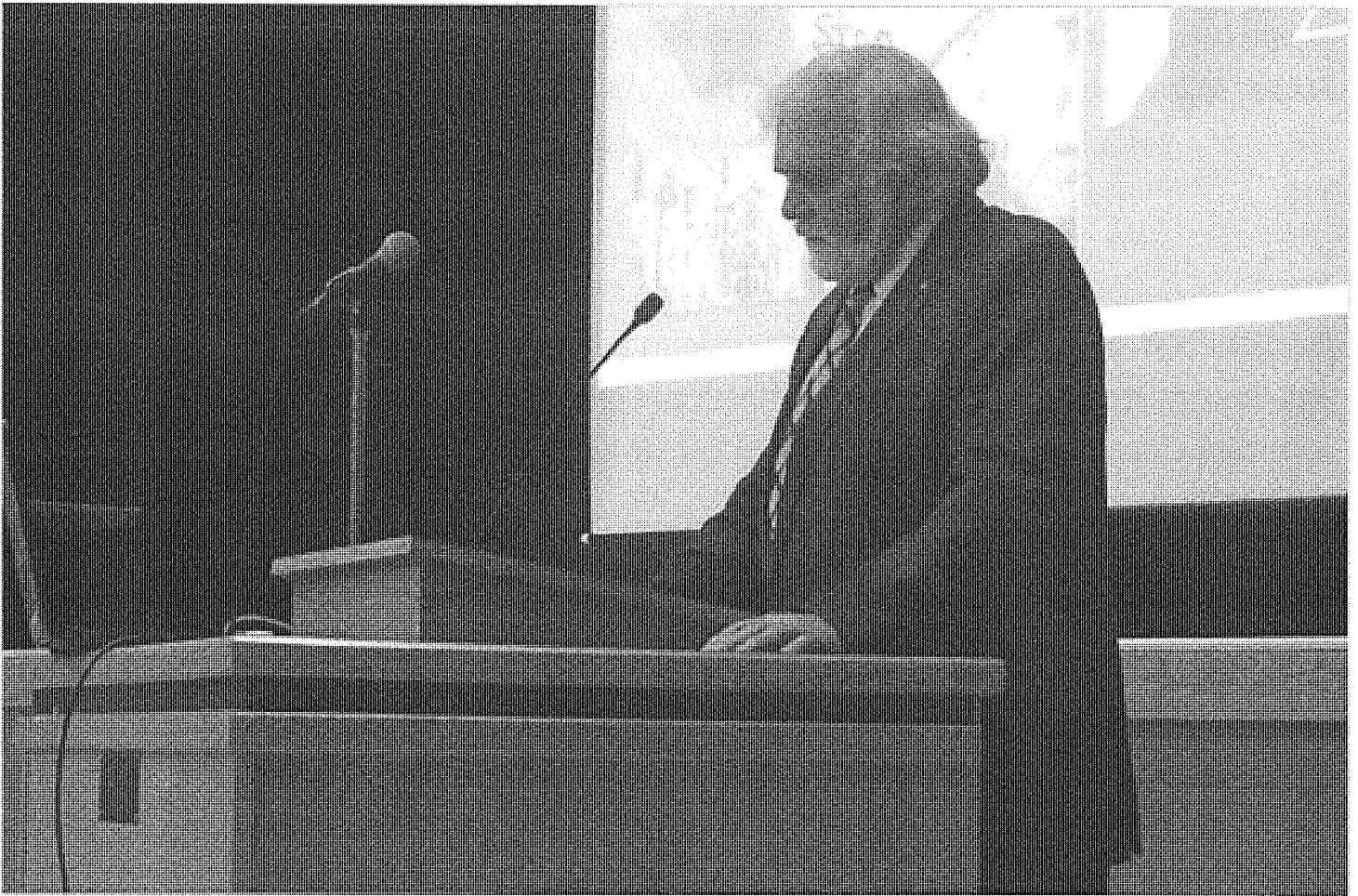


The **KKK**

 Wants You!

A letter has been created and sent out to homes in Sardis overnight. Black Press has removed the contact information on the poster listed for the KKK. (Submitted photo)

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Chilliwack School Trustee Barry Neufeld spoke at a Culture Guard rally in his honour at Evergreen Hall on Nov. 21. (Jessica Peters/ The Progress)

Updated: Neufeld launches letter-writing campaign against DPAC chair

Embattled Chilliwack trustee's letter points finger at volunteer parent, asks supporters to 'challenge her opinions'

JESSICA PETERS / Jan. 5, 2018 9:02 a.m. / LOCAL NEWS / NEWS

A Chilliwack school trustee has launched a letter-writing campaign against a volunteer parent, calling her a political activist who has "joined voices with the radicals who are calling for my resignation."

Trustee Barry Neufeld was writing about Justine Hodge, the chair of the District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC), who signed a letter agreed upon in an

emergency meeting held by DPAC members that did call for his resignation. Several individuals and organizations had already done the same, including the Fraser Valley Labour Council, because of Neufeld's staunch opposition to the rollout of a sexual orientation and gender identity teacher resource called SOGI 123.

SOGI 123 is aimed at helping teachers address the issues of gender identity in the classroom as they arise, to make classrooms and schools more inclusive. It was brought in under the Liberal government and has had bi-partisan acceptance from the current NDP government, as well the BCTF, BCSTA, and BCCPAC.

A group called Culture Guard, led by a woman named Kari Simpson, has been vocal in stopping teachers from using SOGI 123 (it's available online for free), but there has been no recorded success. Neufeld spoke as an invited guest at a Culture Guard rally here in November, where more than 400 people attended.

Due to the controversy, including continued Facebook posts by Neufeld against SOGI 123, Neufeld has stepped back from all committees, stopped working as a liaison in schools and has refused to comment on the subject to this newspaper. There are 10 months left in this term and he has announced he intends to run again.

The email from Neufeld was sent out Jan. 1, at 12:22 a.m. to an unknown number of recipients from his private email.

"I am writing to ask you to start off the New Year by helping me, please," he starts. "I believe it is time to PUSH BACK!"

This email has resurfaced a handful of times from letter writers who have forwarded it onto Hodge with their letters supporting Neufeld. Those letters, totaling more than two dozen in 24 hours, included enough hate that Hodge called the RCMP to start a file.

One stated: "People are well aware of the left wing freak show along with the

four eyed blue haired face pierced tatted up non-binary zurs that PRETENDto speak for all people. THEY DONT. The brainwashing from you LEFTWING WEIRDOS for the last 30 years IS OVER. My family and friend WILL FIGHT YOU on this and you will lose miserably.”

Read more below

Another aimed more directly at SOGI 123 and LGBTQ families.

“This email is being sent to expose the insidious and unjustified measures being applied by various parties and individuals to usurp and manipulate students and parents into accepting the LGBTQ agenda through SOGI and Comprehensive Sex Education (CSE).”

Hodge says Neufeld’s letter contains a lie about her — that she plans on running for school board. She says has no intention of doing so. Neufeld also paints her as a political opponent, “very activist... positioned herself to be in lock step with the BC Teacher’s Federation.”

He says that “Ms. Hodge is taking sides with only a handful of radical parents, and alienating the vast majority of parents who trust biology and common sense.”

He lists her email address for her DPAC chair role, and *The Progress* editor’s email.

, including a copy of her letter to the editor from the Dec. 29 edition.

"I ask that you take Ms. Hodge to task and challenge her opinions," he wrote "Remember that a public body like a School District must present all opinions and be inclusive of everyone. Ms. Hodge obviously wants to bar anyone with religious or common-sense scruples from engaging in debate. I firmly believe their opinions are also deserving of consideration and respect."

In another portion of the letter he suggests most of the school Parent Advisory Councils "are not interested in political activism."

"They are content to maintain communication with the School Principal and staff, organize fundraising events for items not included in Provincial funding, provide grants for worthy student projects, arrange photographs for school yearbooks, etc."

However, according to the School Act the official role of a PAC, through its elected officers, is to advise the school board, the principal and staff of the school respecting any matter relating to the school. The PACs advise DPAC (each PAC has the opportunity to elect a member to DPAC). And the DPACs are the legislated parent voice at the school district level, representing the collective views of school PAC and advising the board of education on any matter relating to education in their school district.

Neufeld doesn't believe Hodge consulted each of the "32 school PACs in Chilliwack." There are 28 potential spots for DPAC reps in Chilliwack. Only 17 are filled, for lack of volunteer parents, just as there are vacancies at the PAC level in schools for the same reason. However, that's up from just five reps when Hodge started in her role.

The minutes from the emergency meeting will be accepted at the DPAC's next monthly meeting, Jan. 25.

"It is concerning that Trustee Neufeld knows so little about DPAC's purpose and processes," Hodge says. "He has asked his supporters to target me personally and challenge my opinions, but my opinions on this or any matter are irrelevant. As Chair, I speak on behalf of the Council, I do not make decisions for the

Read more below

While the school board chair Paul McManus has admonished Neufeld for continuing to post publicly against SOGI 123, this hasn't seemed to stop him from starting this letter campaign. The letter states the he hopes to see the fight against gender identity equality in the classroom carry on in the future.

“Our Current Provincial government is very fragile. I do not think I am exaggerating when I believe that this gender controversy may bring down our current government” with SOGI as a part of a provincial platform, he says.

“I am not so presumptuous to think that I alone will rewrite the SOGI curriculum,” he adds. “Wiser and more informed persons than me are already working on it.”

He says he believes there are about 20 in Chilliwack with “gender dysphoria.”

“Not all of these parents subscribe to the unscientific gender-fluid theory that ‘what is between one’s legs is not always the same as what is between one’s ears.’... I do not ‘hate’ transgender children: They can’t help the way they feel. They should certainly NOT be bullied or teased. But I advocate for the least intrusive way of helping them: hopefully to accept the gender they were assigned at birth.”

Meanwhile, on Thursday the letters kept pouring in, following the publishing of Hodge’s email and the republishing of several of the points Neufeld made in his initial letter, but a Christian television personality with a connection to the Culture Guard. Laura Lynn Thompson told her followers: “The attack against [Neufeld’s] courageous stand wages on as Ms. Justine Hodge, President of the Chilliwack District Parents Advisory Council has joined voices with the radicals

who are calling for his resignation.

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Education minister Rob Fleming responded on Friday afternoon with a strong message of support for parents and students in Chilliwack.

“It is unfortunate that parents who are supporting SOGI 123 in Chilliwack are now becoming targets of hateful behaviour,” Fleming said in an email to *The Progress*.

“The Chilliwack Board of Education is the authority to determine the appropriate course of action if they deem their code of conduct has been broken by a fellow trustee.

“Under the School Act, the Minister only has the power to dismiss the entire board of education, and only in very specific circumstances. It’s disappointing that Mr. Neufeld is dedicating his time and efforts to promote his views instead of supporting some of our most vulnerable students.

“Students and parents should know that we are moving forward with SOGI 123 to ensure all students feel welcome in B.C.’s schools, regardless of who they identify as.”

“Next October, the voters in Chilliwack will have an opportunity to elect a new board and voters will hopefully support candidates who put forward policies of inclusion and acceptance.”

Also in response, parents in Chilliwack have been posting messages of support for the Chilliwack DPAC executive members, who say they voted unanimously on the letter, and Hodge specifically.

“We are just so happy the DPAC stood up for what’s right and what’s best for our kids,” Leah Reimer said. “I’m so sorry that you’re being the one lied about Justine, you’re just doing your best. It’s too bad hate speaks so loudly.”

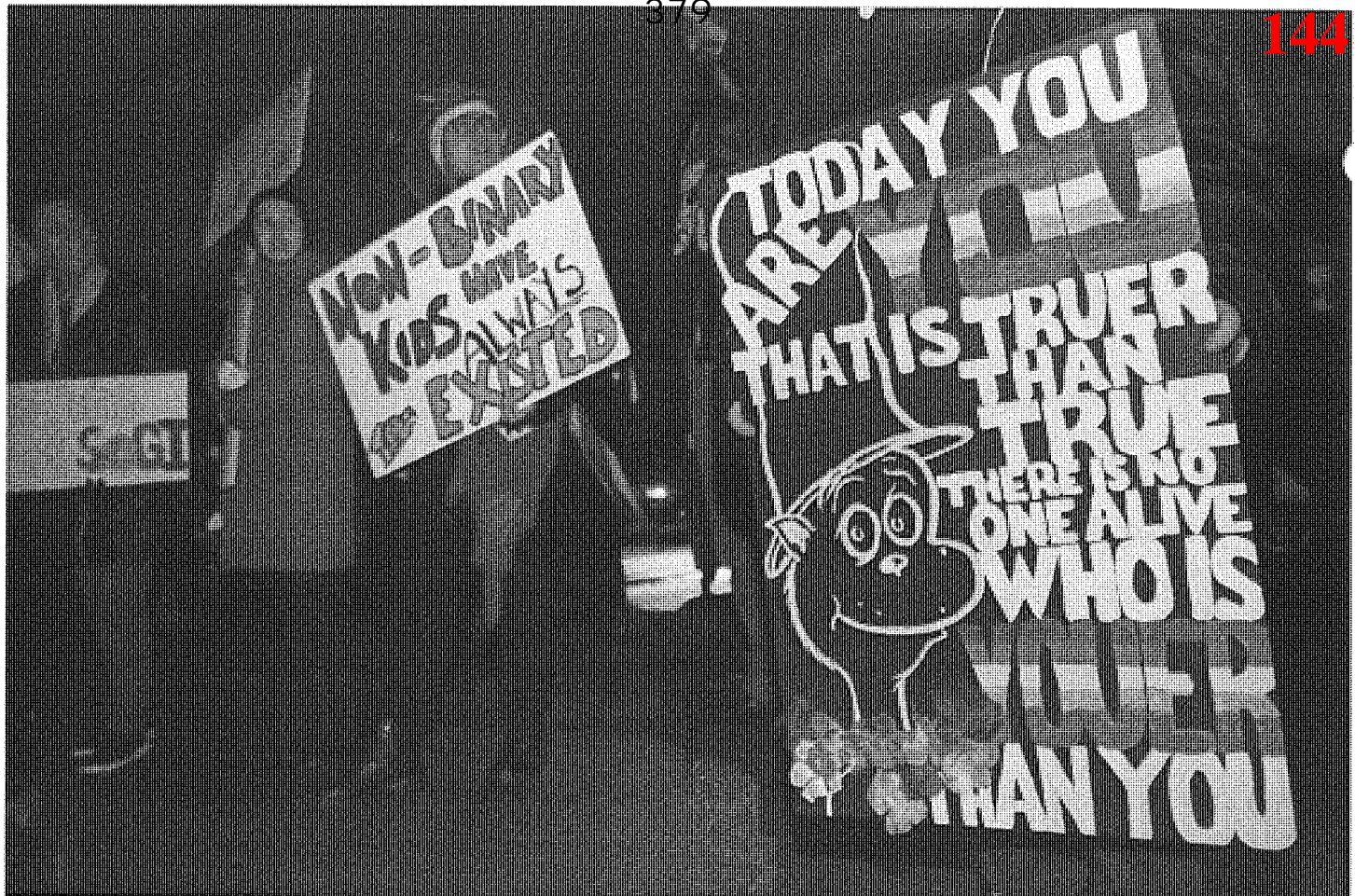
Evelyn Novak, the School District's superintendent, said Friday morning, that the issue would likely be coming up in the weeks to come around the board table.

"I am sure this will be a topic of Board discussion in the upcoming weeks, once we are back in session," she said.

Neufeld has not responded to questions about the campaign. McManus was reached on holiday and will respond when he returns.

UPDATE: The BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils said Monday: "As the issue of SOGI has emerged at the forefront of divisive political debate in some districts, we cannot lose sight of the fact that we need to protect the dignity and safety of all BC students.

"Thank you Chilliwack DPAC for your district leadership."



About 350 people showed up for a rally outside the Chilliwack School Board in November to show their support for LGBTQ students, teachers, staff and parents. Meanwhile, inside the board office, Trustee Barry Neufeld was announcing he is stepping back from some of his duties, but not all of them. (Greg Laychak/ The Progress)

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Chilliwack school board should check code of conduct, says provincial parent group - Chilliwack Progress

Jessica Peters Jan. 15, 2018 10:40 a.m. News

The provincial organization of parent advisory councils is asking the Chilliwack school board to consider reviewing their codes of conduct, after a trustee launched a letter-writing campaign against a local volunteer parent.

An email was sent from Trustee Barry Neufeld's private email account on Jan. 1, to an unknown number of recipients, asking for their support in calling out Justine Hodge. The email said Hodge, a current chair of the District Parent Advisory Council, is running for school board trustee in the upcoming election, using her position to push an agenda, and was in "in lock step" with the teachers union.

READ: Neufeld launches letter-writing campaign against DPAC chair

Hodge says she has no intention of running for school board chair. As chair of the DPAC, she did authorize a letter to the school district outlining why the DPAC believes Neufeld should resign from his position, following a series of public statements against government-approved teacher resources. The resources give teachers ways to address sexual orientation and gender identity in the classroom from Kindergarten through Grade 12.

The email from Neufeld sent out on New Year's Day stated "Hodge has joined voices with the radicals who are calling for my resignation" and "I ask that you take Ms. Hodge to task and challenge her opinions."

And letters did arrive. Many had Neufeld's original letter attached, included repeated unchallenged information from that letter regarding Hodge and her position, and incorrect information about the proper protocol and duties of parent advisory and district parent advisory councils. Some were so angry and threatening to Hodge that she called the RCMP to begin the complaint process.

The B.C. Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils wrote to Hodge after their Jan. 11 meeting to inform her they will be addressing the matter with the Chilliwack Board of Education. They called it "deeply disturbing" that a letter writing campaign would be started against someone personally, because of their role as a chair for a larger body.

Read the full letter of support here:

"As a recognized partner of the Chilliwack Board of Education, the Chilliwack DPAC is the official representative of the parent voice in your district," the BCCPAC wrote. "The BCCPAC Board of Directors assert that it is within the mandate and authority of all DPACs to advise on any matter as per the School Act and a letter to inform the board of a decision of the DPAC assembly is well within its rights."

They added that BCCPAC, along with every other partner in education in B.C., is in

support of the use of SOGI 123 by teachers.

“In light of what you and the DPAC are currently facing, the BCCPAC Board of Directors made a unanimous decision at the January 11 board meeting to write the Chilliwack Board of Education to consider a review of the codes of conduct to ensure all members of your school communities – including the DPAC – do not feel intimidated or threatened.”

In addition, they thanked Hodge and the Chilliwack DPAC for their leadership.

“On behalf of the BCCPAC Board of Directors, thank you again for your district leadership and your advocacy on behalf of parents in fostering a culture of acceptance, tolerance of diversity and inclusion in our public schools.”

Neufeld accused the DPAC of not calling a proper meeting, of speaking out to media of their concerns, and not consulting every single PAC group, or the superintendent, prior to discussing their concerns publicly. These allegations are now widespread among Neufeld’s supporters, including an evangelical Christian television and internet personality, despite several attempts by Hodge to contact them for corrections.

Neufeld has not responded to repeated requests to speak to *The Progress*.

[@CHWKcommunity](#)

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Union files human rights complaint over Chilliwack school trustee's LGBTQ comments - Chilliwack Progress

Jessica Peters Jan. 15, 2018 8:43 p.m. News

The union that represents Chilliwack school support workers, custodians, transportation staff and others has filed a complaint to the Human Rights Tribunal.

The complaint, by CUPE 411, is against school trustee Barry Neufeld and the Chilliwack School Board. Back in November, Neufeld began a series of public comments airing his beliefs about transgender policies, gender theories, and family values, in light of the province adopting new teaching resources to address sexual orientation and gender identity in the classroom.

His attitudes, expressed online, in board meetings and in spoken public forums, created “an unsafe work environment for CUPE members and other Board employees” the HRT complaint states, as confirmed by board chair Paul McManus.

The complaint asks for a declaratory order that the board has breached the Human Rights Code, and that all trustees and senior management take part in training on LGBTQ equality rights, and on protecting LGBTQ students in schools.

They are also seeking an order to direct the board to enforce their own policy to adopt a motion of censure. In addition, they are asking that a fee of \$50,000 in compensation for “injury to dignity, feelings, and self-respect” be paid on behalf of affected employee to a non-profit group that advocates for LGBTQ youth.

The board received notice of the complaint on Monday afternoon (Jan. 15), confirmed McManus.

“There’s not a whole lot we can talk about at this point,” he said. “We’ve had to forward it onto legal for advice.”

McManus added that the whole discussion has overshadowed all of the other work the board has had at its table over the past few months, including a massive plan to reconfigure school grades.

“We keep trying to move forward with the other business of the board with all of this in the background,” he said. “But we keep constantly breaking out in these conversations.”

While he says that the conversation around SOGI and inclusion are important, there are certain things people want that the board just can’t do. There are people who oppose Neufeld who want him fired by the board, which is not legally possible, McManus said. On the other hand there are Neufeld supporters who believe schools are involved with gender reassignment surgeries and puberty blockers, which also isn’t factual, he added.

“This all stems from these personal opinions Barry’s thrown out there and we have to deal with as a board because of who he has aligned himself with,” McManus said. In November, Neufeld spoke as a special guest at a Culture Guard rally in Chilliwack. He has also sent out a mass email to his supporters to ask them to email the District Parent Advisory Council chair, Justine Hodge, after the DPAC called for his resignation. He asked his supporters to “challenge her opinions” and suggested Hodge would be running against him in the school board elections in October.

Hodge has never stated an intention to run for school board, and the provincial confederation of PACs has written to support the Chilliwack DPAC’s actions.

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SOGI rally disrupts school board meeting - Chilliwack Progress

Jessica Peters Jan. 16, 2018 10:45 p.m. News

Jessica Peters

The Progress

Chilliwack's school board has now firmly stated its support for SOGI 123 teaching materials, following months of controversy started by one of its trustees.

Board chair Paul McManus read the full statement at the outset of the public meeting on Tuesday night (find this story online for the full text). That meeting was disrupted at least twice, once by a pro-SOGI rally that moved into the board office lobby, and once by a Christian television evangelist who spoke out of order during a question period.

In part, the board's statement says it acknowledges "that when learning resources, such as SOGI 123, are used, utmost professional judgment will be exercised in assessing how learning resources are utilized. The Chilliwack School District is one of 51 out of 60 school districts in the province that are in the provincial SOGI network."

The statement said the board has "always supported all students regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, religion or background."

But that support has been doubted over the past several months, since Trustee Barry Neufeld came out against SOGI 123, a Ministry of Education approved teaching resource that addresses sexual orientation and gender identity in the classrooms. The resources aim to lead discussions about traditional gender roles and myth busting, in age-appropriate ways, as well as dealing with pronouns in situations where it's called for.

Neufeld has written several times online about his stance against SOGI 123, and has even stated in a public meeting he is working on an "alternate inclusion program."

He spoke publicly at a rally for a group that actively works to stop SOGI 123 and believes transgender children will "grow out of it" and are in danger from adults and "social engineering."

Up until Tuesday night, the board had not collectively spoken in support of SOGI 123. They attended a private SOGI 123 information session the day before, lead by the district's assistant superintendent Rohan Arul-Pragasam, where they drafted the statement.

All of this led up to Tuesday night's rally, where about 150 people gathered outside the Chilliwack school district office an hour before the public meeting. They wore neon lights, held signs, drummed, played guitar, chanted, and sang songs.

People came from all over the Fraser Valley and Lower Mainland to join the rally in support of LGBTQ children and teens. Among the supporters was also Anglican priest John Sovereign.

“I’m totally in support of SOGI,” he said. “It’s a move in the right direction. I’m so glad kids growing up won’t have to hide in plain sight anymore. And there is nothing more gospel than that.”

As a First Nation drummer played nearby, he added: “This is where Jesus would be.”

But the more common refrain of the night was “Hey hey, ho ho, Barry Neufeld’s got to go,” as rally participants marched up and down the streets around the district building, through the parking lot and even into the building.

A sizable group moved into the lobby about halfway through the meeting, while the board was attempting to listen to Superintendent Evelyn Novak present the upcoming school calendar, which is being changed to a one-week spring break model. The reasoning for the change was hard to hear, due to the chanting, and was arguably the most contentious item on the agenda for many families and staff that evening.

As the voices got louder, Trustee Heather Maahs interrupted Novak and made a motion to suspend the meeting, in order to clear the building of the protesters. Neufeld seconded the motion, but the rest of the board voted against Maahs’ motion and it failed. (Trustee Silvia Dyck is away on an extended medical leave.)

Chair McManus said he would rather let them continue to protest and that they had all the information in front of them that they needed to make their decision, and the meeting carried on. Earlier in the evening, a woman holding a sign that read “Grannies for SOGI” quietly walked the perimeter of the room. She was ushered out of the room and back to the rally.

The security on site also reportedly called in the RCMP to help with the crowd and attempted to get them to leave the area. However, upon arrival they found nothing wrong and left without incident. The school board office is almost directly across the street from an RCMP detachment.

At the end of the meeting, in the second question-and-answer period, one of Neufeld’s most vocal supporters attempted to make a speech. However, the question period at the end of the meeting is set aside only for items that were discussed on that evening’s agenda, and Neufeld and SOGI 123 were not on the agenda. The woman, Christian television personality and Culture Guard member Laura-Lynn Tyler Thompson, was quickly called on a point of order by Trustee Dan Coulter. She kept talking, however, questioning what “point of order” meant. She pulled up two teenagers she said she met at the rally to try to continue speaking in defence of Neufeld.

McManus turned off the microphone to the podium, as people in the audience began shouting that she needed to be shut down, since nobody else would be allowed to speak to the SOGI issue. Many people left the boardroom in defiance and the meeting was quickly adjourned.

During the first question and answer period, which is not limited to agenda items, several people brought up questions about Neufeld and his recent behaviour. Parent

and long-time PAC volunteer Clara Hooper asked about Neufeld's remuneration, since he is no longer acting as a liaison in his role as trustee. Neufeld didn't attempt to respond to the question.

A parent who didn't identify herself for fear of reprisal, presumably from Neufeld supporters, pressed McManus and others to state whether they had reached out to Justine Hodge, Chilliwack District Parent Advisory Council chair, after Neufeld launched a letter-writing campaign against her among his political supporters. Trustee Coulter raised his hand to say he had done so. McManus and Novak have also reached out to Hodge. Hodge has previously stated she felt so under attack by the content of the letters, she contacted the RCMP.

Morgane Oger, a trans advocate from Vancouver, asked if the board has or will be censuring Neufeld for his actions, to show future trustees that such actions will not be tolerated.

McManus responded that they are in the middle of legal advice on the matter and could not comment.

[Board of Education SOGI Statement by Jess Peters on Scribd](#)

Board of Education SOGI Statement by Jess Peters on Scribd

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 16, 2018**

The Chilliwack Board of Education has always supported all students regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, religion or background. In 2016 the BC Human Rights Code was updated to include Gender Identity or Expression and our Policies were updated accordingly. In our schools everyone is welcomed, included and respected in a safe learning environment.

- The Board of Education is committed to ensuring that learning in classrooms includes a focus on valuing diversity, respecting differences and the topics of Human Rights and responses to discrimination.
- The Board of Education is committed to providing age-appropriate learning opportunities to ensure that students have and exhibit understanding and care as it relates to all members of the community.
- The Board of Education supports the professional staff to select learning resources that support the curriculum and are consistent with the educational goals of the province, the district and the school.
- The Board of Education acknowledges that when learning resources, such as SOGI 123, are used, utmost professional judgment will be exercised in assessing how learning resources are utilized. The Chilliwack School District is one of 51 out of 60 school districts in the province that are in the provincial SOGI network.
- The Board of Education believes parents/guardians are partners in learning, and their involvement and consultation are integral with their child's teachers and staff in the school.

The Board of Education will:

- Provide ongoing information on the district website regarding answers to frequently asked questions related to SOGI 123,
- Support information sessions at schools, and
- Revise Policy 600 Selection of Learning Resources.

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Chilliwack Teachers file motion of non-confidence against Board of Education

by Jonathon Szekeres

Summary



The CTA is now calling on the Minister of Education to intervene in the matter



The CTA made the move after their regular meeting Tuesday night

VANCOUVER (NEWS1130) — The Chilliwack Teacher's Association (CTA) has filed a motion of non-confidence against the Chilliwack Board of Education, after controversial comments made by trustee Barry Neufeld about the province's gender identity and sexual orientation curriculum.

The CTA made the move after their regular meeting Tuesday night, saying there is a concern for the emotional and physical safety of students, staff and teachers following Neufeld's behavior.

Neufeld came under fire in October when he compared gender transitioning to child abuse; He's also called gender confusion a 'sexual addiction.'

CTA President Lee-Ann Clarke says the association takes issue with Neufeld's comments, but they're also disappointed in the lack of action taken by the Chilliwack Board of Education.

"I think at the very least there could be a motion of censure about this, or a strong statement of support for teachers who are doing the work that the ministry asks them to do, which is to provide safe, inclusive, accepting classrooms," says Clarke.

She says by failing to act, the board has allowed a toxic environment to spread across the school district.

"The lack of a strong response from our school board has meant that these schools aren't safe for everyone anymore," says Clarke.

The CTA is now calling on the Minister of Education, Rob Fleming, to intervene in the matter.

When asked about future action taken against the board or Mr. Neufeld, Clarke says that decision will be up to the members of the teacher's association.

The CTA is not the first group to speak out against trustee Neufeld; CUPE Local 411, the union representing non-teaching staff in schools, have filed a human rights complaint because of his comments.

They've asked the board to donate \$50,000 to LGBTQ Youth advocacy.

Calls to Mr. Neufeld have not been returned.

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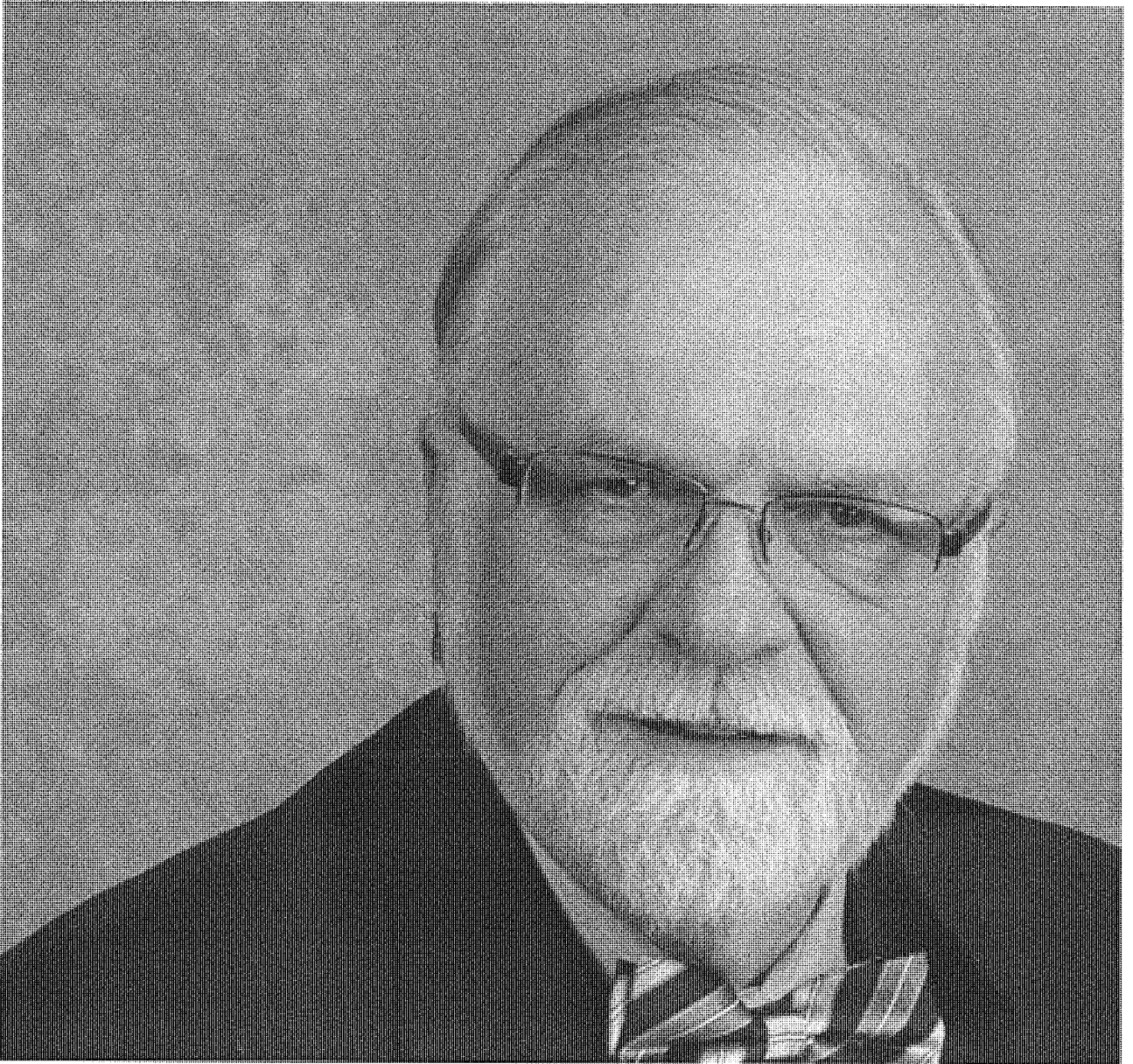
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Chilliwack teachers say education board has created 'toxic' environment

BARRY NEUFELD / FACEBOOK / PNG



This is a photo of Chilliwack school trustee Barry Neufeld.

Chilliwack teachers are taking a stand against the district's school trustees who oppose the province's gender identity and sexual orientation curriculum, saying they have created a toxic work environment.

At a meeting Tuesday, the Chilliwack Teachers' Association passed a motion of non-

confidence against the Chilliwack Board of Education after controversial comments made by trustee Barry Neufeld last fall.

The association claims Chilliwack trustees have failed to take a strong stance against attacks on the province's Sexual Orientation Gender Identity (SOGI) program.

In October, Neufeld criticized the program on social media, saying that allowing young children to choose their gender amounted to "child abuse."

He apologized, but then a month later made similar comments at a rally to oppose the LGBTQ curriculum. Neufeld's speech was denounced by B.C. Education Minister Rob Fleming, who said it was "disturbing" that a school trustee spoke at such an event.

Now the Chilliwack Teachers' Association is calling on Fleming to intervene in the matter.

Association president Lee-Anne Clarke says the groups is "extremely worried" about ensuring safe and inclusive schools and work environment for everyone.

"At a time when our school community needs a unified response of support, the board has allowed a toxic climate to spread across the school district," Clarke said in a statement.

In July 2016, the B.C. Human Rights Code was amended to include gender identity and expression as a prohibited ground of discrimination. Later that year, the province issued a directive requiring all school boards to include sexual orientation and gender identity in district and school codes of conduct.

The SOGI program was created by the provincial Ministry of Education, the B.C. Teachers' Federation, nine school districts, and Out In Schools.

The Chilliwack Board of Education has stated that Neufeld's comments are his own and do not reflect the views of the board.

The BCTF has called for Neufeld to step down.

Earlier this month, CUPE 411, the union representing Chilliwack School District support staff, filed a human rights complaint against Neufeld and the board, alleging the board has failed to provide a safe work environment.

Neufeld did not return a request for comment.

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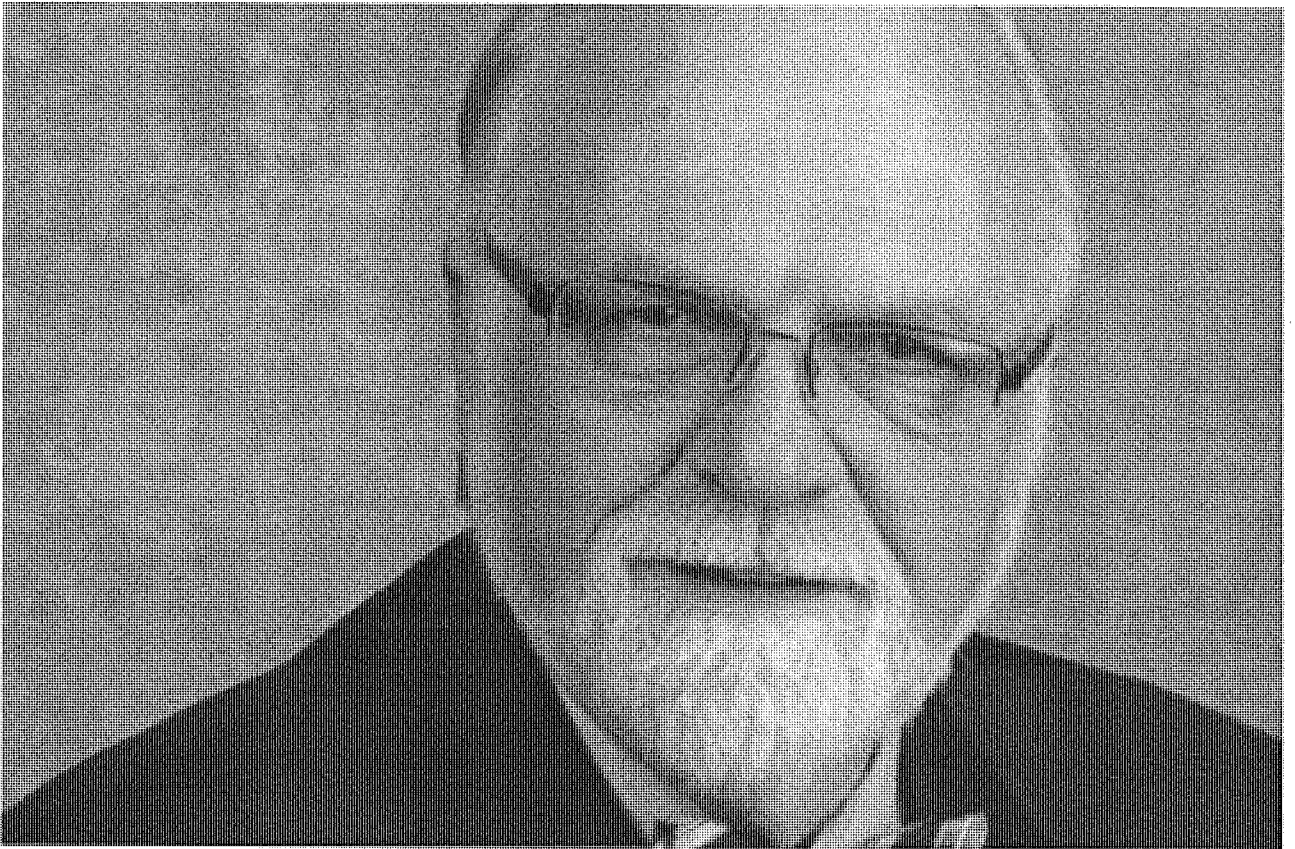
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Chilliwack school board asks trustee to resign over comments about transgender children | CBC News

Maryse Zeidler · CBC News · Posted: Jan 19, 2018 1:40 PM PT | Last Updated: January 19, 2018

The Chilliwack board of education is asking trustee Barry Neufeld to resign in the wake of comments he made last fall about transgender children. Neufeld says he has no plans to step down.



School trustee Barry Neufeld set off a firestorm of controversy after posting a Facebook message that called B.C. educators 'radical cultural nihilists' for gender policies in schools. (Chilliwack School Board)

The Chilliwack board of education is asking trustee Barry Neufeld to resign in the wake of comments he made last fall about transgender children.

It comes after the Chilliwack Teachers' Association called on the board to officially denounce Neufeld earlier this week.

In a written statement, the board said it passed a motion during an in-camera

meeting on Thursday detailing a loss of confidence in "Neufeld's ability to effectively perform the duties of a trustee."

"Trustee Neufeld has publicly expressed strong opinions in opposition to the changes in the B.C. Human Rights Code that was expanded to include sexual orientation and gender identity," the board wrote.

But in a release issued Friday evening, Neufeld said he has no plans to step down.

Denies opposition to changes

Neufeld, in his release, said he has never opposed changes to the B.C. Human Rights Code and has never said anything contrary to the code.

"I have simply taken issue with ... the teaching of the controversial gender-fluid theory, as if it was fact, that gender is fluid, that there are more than two genders and that gender is not based in biology," he wrote.

But last October, Neufeld faced widespread criticism after he denounced members of B.C.'s education system in a Facebook post as "radical cultural nihilists" for their policies on gender rights and education.

Neufeld wrote that "letting little children choose to change gender is nothing short of child abuse."

Minister backs board

In a written statement, Education Minister Rob Fleming said he supported the board's decision.

"The hurtful and offensive words and actions of Chilliwack school trustee Barry Neufeld continue to undermine this district and ministry goal," Fleming said.

"While individuals are entitled to their opinions, Mr. Neufeld has jeopardized student safety, divided his school community and acted against board and ministry policies."

Fleming said the B.C. School Act doesn't give the ministry the authority to dismiss individual trustees.

"It's time for him to now do the right thing for the Chilliwack school community and step down," he said.

Pressure from teachers' association

On Tuesday, the Chilliwack Teachers' Association passed a motion of non-confidence against the Chilliwack school board and called on trustees to take action.

CTA president Lee-Anne Clarke said the board hasn't done enough to speak out against Neufeld's comments, and the association's members have become increasingly frustrated about "growing anti-LGBTQ sentiments" in the community.

On Monday, the union that supports education support workers in Chilliwack, CUPE 411, submitted a complaint against Neufeld and the school district to the B.C. Human Rights Tribunal.

The complaint says "the board has failed to provide a work environment free of discrimination."

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Minister, board urge B.C. school trustee to resign over LGBTQ remarks

The Canadian Press

CHILLIWACK, B.C. — British Columbia's education minister is joining calls for a school board member to step down after the trustee said education policies aimed at supporting LGBTQ students amount to child abuse.

The Chilliwack Board of Education passed a motion Thursday asking trustee Barry Neufeld to resign over the comments he made on Facebook, saying Neufeld has lost the confidence of the board and partners in learning.

Education Minister Rob Fleming echoed the call Friday in a Facebook post, saying Neufeld's comments were hurtful and offensive, and undermine the goals of the school board and the ministry.

Neufeld declined comment on the board's motion or Fleming's remarks when reached by phone on Friday but the board's statement says Neufeld has stated he intends to continue in the position.

In October, Neufeld criticized proposed changes to the board's Safe Schools Policy that align with the B.C. Human Rights Code ensuring all students are free of harassment, including those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer.

He later apologized for his comments in a statement, saying he believes in a safe learning environment, but added that educational resources should be reviewed by parents and teachers before they're implemented.

In an interview with *The Canadian Press* in October, Neufeld said he believes the district's Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity program encourages children to question their biological gender and consider gender transition.

"Throwing that out there for Grade 4 children to consider, to me, that is not wise and it infringes on the rights of parents to make these decisions," he said.

The Chilliwack Board of Education says in a statement that it has received many letters from parents, teachers and other groups who expressed concerns about the controversial comments and they wanted Neufeld to resign.

Fleming said the controversy has undermined the school district's ability to "focus on other goals for student success."

"While individuals are entitled to their opinions, Mr. Neufeld has jeopardized student safety, divided his school community, and acted against board and ministry policies," he said in a statement.

Fleming noted that an education minister does not have the authority to dismiss an individual trustee, but he does not believe that Neufeld should continue in his role.

“It’s time for him to now do the right thing for the Chilliwack school community and step down,” the minister said.

Neufeld has been a trustee for two decades.

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ctvnews.ca

B.C. school trustee vows to stay following controversial LGBTQ remarks

3 minutes

CHILLIWACK, B.C. -- A school board trustee in British Columbia is vowing to stay in his job, despite calls that he resign over controversial remarks he made about LGBTQ issues.

Barry Neufeld says in a statement that he "must" remain on the Chilliwack Board of Education to protect "impressionable children."

The statement comes after the board passed a motion on Thursday asking him to resign, saying he has publicly made statements expressing "strong opposition" to the expansion of the B.C. Human Rights Code to include sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as curriculum initiatives on the same subjects.

Neufeld says in his statement that he does not oppose changes to the province's human rights code and that nothing he has said is contrary to the code.

Last fall, Neufeld criticized an educational resource aimed at supporting LGBTQ students, calling it a "weapon of propaganda" and saying it was "nothing short of child abuse."

Neufeld later apologized for his comments, saying he believes in a safe learning environment, but that educational resources should

be reviewed by parents and teachers before they're implemented.

In his latest statement, released on Friday, the trustee said he wants all students to receive an "excellent education regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, race, religion or other group identity."

Neufeld said he does take issue with educators teaching that gender is fluid, that there are more than two genders and that gender is not based in biology.

He said he believes children will be "confused and harmed" by such teaching.

"It is my duty as an elected school board official to speak up when the best interests of children may be compromised," said Neufeld, who has been a trustee for more than two decades. "I will continue to do my duty as trustee in this regard, while exercising my constitutional freedom of expression as a Canadian."

British Columbia's education minister has also called for Neufeld to step down, saying in a Facebook post on Friday that the trustee's comments were hurtful and offensive, and undermine the goals of the school board and the ministry.

"While individuals are entitled to their opinions, Mr. Neufeld has jeopardized student safety, divided his school community, and acted against board and ministry policies," Rob Fleming said in a statement.

Fleming noted that an education minister does not have the authority to dismiss an individual trustee, but he does not believe that Neufeld should continue in his role.

VIDEO:

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/b-c-school-trustee-vows-to-stay-following-controversial-lgbtq-remarks-1.3768612>

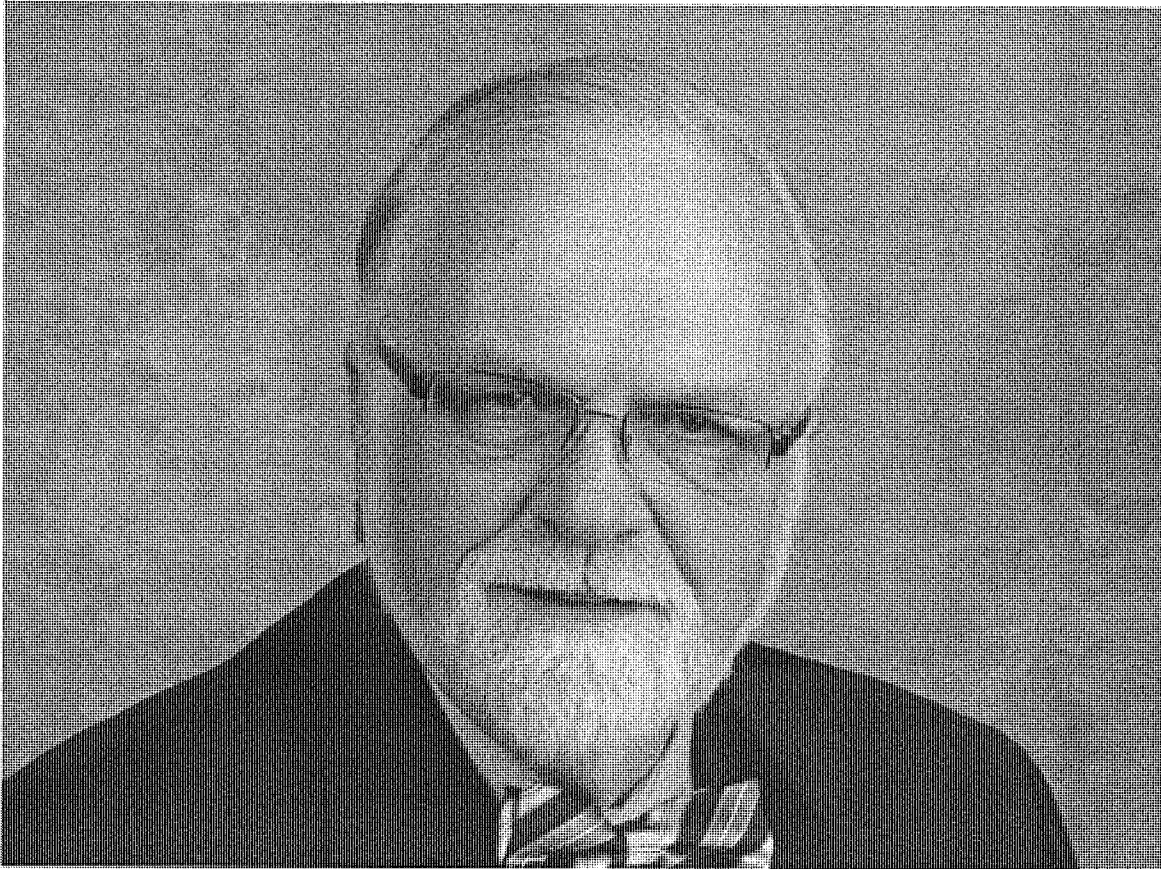
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Chilliwack trustee Barry Neufeld rejects government's call for resignation

BARRY NEUFELD / FACEBOOK / PNG

4-5 minutes



This is a photo of Chilliwack school trustee Barry Neufeld.

Chilliwack school trustee Barry Neufeld says he won't bow to pressure after B.C.'s education minister and the school board called for his resignation over controversial "child abuse" remarks he

made about transgender students.

Evelyn Novak, the Chilliwack superintendent of schools, said in a statement that the board called for Neufeld to resign because of a loss in confidence in his ability to effectively perform the duties of a trustee.

She said groups in the community had expressed concerns that Neufeld's public statements demonstrated intolerance and were contrary to human rights.

Late Friday, Neufeld issued a statement, denying his comments were contrary to the BC Human Rights Code and stating that he will remain in his position despite the pressure to resign.

He said he supports all students receiving an excellent education regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, religion or background. However, he takes issue with teaching children that gender fluidity is fact, that there are more than two genders, and that gender is not based in biology.

He said he must act as the "lonely voice protecting impressionable children" on the board.

"It is my duty as an elected school board official to speak up when the best interests of children may be compromised," he said. "I will continue to do my duty as trustee in this regard, while exercising my constitutional freedom of expression speech as a Canadian, expressing my thoughts without anger or recrimination against those who continue to criticize me in ways that surely would be termed 'bullying' in any other circumstance."

In October, Neufeld criticized the program on social media, saying that allowing young children to choose their gender amounted to

“child abuse.”

He apologized, but then a month later made similar comments at a rally to oppose the LGBTQ curriculum. Neufeld’s speech was denounced by B.C. Education Minister Rob Fleming, who said it was “disturbing” that a school trustee spoke at such an event.

On Friday, Fleming also called on Neufeld to resign.

“All students serve to be welcomed, included, and respected in a safe learning environment no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity,” he said, in an emailed statement.

He said the provincial identity program was created to ensure students can be themselves without being excluded or bullied.

“The hurtful and offensive words and actions of (Neufeld) continue to undermine this district and ministry goal,” said Fleming. “While individuals are entitled to their opinions, Mr. Neufeld has jeopardized student safety, divided his school community, and acted against board and ministry policies.

Fleming said that although the School Act doesn’t allow the education minister to dismiss a trustee, he does not believe that Neufeld should continue to work as a trustee.

“It is time for him to now do the right thing for the Chilliwack school community and step down.”

Novak said the board has received many letters, including from the Chilliwack School District Parent Advisory Council, the Chilliwack Teachers’ Association, CUPE, BCGEU, the B.C. Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils and the Fraser Valley Labour Council denouncing his controversial comments, expressing loss of confidence and calling for his resignation.

Novak said the board “supports all students regardless of gender identity, race, religion or background, and will continue to provide a safe and inclusive environment for all students in Chilliwack schools.”

In July 2016, the B.C. Human Rights Code was amended to include gender identity and expression as a prohibited ground of discrimination. Later that year, the province issued a directive requiring all school boards to include sexual orientation and gender identity in district and school codes of conduct.

The identity program was created by the provincial Ministry of Education, the B.C. Teachers’ Federation, nine school districts, and Out In Schools.

Earlier this month, CUPE 411, the union representing Chilliwack School District support staff, filed a human rights complaint against Neufeld and the board, alleging the board has failed to provide a safe work environment.

ticrawford@postmedia.com

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Neufeld backlash a 'disgrace'

The Province 25 Jan 2018 +1 more

The persecution of Chilliwack school trustee Barry Neufeld is a disgrace. Some groups are allowed to express whatever outrageous opinion is convenient for them. We call it freedom of speech. But a person who supports morality and calls for limits to the misinformation the education ministry imposes on children is maligned and ostracized.

The vast silent majority of Canadians who have faith-based beliefs are not speaking

loudly enough to be heard over the protests of a small minority of our population.

John Abelseth, Kelowna

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abbynews.com

School board refuses to host meeting after anti-SOGL trustee plans to attend - Abbotsford News

Neil Corbett Jan. 31, 2018 1:00 p.m. News

4-5 minutes

The Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows school board has declined to host a meeting of the Fraser Valley branch of the B.C. School Trustee Association because Chilliwack trustee Barry Neufeld intended to attend.

Neufeld has been asked to resign by the Chilliwack school board over his comments opposing the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGL) curriculum in the province.

He said at a board meeting Tuesday in Chilliwack that he had been looking forward to attending the Fraser Valley branch meeting, which was to be held Feb. 5 at Maple Ridge secondary.

But in a letter from School District No. 42 board chair Mike Murray, the board declined to host the meeting.

"Our decision on this is guided by Policy 9410: Safe, Caring and Healthy Schools, which outlines the Board's commitment to providing safe, caring and socially responsible school environments, as well as educational opportunities such as SOGL," Murray said in the letter to Shelley Carter, president of the Fraser

Valley branch.

“This same policy also captures the expectation we outline for our school codes of conduct, which is that: ‘Any language (oral or written) or behavior that deliberately degrades, denigrates, labels, stereotypes or incites hatred, prejudice, discrimination or harassment towards students or employees on the basis of their real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity will not be tolerated.’

“Given that Trustee Barry Neufeld, who has indicated his intent to attend this meeting, has publicly expressed views that contravene our longstanding policy and stated values, we must unfortunately decline to host this event at one of our schools.

“While we regret putting the branch in the very awkward position of having to consider postponing its meeting, we do feel the need to stand strongly by our stated values. Otherwise, they have no meaning.”

The meeting has been rescheduled and will now be held in Abbotsford.

“I’m disappointed that I have such a negative reputation that even other school boards are scared of me, but I intend to press on, for the sake of students and for the safety of children,” Neufeld said at the Chilliwack board meeting.

Neufeld later said in a phone interview that his board pays \$60,000 to be a member of the BCSTA, and he has a right to attend its meetings, and board trustees and administrators were generally planning to attend the event in Maple Ridge.

Neufeld said opposing the SOGI curriculum is about freedom of

speech, and a parent's right to contest materials being brought into the classroom.

The B.C. School Trustees Association issued a statement on Jan. 19 supporting the Chilliwack school board calling for the resignation of Neufeld.

"As trustees, we take an oath [to] 'not allow any private interest to influence my conduct in public matters' and it is imperative that a public school trustee represent and protect the safety of all students," said the BCSTA statement.

"When one allows personal beliefs to infringe on their ability to do so, and when those beliefs conflict with the policies of the board that they represent along with the laws that govern the province, there are consequences. In this case, it has resulted in a loss of confidence from the Chilliwack Board of Education and the Minister of Education in the trustee's ability to adequately fulfill the duties of office that he was elected to perform."

Neufeld said he is not sure whether he will attend the meeting in Abbotsford.

"I don't want to rock the boat any more than it's already rocking."

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Neufeld brings residential schools into SOGI debate - Chilliwack Progress

Jessica Peters Feb. 14, 2018 11:00 a.m. Local News News

3-4 minutes

Chilliwack school trustee Barry Neufeld brought residential schools into the SOGI 123 debate that's been brewing in this district since October, when he began criticizing the teacher resource.

In his trustee remarks at the end of Tuesday's school board meeting, he read from a written statement about the past few weeks. He had been uninvited from a regional meeting that was to be held in Maple Ridge after some members said they were uncomfortable with his attendance because of comments he has made about the gay, lesbian and transgender community.

The meeting was moved to Abbotsford, where Neufeld said he felt like "the elephant in the room."

During that meeting, aboriginal achievement was discussed, he said.

"A common problem for each district is how to reach out to aboriginal parents and get them to support their children's education. But aboriginal parents still remember the oppression of the days of residential schools when the government tried to eradicate what they considered were superstitious values of the

aboriginal traditions surrounding family and community.”

“I couldn’t help but thinking that this kind of oppression is happening again 150 years later,” he continued, as people in the gallery of the board room began to audibly gasp. “The BC school act, the Canadian Charter of Human Rights, and international law...”

“Someone stop him,” an audience member said.

“Let him speak,” another one said.

“...uphold the right of parents to direct all aspects of their children’s education,” Neufeld continued. “The Ontario Court of Appeal in a recent decision in November stated clearly: ‘The right of parents to care for their children and make decisions for their well being, including decisions on education, is primary and the states authority is secondary to that parental right.’”

Earlier in the evening, he also questioned Dan Bibby, who was at the meeting for a presentation on the many positive partnerships between the Ministry of Children and Families Chilliwack and the Chilliwack School District.

Neufeld stated that the BC Teachers Federation policy is that “if a child confesses to a school district employee that they have feelings of same sex attraction or is transgender, the policy is that they will not notify the parents but will instead call in your ministry to do an evaluation.”

Many people against the teacher resource called SOGI 123 believe that teachers are not allowed to tell parents if a student identifies as transgender, because student confidentiality is listed on the SOGI 123 website.

Neufeld asked Bibby what the protocols, services, and protections are to “restore harmony to the family,” in situations where a child announces they are gay, lesbian or transgender.

Bibby said there hasn’t been a situation like that he’s aware of. He referred to Section 13 of their act, that lays out policy that staff would in fact interview the children, and parents, and make an assessment from there.

“From my knowledge, we’ve never had a case where we’ve assessed from that situation.”

MMMM

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BCTF files human rights complaint against Chilliwack school trustee - Chilliwack Progress

Paul Henderson Apr. 12, 2018 1:11 p.m. Local News Municipal Election News

4-5 minutes

Chilliwack's most controversial school trustee is up against it again as the B.C. Teachers' Federation (BCTF) and the Chilliwack Teachers' Association (CTA) have filed a complaint with the BC Human Rights Tribunal.

The BCTF complaint says that while Barry Neufeld claims he does not "hate" transgender children, "his statements subject transgender people to hatred."

Neufeld's ongoing social media and real life campaign against the LGBTQ community in general and, more specifically, the sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI 123) curriculum spurred the complaint.

In the past, Neufeld has called himself a prophet for his stance against the gay community.

• **READ MORE:** [Chilliwack school trustee calls himself a prophet](#)

Neufeld has referred to supporting transgender children as "child abuse" first as a Facebook post, then at a speech on Nov. 21, 2017 at an event run by a conservative anti-LGBTQ group out of Langley

called "Culture Guard."

Neufeld's repeated comments against SOGI has led to protests at the school board office, and for the board to ask for his resignation, something he declined to do.

• **READ MORE:** Chilliwack board of education asks Neufeld to resign

"Here is my prophecy to the Church," Neufeld said in another Facebook post, something that forms one part of the complaint. "If you don't get off your duffs and push back against this insidious new teching [sic], the day is coming (maybe it is already here) when the government will apprehend your children and put them in homes where they will be encouraged to explore homosexuality and gender fluidity."

At the school board's meeting on April 10, Neufeld addressed the BCTF/CTA human rights complaint, stating that he was supported by Chilliwack MLA John Martin and Chilliwack-Kent MLA Laurie Throness.

"The good news is our meeting with our two MLAs who are getting a lot of calls about me," Neufeld said. "I'm thankful that I have the support of both Chilliwack MLAs."

Indeed, Throness has repeatedly called Neufeld's anti-LGBTQ campaign "brave" and the MLA has defended Neufeld's refusal to respond answer questions or provide comment to *The Progress*.

Martin, however, explained to *The Progress* that to serve his constituents he needs to consult and work with different levels of government, so he does not put forth any opinion about elected officials in other branches.

“As the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Chilliwack I make it a point not to support or oppose any of my elected colleagues be they councilors, Members of Parliament, school trustees or the Mayor,” Martin said Thursday.

According to the filing from Jan. 29 with the B.C. Human Rights Tribunal, the BCTF and CTA seek an order stating Neufeld has breached the human rights code, an order that he refrain from continuing to do so, and an order of payment to a non-profit organization that advocates for LGBTQ youth that works against discrimination.

“When viewed objectively, taking account of the context and circumstances, Trustee Neufeld’s statements are likely to expose transgender individuals to hatred,” the complaint alleges.

“Trustee Neufeld made repeated statements exposing transgender individuals, their families, and teachers who provide an inclusive supportive of transgender students, to hatred. Even after he purported to offer an apology, Trustee Neufeld made further hateful statements.”

The BCTF quietly made the complaint back in January without any public announcement, they say because they did not want to give Neufeld any “more mic time” during that period when the alt-right Culture Guard group was organizing events.

Grievances against Neufeld have also been filed by the union alleging breaches of the collective agreement by the school district as employer.

[@PeeJayAitch](#)

paul.henderson@theprogress.com

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nationalpost.com

Chilliwack school trustee facing human rights complaint for LGBTQ comments

The Canadian Press

2 minutes

VANCOUVER — A Chilliwack school trustee is facing a human rights complaint for controversial comments he has made about gender identity and sexual orientation.

The B.C. Teachers' Federation and Chilliwack Teachers' Association allege in their joint complaint that trustee Barry Neufeld's statements and social media posts have been "discriminatory," and are likely to expose transgender individuals to hatred.

The complaint filed with the B.C. Human Rights Tribunal alleges that Neufeld negatively affected teachers' work environments by calling those who support transgender students "child abusers."

It claims Neufeld has referred to trans people as part of a "biologically absurd theory," and that his statements paint trans people as "ill, delusional and suggests that there is a transgender agenda that will harm children."

Reached by phone, Neufeld said he remains an active trustee and he refers all comments to his lawyer, who was not immediately

available.

Much of Neufeld's criticisms have centred on an educational resource aimed at supporting LGBTQ students in the district, which he called a "weapon of propaganda" in the fall.

Neufeld later apologized for his comments, saying he believes in a safe learning environment but that educational resources should be reviewed by parents and teachers before they're implemented.

In January, he said in a statement that he must remain on the Chilliwack Board of Education to protect "impressionable children."

The board had passed a motion asking him to resign.

B.C. Education Minister Rob Fleming has also called for Neufeld to step down, saying the trustee's comments have undermined the goals of the school board and the ministry.

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Rights complaint off base

The news that Chilliwack school trustee Barry Neufeld is facing a human-rights complaint from the B.C. Teachers' Federation is a sad comment on their tolerance for opinions other than their own.

Encouraging gender dysphoria in children is viewed as bad medical practice by a large number of health-care professionals. The American College of Pediatricians in a 2017 paper titled Gender Dysphoria in Children conclude that the treatment of gender dysphoria in childhood with hormones effectively amounts to mass experimentation on and sterilization of youth who are cognitively incapable of providing informed consent.

That sure sounds like child abuse to me. David Nielsen,

Walnut Grove

PPPP

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citynews1130.com

Duelling rallies outside the BCTF office over SOGI program taught in schools

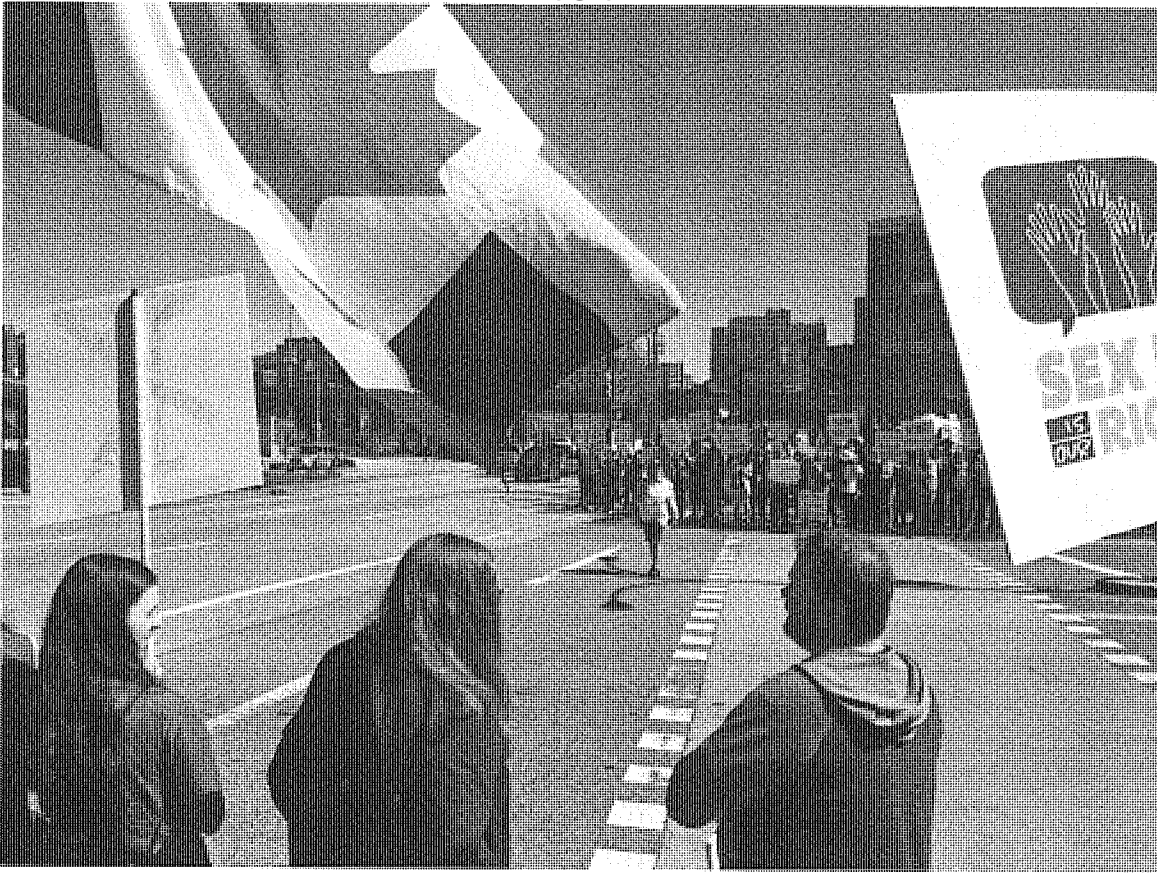
by *Lasia Kretzel*

3 minutes



Posted Apr 23, 2018 11:54 am PST

Last Updated Apr 23, 2018 at 3:43 pm PST



FILE - Rallies for and against SOGI 1 2 3 at BC schools took place on April 23, 2018 outside the BCTF office in Vancouver. (Lasia Kretzel, NEWS 1130 Photo)



VANCOUVER (NEWS 1130) – Duelling demonstrations brought hundreds of people to the sidewalk outside the BC Teachers Federation Office in Vancouver Monday, to show support and opposition for a new gender-inclusive curriculum being taught in schools.

The Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities (SOGI) 123 program aims to teach kids about sexual and gender diversity within the sexual education curriculum and beyond.

In near equal-sized rallies, demonstrators for the program waved rainbow flags and clutched homemade signs reading “love wins”

and “education is not indoctrination” while across the road, their counterparts held several handmade and printed signs reading “don’t mess with our children” and “parents have rights.”

“The children belong to their parents, not to the unions and not to a political agenda, and this is a political agenda,” organizer and Christian-based group Culture Guard executive Kari Simpson said.

Simpson said the protest against SOGI was organized to show support for similar events in the United States and Australia and the BCTF’s Human Rights complaint against Chilliwack school trustee Barry Neufeld for alleged homophobic and transphobic comments.

Among those who support the program, 17-year-old Burnaby North Secondary School student Madison who heads up her school’s Gay Straight Alliance.

“Because of SOGI, because we have GSAs in our school, I’m happy now,” she said, describing bullying at another school which prompted her to transfer. “And I feel like I owe a lot of that to the programs, to the laws that were implemented because of SOGI.”

While some opposing protestors mingled and exchanged words and arguments, the demonstrations remained relatively segregated and peaceful.

Similar rallies were also held at the BC Legislature in Victoria.

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6 WEDNESDAY August 8, 2018 • BurnabyNOW

Opinion**now**

OUR VIEW

SOGI materials are about being inclusive

You would think a plan to make our public schools more inclusive and accepting of all people would be something that isn't controversial.

You would be wrong.

The SOGI (sexual orientation and gender identity) education materials introduced by the B.C. Ministry of Education aim to make our public schools a safer place because, according to the provincial government, a whopping 64 per cent of LGTBQ+ students feel unsafe at school.

According to the SOGI

123 website, it is less of a curriculum and more of a policy and set of resources, which includes SOGI-inclusive lesson plans meant to make schools inclusive and safe for students of all sexual orientations and gender identities. It includes a school code of conduct and information about how to make environments safe and inclusive, and curriculum resources that can be used in lesson plans to further the goals of the overarching policy.

Sounds sensible. After all, who wouldn't support mak-

ing schools a safer place for LGTBQ+ students by trying to tackle homophobia and transphobia?

Well, there are some people. Instead of embracing SOGI, which is basically a set of positive goals and resources, some are actually organizing against it. One group, called Culture Guard, described SOGI as a way to "indoctrinate" kids into some sort of sexual deviancy.

Chilliwack school trustee Barry Neufeld bizarrely said that allowing children to choose their gender was

"child abuse."

Right here in our own community, a series of anti-SOGI events are coming to churches near you.

Canadian Council for Faith and Family Values, a New Westminster and Burnaby-based faith group, has hosted at least three "STOP SOGI 123" events in the Lower Mainland since mid-July. Four meetings are scheduled in New West churches over the next two months, and other churches in Burnaby have also expressed interest, according to an event organiz-

er (See the story on page 9).

The group says SOGI 123 is a threat to children, parental rights and traditional and Christian values.

Imagine thinking that promoting an end to homophobia and transphobia is some sort of threat.

It's 2018, and inclusivity is where our society should be headed. People next door to our community agreed enough with this to stage a counter-protest – or "love rally" – last Thursday when an anti-SOGI event was hosted by a New Westminster church.

New West residents Louise Cournoyer and her son Will attended the rally. Louise said she supports the LGBTQ community and SOGI because she wants children to feel accepted.

"It's so important to protect children who are members of the LGBTQ community and include them, for them to have a voice in the school system," she said. "By implementing SOGI, changing the way we talk about gender, about sexual orientation, it's extremely important."

We couldn't agree more.

RRR

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Chilliwack school trustee election turning into fight over gender identity resources

Gerry Kahrman / PNG

4 minutes



LGBTQ activist and parent Elizabeth Beacom.

The man who once described himself as the “lonely voice protecting impressionable children” in the Chilliwack school district may not be alone on the school board after the October election.

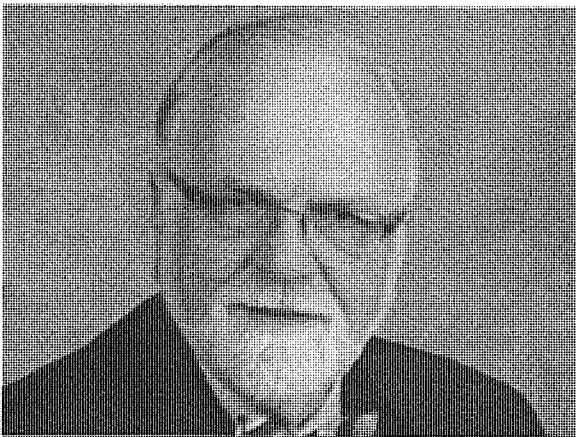
Four of the eight declared candidates for school trustee in Chilliwack have identified themselves as being against the Ministry of Education's sexual orientation and gender identity anti-bullying resources, commonly called SOGI.

The resource materials are designed to guide teachers in helping LGBTQ students and in dealing with bullying that targets a child's gender identity.

Last year, trustee Barry Neufeld he criticized SOGI on social media, saying that allowing young children to "choose" their gender amounted to "child abuse." In response, B.C.'s education minister and the school board called on Neufeld to resign, which he refused to do, vowing to continue to "speak up when the best interests of children may be compromised." He later apologized for the child abuse comment.

Related

Neufeld said Friday that he plans to run again, although he has not yet filed the paperwork. He expects incumbent Heather Maahs will also run, counting her among his allies.



Chilliwack school trustee Barry Neufeld. BARRY NEUFELD /
FACEBOOK / PNG

“There are five candidates that are hoping for a completely inclusive program,” he said.

Asked how opposing SOGI was inclusive, he said people who did not agree with the concept of gender-fluidity were being “shut out” of the B.C. school system.

“We don’t want families with traditional values to be alienated,” he said, adding “the radicals are pushing their agenda.”

Neufeld was not clear about how the group planned to oppose SOGI if elected, but said teachers should be allowed to deal with bullying without specifically identifying LGBTQ kids as a group.

He said the five candidates decided not to run as a slate. That’s because, while they agree on SOGI, they have varying views on other issues.

But parent Elizabeth Beacom said she could find little beyond their anti-SOGI arguments on some of the candidates’ Facebook pages. For example, retired school teacher Kaethe Jones identified it as the number 1 item in her platform.

“The problem is that they’re focused on this single issue, while we have so many other issues to deal with,” said Beacom.

Beacom, an LGBTQ activist, grew up in the Surrey school district and remembers the seven-year legal battle between the school board and parents over books that showed children with two moms and two dads.

Challenging SOGI could cost the district both time and money, not to mention the message it sends to LGBTQ students, she said. “I think it’s really important for people to be informed and to get out and vote.”

Diane Braun, who chairs the district's parent advisory committee, said she wished the election was not being framed as a fight between pro- and anti-SOGI trustees.

She said there are problems with overcrowded schools and a complicated reconfiguration of the grades among elementary, middle and high schools.

"The school board hasn't had the time to deal with these issues because they've been dealing with SOGI," she said. "They've been dealing with something that is ultimately not in the school district's hands."

Nominations for school trustees ends Sept. 14.

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A Chilliwack family's story of gender identity and acceptance - Chilliwack Progress

Jessica Peters Sep. 28, 2018 10:30 a.m. Local News News

7-9 minutes

"You can't change your chromosomes!"

These words are shouted angrily across an elementary school playground, from one young child to another.

The phrase is one clearly taught to the boy, out of ignorance, and he lobs it out like a rock from a slingshot. It catches the other boy off guard, hits him straight in the heart.

That boy runs those hurtful words through his mind for the rest of the school day, then carries them home, heavy on his shoulders. He tells his parents about what happened at recess, learns what that boy meant, and cries himself to sleep. The schoolyard taunt rings in his ears. His parents promise each other — once again — to protect their son, however they can.

It happens over, and over and over again. But the family is willing to take the shots, because even with the teasing that can come from being transgender, they know their child is happier than he's ever been.

"It's been hard, he's faced some nastiness," Layne's mom says.

And most of the nastiness has been at school, where children spend the majority of their day and where they forge most of their friendships.

Layne's been trying to define his identity from the time he could speak in full sentences. It began when he was about two, his mom says, when Layne was living as a little girl.

But Layne never really was a little girl. As a toddler, she preferred boys' clothes, and didn't ever want to take part in more girl-style play with her big sister. That didn't bother mom or dad. Plenty of girls are tomboys, they told each other.

"I'm a boy!" their daughter stated. At first, they thought it was just their child's already-keen sense of humour.

Then at age three, the questions began.

"I know I'm a girl but how do I be a boy?"

"What do I do to become a boy?"

"When will I become a boy?"

"Why do I feel like I'm a boy?"

"Why was I born with a vagina when I'm supposed to be a boy?"

"What am I supposed to do?"

They spoke to doctors. They read. They educated themselves on the most up-to-date LGBTQ2+ information. They sought counselling. They listened to their child.

Layne's transition from girl to boy has been slow, methodical, and under the careful guidance of an entire team of medical professionals.

He was exhibiting the clear and hard guidelines of being “insistent, persistent and consistent.”

The more they learned, they realized, this wasn't a phase.

And so, Layne began presenting as a boy, with his parents' love and support. He kept his feminine birth name, and carried on at school. But inside he was feeling more and more like a boy. Still, it was a hard year filled with tears.

At the summer break, the family took a holiday and helped him through a more dramatic transition. The first step was a haircut.

A picture on the wall shows just how happy Layne was to get that haircut. He looks every bit the young boy he feels, with a mile-wide grin to prove it.

“It was a huge sense of relief,” his mom says. That summer, he was able to be himself and the happiness came from something as simple as a haircut. The next step, a new name, was completely up to him.

He wanted to shed his birth name, a rite of passage for any transgender person. He wrote a list and tried them out for size. When he chose Layne, it just felt right.

“Now he can be all Layne, all the time,” his mom says.

While this storm was finally settling inside of Layne, and he was finally able to be himself, the outward changes shocked some people.

One neighbour now refuses to speak to the entire family. Some of their own family members have become distant. Layne has narrowed down his list of friends.

But his mom, dad and sister have stuck by his side.

They don't want him to be one of the sad statistics. Plenty of LGBTQ children and teens have "go bags," ready to bug out when they come out. Many are homeless because they aren't supported at home, and many become depressed, even suicidal. So Layne's parents want him to know they love him, no matter what he wants to be called, how he presents himself to the world, or who he falls in love with.

"Nobody needs a reason to change their name," Layne's new teacher told the class. Like his parents, she's focused on helping Layne settle into his life as a boy. It's an age-appropriate explanation for a change, as the SOGI 123 teaching materials suggest educators use. No more, no less.

• **READ MORE:** Teachers' union says SOGI 123 debate by Chilliwack trustee candidates is irrelevant

And obviously, the inclusion of inclusive language in the classroom is coming at a time when Layne will benefit from it. His mom is hoping one day transgender children can be free to express themselves without bullying. After all, she notes, young children know more about themselves than they can express. And getting caught up in sticking to heterosexual norms can do more harm than good.

"I don't know where he is going to fall on the gender spectrum," she says. Maybe one day he will call himself pansexual, or non-binary, or bisexual.

"My child is little," she says. "I love and I accept him with his clothes and his hair and his new name. And right now that's all it is. A name change and a haircut."

And that's the message they repeat to him, every time he's bullied, teased or ostracized for being himself.

"We 100 per cent believe you when you tell us you're a boy," his parents say to him. "All you have to know is that we love and accept you."

When the interview process for this story began, nobody was talking about sexual orientation and gender identity in Chilliwack schools. The family was ready to have their faces published, proud of what they stand for.

But it didn't take long for that confidence to bruise following a Chilliwack school board trustee's statement that what they are doing to their son is child abuse. So, to prevent themselves from further harm from people in the community, the names and some details have been changed in this story.

Trustee Barry Neufeld's written and spoken words against the LGBTQ community have led to a move to ask him to resign, a B.C. Human Rights Complaints has been filed against him by the teachers' union, and the both the school board chair and the Minister of Education have had harsh words for his behaviour.

• **READ MORE:** Chilliwack school board chair blasts Neufeld over continued Facebook posts

• **READ MORE:** Education minister blasts Chilliwack school trustee on gender issues

The SOGI 123 controversy that has been pushed by a number of right-wing Christian activists in the Fraser Valley has proved a distraction in local education conversations in recent months, and it's not going away with a number of anti-SOGI candidates putting

their names forward for the upcoming school board elections.

As for Layne and his family, it's not how they wanted to share their story, but the showing of hate they've witnessed recently means they know they have to share it.

They're trying to see a light at the end of the tunnel.

"I can see how people don't support or understand or have the same experience as us, what I can't deal with is that they won't talk about it with us," she says. "People are passing this off as a fad, or a trend."

– *with files from Paul Henderson*

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Government, teachers support SOGI, as opposing rallies staged in Victoria

PNG

4-5 minutes



Opposing SOGI rallies were held in Victoria at the B.C. legislature on Saturday. (Photo: Twitter/CPAndrew)

Supporters and critics of a school program aimed at supporting gay, lesbian and transgender students rallied in Victoria Saturday.

As protesters and counter-protesters gathered on the lawn of the

legislature, the B.C. government, teachers and education partners issued a joint statement supporting the province's sexual orientation and gender identity program — or SOGI — saying the resource materials are designed to guide teachers in helping LGBTQ students and to stop bullying that targets a child's gender identity.

The statement issued in response to the protest on Saturday says B.C. is committed to ensuring every school is a safe place for all students.

"In 2016, the B.C. Human Rights Code was amended to ensure that gender identity and expression are protected under the code. There is no room for any type of discrimination in our schools," the statement said.

It said all the province's 60 school districts have updated their codes of conduct that safeguard students from being bullied for their sexual orientation or gender identity.

"Students have the complete support of teachers, administrators, support staff, trustees and parents as we create learning environments where all students are free of discrimination so they can thrive and live authentic lives."

The statement was issued by the government on behalf of Minister of Education Rob Fleming, the B.C. Teachers' Federation, the B.C. School Superintendents Association, the B.C. School Trustees Association, the B.C. Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association, CUPE B.C., the B.C. Association of School Business Officials, the Federation of Independent School Associations, B.C.

Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils, ARC Foundation, First Nations Education Steering Committee, First Nations Schools Association and Métis Nation B.C.

The SOGI protest was organized by The Canadian Council for Faith and Family. The group says it is not being heard by the government or the media.

“The largest demographic in our society was totally ignored in the creation of this program, thus (the SOGI program) is anti-democratic at its core,” said organizer Jenn Smith.

Also attending Saturday’s protest was Laura-Lynn Tyler Thompson, who is running for a position on the Burnaby School Board in the upcoming municipal election.

On her Facebook page, Thompson said the rally at the legislature will be an opportunity to stand against schools “overstepping the bounds of decency in Canada by telling all children that they are gender fluid and can be a different sex in their head than they are in their body.”

Earlier this week, 200 pastors and 1,000 Christians signed a West Coast Christian Accord to call on Fleming to cease use of all SOGI-related resources in schools.

A Pro-SOGI event on Facebook planned for Saturday to counter the protesters had more than 200 people planning to attend including members of the B.C. Teachers’ Federation.

Many people voiced their support on social media under #SOGIis4me.

Rallies in support of the SOGI program began after controversial remarks last year from a Chilliwack school trustee. Barry Neufeld criticized SOGI on social media, saying that allowing young children to “choose” their gender amounted to “child abuse.”

In response, B.C.’s education minister and the school board called

on Neufeld to resign, which he refused to do. He later apologized for the “child abuse” comments. Fleming, who called Neufeld’s comments “shameful,” said his apology seemed insincere because he repeated them a week later at an anti-SOGL rally.

ticrawford@postmedia.com

[CLICK HERE](#) to report a typo.

Is there more to this story? We’d like to hear from you about this or any other stories you think we should know about. Email

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theprogress.com

Former Chilliwack DPAC chair says time for change at school district - Chilliwack Progress

Oct. 12, 2018 6:30 a.m. Letters

4-5 minutes

Recently, I was asked why I care so much about this municipal election when I have moved out of Chilliwack. As past Chair of the DPAC I was close enough to see the dysfunction of the school board, the imbalance of power between the board and district staff, the complete disregard for teachers, support staff, and parents. I have waited three long years for this election so I could promote positive change.

As you may know, the DPAC voted to call for Trustee Barry Neufeld's resignation after he made several discriminatory comments toward the LGBT+ community. What you may not know is that the DPAC spent almost the entire 2017/18 school year trying to work with the district to ensure that parents were properly informed about SOGI 123. We offered our assistance and it was declined. We invited the assistant superintendent, who is the district SOGI lead, to attend a DPAC meeting and he declined. We were told that he didn't have the proper information yet and a presentation to the board would have to be made first. We were given a timeline for a parent presentation that kept getting pushed

back month after month.

Meanwhile, every single board meeting was hijacked by anti-SOGI rhetoric and grandstanding from both trustees and the audience. DPAC was fielding questions and concerns from the parent community for months. We faced verbal abuse and defamation from community members who did not agree with our position. It was an awful time for teachers, support staff, parents, and especially students. An entire school year. During a time when we should have been discussing reconfiguration.

Finally, at the very end of last school year, a brochure and a PowerPoint were created with district specific and general information about SOGI, but we were told that a parent presentation would no longer be an option. Instead, the presentation was given to principals who could decide whether or not to present to parents. The incoming DPAC chair again invited the district SOGI lead to present to DPAC and he agreed to be at this September's meeting. It would have been a great opportunity to start the new school year off right, and to get accurate information out to parents before the election. Instead, less than an hour before the DPAC meeting, the district presentation for parents on SOGI 123 was cancelled. Again. Because of the political climate. A political climate that the current board and senior district staff had a direct hand in creating.

The board had months to present the facts of SOGI 123. They had months to put people's concerns at ease. They had months to make sure that this wouldn't be a political issue. Instead they cancelled again, at the very last minute, and continue to perpetuate division in the community. If I was a resident of Chilliwack, I would be furious. I would vote for a complete change of guard in support

of the teachers, support staff, and parents who have been challenging this board at every single meeting for years with no results.

If I was an elected candidate I would make it my top priority to clean out most of the senior staff from that district office. Why do I care? Because I spent the last three years at conferences and retreats with parents and teachers from districts all over BC and I know that the way things operate in Chilliwack is not the norm. I know that the district motto "Partners in Learning" is a farce because I have met parents and teachers who are actually partners in learning in their district. They have regular partner meetings, they sit on committees together, their concerns are addressed. SOGI 123 is simply the tipping point. Think about the annual changes made to transportation, think about reconfiguration, and the closing of CHANCE Shxwetilthet and ask yourself if you were a partner in those decisions, or if you were simply on the receiving end of information about decisions already made. Decisions that directly impact your child's education made by senior level staff, from an office, who do not consult teachers, support staff, or parents.

It's time for change on the school board, Chilliwack. Please get to know the candidates; ensure they are not running on a single-issue that is beyond their scope, and please vote.

Justine Hodge

Edmonton, AB

VVVV

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citynews1130.com

Anti-SOGI trustees won't be welcome in schools, warns outgoing Chilliwack board chair

by Mike Lloyd and Denise Wong

3 minutes



Posted Oct 16, 2018 8:40 am PST

Last Updated Oct 16, 2018 at 9:00 am PST

Summary



'Many of our schools not comfortable with trustees with that mindset coming to visit,' says Paul McManus

CHILLIWACK (NEWS 1130) – The outgoing chair of the Chilliwack school board has a message for anti-SOGI trustee candidates running in the municipal election: You won't be welcome in local schools.

The anti-bullying resource is becoming increasingly divisive in the community.

The tool is meant to create more understanding about LGBTQ

students. Paul McManus says five of the 17 people running for trustee in Chilliwack have come out against it.

“We have the challenge of many of our schools not being comfortable with trustees with that mindset coming to visit schools,” said McManus.

The issue over SOGI 1 2 3 began a year ago when trustee Barry Neufeld publicly opposed it, eventually leading to a human rights complaint.

RELATED: [Controversial Chilliwack trustee the subject of Human Rights Tribunal complaint](#)

Neufeld agreed to step back from some of his duties. He no longer attend schools after administrators told the board he wasn't welcome anymore, as his presence was making some students and teachers uncomfortable.

“I just don't understand how these candidate think they'll be welcome in schools after the election, should they be successful.”

McManus says new Chilliwack trustees with similar sentiments should take note.

He also feels there need to be more parents on the school board. “Parents of school-aged kids. I think it's important for the board to have that perspective... It's difficult to get that demographic on the board because people are working and they're busy. It's a very hectic time, as I've experienced myself.”

McManus feels a lack of parents on the board means they are lacking a key perspective — one he thinks has been absent for the last four boards.

As someone who is not seeking re-election, McManus says he felt it was important to share his message before he left the board.

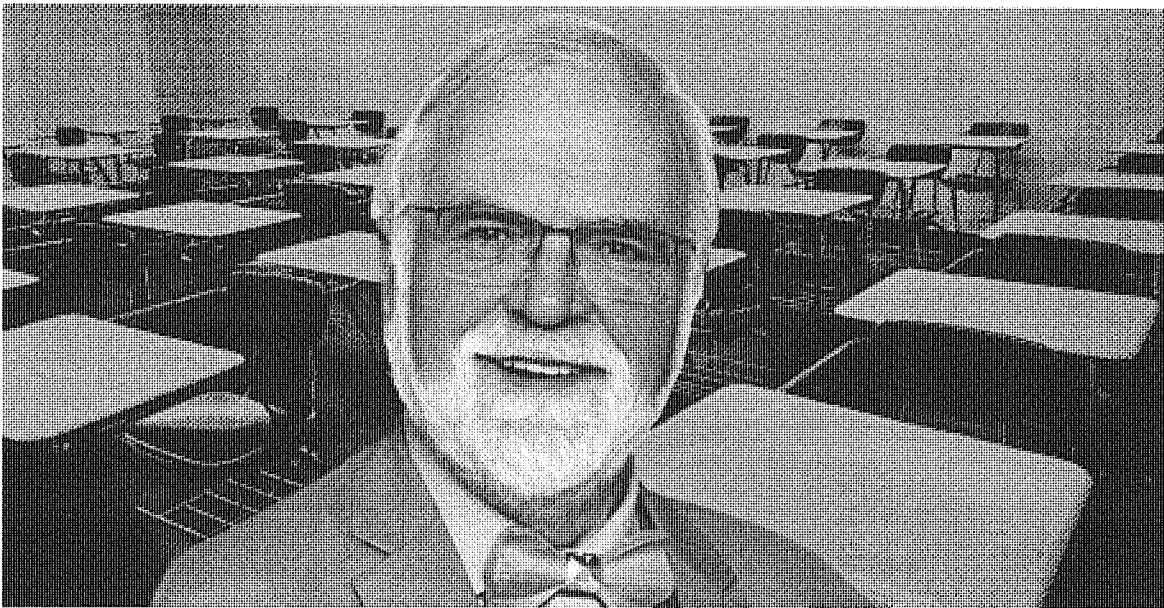
“I think it’s important that people get out and vote. In order to motivate, sometimes, you need to get the messages out there that maybe they don’t understand, aren’t aware of, or what have you. It’s a critical time for our district and a critical time for our province, with some of these mixed messages and misinformation that’s out there.”

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This Man is Probably The Worst School Trustee in British Columbia

5-7 minutes

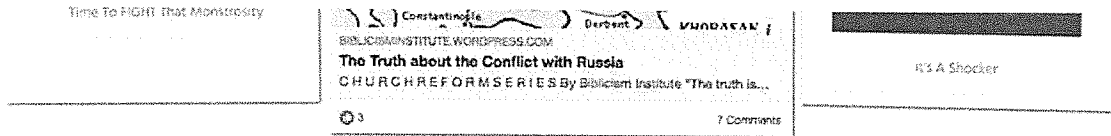


Analysis

Barry Neufeld promotes junk science, worries about 'gay rainbow families' and shares anti-Semitic conspiracy theories

If you ever needed a good reason to look into who the candidates for your local school board are, look no further than Barry Neufeld.

Neufeld is a three-term school district trustee in Chilliwack, BC who is currently running for re-election despite strong opposition from Chilliwack parents who say he doesn't represent the values of their community.



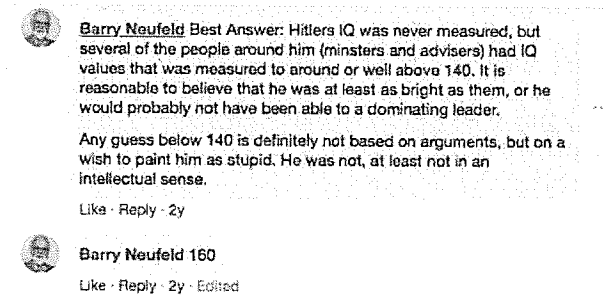
Facebook

Barry Neufeld thinks Hitler was smart

Elsewhere on Facebook, the Chilliwack school trustee speculates Adolf Hitler, Chancellor of Nazi Germany, probably had an IQ “around or well above 140.”

In the bizarre posting, Neufeld claimed “several people” in Hitler’s inner-circle had “IQ values that was measured to or around 140,” therefore “it is reasonable to believe that he was at least as bright as them.”

Anyone who suggests otherwise? They’re just trying to “paint (Hitler) as stupid,” the school trustee said.



Facebook

Barry Neufeld’s thoughts on women and depression

The Chilliwack school trustee also chipped in his two cents on the topic of women and mental health.

“One of the most underrated natural anti-depressants for women” is “male semen,” Neufeld wrote.

Neufeld shared a link to a discredited paper that suggested women who have unprotected sex are “happier” than those who don’t – this

coming from the same man who called BC's Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity curriculum "biologically absurd."



Barry Neufeld One of the most under-rated natural anti-depressants for women, that is is male semen. Women who regularly have unprotected sex (married women) are happier and less suicidal than women who have "protected" sex.
<http://www.psychologytoday.com/.../attention-ladies-semen...>

Like · Reply · 4y · Edited

Facebook

Barry Neufeld thinks churches are part of the gay agenda

As he was "preparing for the election to the public board of education" last month, Neufeld complained many Christian churches are becoming inclusive spaces for members of the LGBTQ community, whom he refers to as "radical cultural nihilists."

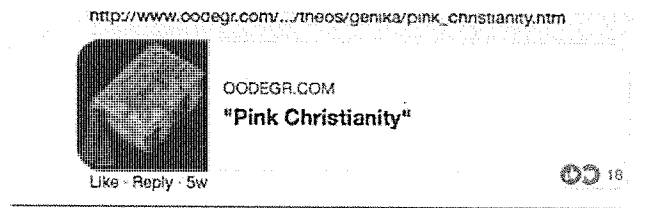
In a long Facebook rant, the Chilliwack trustee claimed Christian churches are under siege by an "evil agenda" and expressed concern about children being taught about "gay rainbow families."

He also dismissed efforts by some churches to be more "tolerant and loving," and said: "I'm afraid many of our churches have been infected with 'Pink Christianity.'"

More than 600 Christian leaders recently signed a petition in support for BC's SOGI 123 initiative.



Barry Neufeld I am preparing for the Election to the Public Board of Education. The campaign begins this month. I met with six other people recently, who will be joining me in trying to get elected in our community. We are worried about the safety of children who are being taught silly ideas that they can choose what gender they can be and are being told that they must approve of gay "rainbow" families. While this is definitely an attack on people of faith, it is also an attack on common sense, freedom of speech, parental rights and science. Please pray for us, as this election will be very difficult because our opponents such as Morgane are full of furious hatred and they are determined to destroy us, our families and our jobs. Christian churches are scared, and slow to stand up against this evil agenda, because they don't want to be called names like bigot, homophobe, transphobe, hater, etc. But by trying to appear tolerant and loving, they are practicing what Vaclav Havel called: "a politics of appeasement." I'm afraid many of our churches have been infected with "Pink Christianity."



Facebook

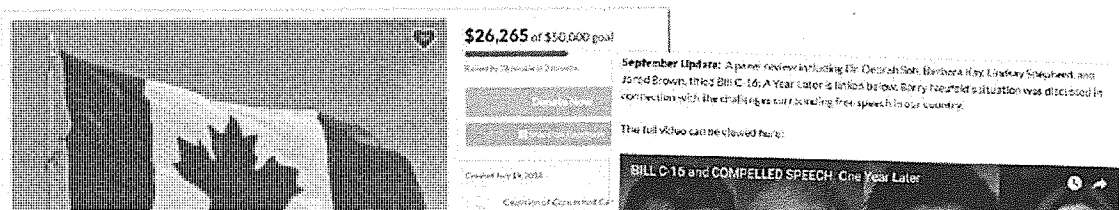
Barry Neufeld needs money to pay for his lawyers

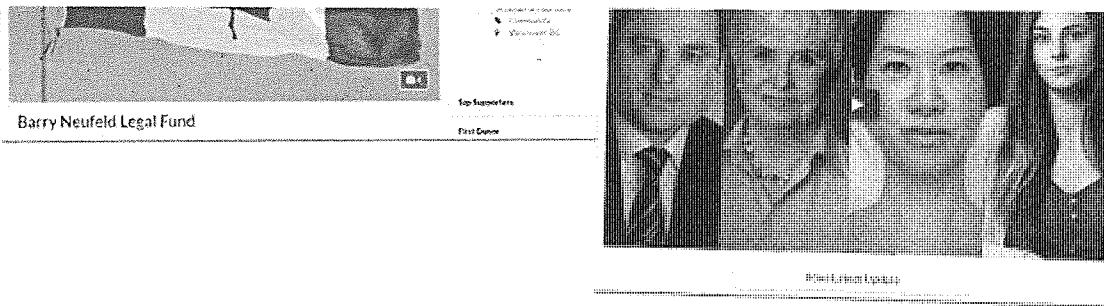
Neufeld is also dealing with legal troubles — last year, the BC Teachers' Federation filed a human rights complaint against Neufeld over his abusive homophobic and transphobic commentary that created an unsafe working environment for teachers and students, the BCTF alleges.

Neufeld had quoted pseudo-scientific findings from an anti-LGBTQ advocacy group to claim BC's trans-inclusive school curriculum amounts to a "form of child abuse."

In response to the lawsuit, Neufeld launched his own legal proceedings against the BCTF, claiming that the union publicly "defamed" his character by portraying him as someone consumed by "bigotry, intolerance and homophobia."

Neufeld established a GoFundMe account to cover his legal bills, which is collecting money from private companies and anonymous donors. On his GoFundMe page, Neufeld links to a video of a panel featuring right-wing writers Barbara Kay, Lindsay Shepherd and Debra Soh that features Jordan Peterson ally Jared Brown describing Neufeld's case as an example of "authoritarianism and compelled speech."





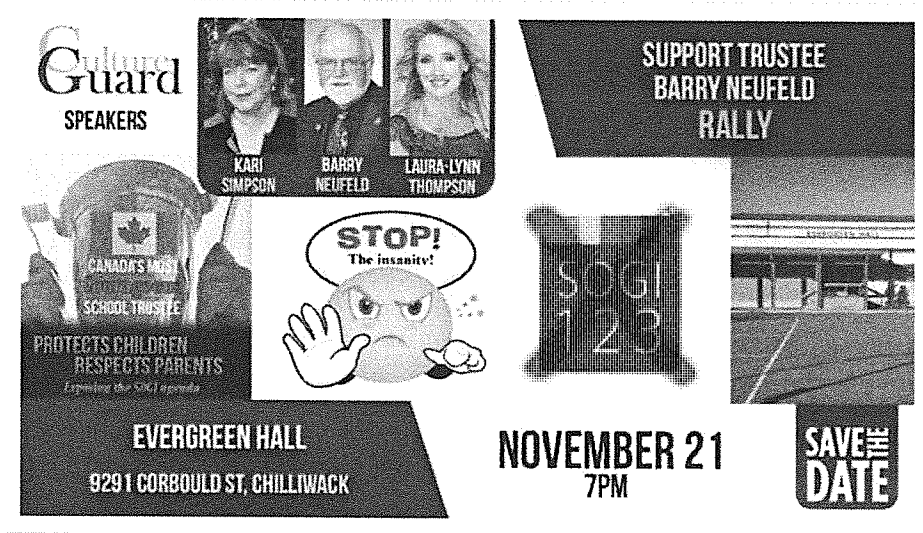
GoFundMe

Barry Neufeld is running with a slate of far-right school board candidates

By the way — Neufeld is running on a slate of school board candidates promoted by a group calling itself “Culture Guard” that opposes SOGI-123.

One of Neufeld’s Culture Guard allies is former 700 Club Canada televangelist Laura-Lynn Tyler Thompson, who recently defended pseudo-scientific gay conversion therapy.

Both Neufeld and Thompson have appeared together at anti-SOGI rallies organized by Culture Guard.



Culture Guard

British Columbians will cast votes in local elections on October 20.

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Pay attention to school board candidates' views on SOGI says Vancouver DPAC chair

Tracy Sherlock

5-6 minutes

Sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) is a hot topic in this fall's school board elections, dividing parents and causing havoc.

Shaun Kalley, chair of the Vancouver District Parents' Advisory Council, urges voters to pay attention to candidates' views on the controversial SOGI policy.

Some may wonder what all the fuss is about.

In 2016, the B.C. government said school districts must include specific references to sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) in anti-bullying policies. The intention is to help LGBTQ2S+ students feel safe at school.

About 19 per cent of B.C. high school students identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or not exclusively heterosexual, the government says. One per cent of B.C. high school students identify as transgender and five per cent of Aboriginal students identify as two-spirit, government statistics show.

Here's where it gets heartbreaking.

Students who are gay or bisexual were seven times more likely than heterosexual youth to attempt suicide, based on 2017 statistics. They're also at greater risk for eating disorders, depression, absenteeism, tardiness, lower graduation rates, homelessness and bullying, Vancouver School Board SOGI material says.

But anti-bullying policies that specifically address sexual orientation can reduce both discrimination and suicide attempts for all students, studies show. Vancouver has had such a policy since 2014, but Richmond just introduced one in June and it proved extremely controversial.

In Chilliwack, school trustee Barry Neufeld has drawn attention by saying allowing children to choose their gender amounts to "child abuse."

Last month, parents protested at the B.C. legislature, both for and against SOGI. Those protests led the minister of education and 12 education organization leaders to release a rare joint statement in support of SOGI.

"...There is no room for any type of discrimination in our schools," the statement says. "Students have the complete support of teachers, administrators, support staff, trustees and parents as we create learning environments where all students are free of discrimination so they can thrive and live authentic lives."

All of the province's school districts and independent schools now have policies in place to safeguard students from being bullied for their sexual orientation or gender identity.

"SOGI is important because we believe in inclusion for all children," Kalley said. "We want there to be an environment where all children

will feel safe and supported.”

But still, there appears to be a group of parents organized against the policy. They are determined to elect representatives onto the district parent group’s executive, Kalley said. But also, there are candidates running for trustee who oppose the provincial policy, even though school trustees would be powerless to change it.

“It creates a lot of turmoil for no effect. SOGI is a ministry directive, so the school board’s role is in implementation, not in policy setting,” Kalley said. “It creates a lot of havoc within schools. It actually causes tension within the [parent committees], which need to be strong advocacy centres at schools.”

The district parent group is not political and does not endorse candidates, however as a group it does hold a formal position supporting SOGI.

“Having recognized that this an issue that we actually hold a position on, we’re concerned that there are candidates coming forward who would be against it,” Kalley said. “I think it’s going to be a major issue on the school board if there is opposition to it.”

It may be tough to determine which candidates are for SOGI and which are against. At a recent trustee forum, all candidates indicated they were in support of SOGI. Vancouver 1st mayoral candidate Fred Harding said in a video “with SOGI, they’ve got it all wrong.”

“Vancouver 1st is opposed to its high-handed roll out. We will advocate for parents who feel alienated by it,” he said, promising to “push back against an over-reaching province.”

Although it will be too late to affect the election, Kalley’s group is

organizing an event to start a conversation about SOGI. On Oct. 25 at 7 p.m. at the Vancouver School Board office, parents will have a chance to talk to the district's diversity mentor and the principal responsible for implementing the SOGI materials.

SOGI is a provincial mandate, backed up by strong evidence that lives will be saved. All parents want their children to be happy, healthy and safe, things that should come before sexual orientation. It just makes sense to support SOGI — so pay attention to who gets your vote.

Tracy Sherlock writes about education and social issues for the Courier. Reach her at tracy.sherlock@gmail.com.



You Might Be Interested In

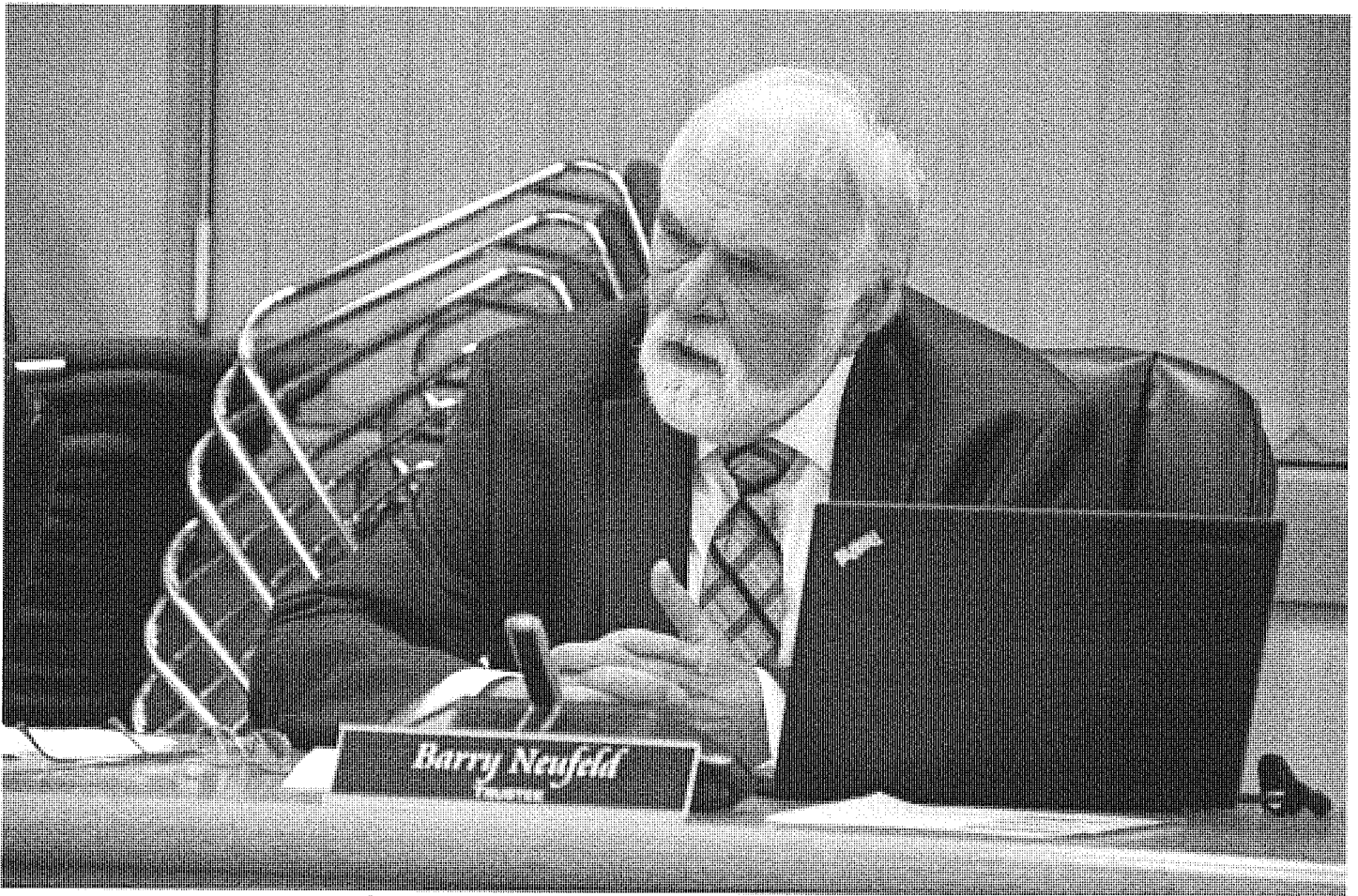
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Anti-SOGI school trustee files defamation lawsuit against BCTF president

241
462

Barry Neufeld says Glen Hansman's words caused him "indignity," "personal harassment," and "anxiety"

Paul Henderson



Chilliwack school trustee Barry Neufeld at the Oct. 2 board meeting. Neufeld filed a lawsuit Oct. 12 for defamation against BCTF president Glen Hansman. (Paul Henderson/ The Progress file)

Chilliwack school board trustee Barry Neufeld has filed a civil lawsuit for defamation against B.C. Teachers' Federation (BCTF) president Glen

Neufeld has been the subject of considerable pressure and media attention for nearly a year since he came out strongly against the Ministry of Education's LGBTQ anti-bullying teaching resource known as SOGI 123.

• **READ MORE: Former Chilliwack student creates online petition**

Hansman has been one of Neufeld's strongest critics over the SOGI 123 controversy and has been quoted in various media outlets as critical of Neufeld's behaviour, calling it discriminatory, hateful, transphobic, and that Neufeld "shouldn't be anywhere near students."



BCTF President Glen Hansman

As part of the statement of facts in the notice of civil claim filed in BC Supreme Court in Chilliwack on Oct. 12, Neufeld's lawyer Paul Jaffe states that "the plaintiff believes that SOGI effectively seeks to displace the role of parents."

He writes that "the militant nature of some activists and fear of hostile backlash had a chilling effect on meaningful debate about SOGI on school boards across B.C."

The civil claim then goes on to cite numerous news articles from websites, newspapers, radio and TV that quote Hansman but also others, including Education Minister Rob Fleming, who are critical of Neufeld's remarks about SOGI 123.

• **READ MORE: Education minister blasts Chilliwack school trustee on gender issues**

As part of the statement of facts, Neufeld's original Facebook post from

Oct. 23, 2017 is included, in which he harshly criticizes the teaching resource, which was instituted by the previous BC Liberal government. Neufeld calls its basis a "biologically absurd theory" and he claims that students "are being taught that heterosexual marriages is [sic] no longer the norm."

"If this represents the values of Canadian society, count me out," he wrote. "I belong in a country like Russia, or Paraguay, which recently had the guts to stand up to these radical cultural nihilists."

• **READ MORE: Chilliwack trustee calls LGBTQ school program 'weapon of propaganda'**

Soon after that, Neufeld spoke at anti-SOGI rally held at Evergreen Hall hosted by the far-right wing Culture Guard group.

Subsequently Neufeld was asked to resign by fellow school board members but he refused. Instead, he stepped away from his duties and he was asked not to attend to any schools in Chilliwack.

As part of the civil claim, Neufeld says the criticism by Hansman in the media warrants damages because he "suffered indignity, personal harassment, stress, anxiety along with mental and emotional distress."

Some humiliation and isolation Neufeld said he has suffered includes that direction by the board to stay away from public schools because of safety concerns of LGBTQ students. A BC School Trustee Association meeting in February 2018 had to be cancelled because Neufeld refused to not attend, despite the Maple Ridge school board saying his attendance would violate the "Safe, Caring, and Healthy Schools" policy.

And in June 2018, Neufeld was to deliver congratulatory speeches to the four high school commencement events, but he was directed by the school board that he was prohibited from being on stage with the other trustees

"and prohibited from shaking the hands of the graduating students, all because his presence allegedly made it unsafe to LGBTQ students."

The BCTF has also filed a complaint over Neufeld with the B.C. Human Rights Tribunal, a hearing for which is supposed to take place before the end of the year, according to Hansman.

The civil claim calls Hansman's comments about Neufeld "false and defamatory" and those statement, Neufeld argues, as understood by the public meant that he, among a list of 17 claims: promoted hatred; committed hate speech; and was discriminatory against gay and/or transgender students.

As for Hansman, when asked about the civil suit on Friday, he told *The Progress* he stands by his statements.

"His other misogynist and problematic statements reported by Press Progress are also cause for alarm and not becoming of a school trustee," Hansman said.

Press Progress is a left-wing online media outlet launched by the Broadbent Institute in 2013 that defines itself as "Canada's most shared source for progressive news and information." On Oct. 16, the website posted a story about Neufeld with the headling: "This Man is Probably The Worst School Trustee in British Columbia," in which it included Neufeld's past posts about anti-Semitic conspiracy theories and his belief that Adolf Hitler had an IQ as high as 160.

Neufeld's lawyer for the civil case, Paul Jaffe, also created a GoFundMe campaign three months before the civil suit was filed on July 19, 2018 entitled "Barry Neufeld Legal Fund." The GoFundMe page had raised \$26,515 of its \$50,000 goal by Oct. 19.

Most donations are from anonymous donors, but among local funders are

local developers Ron Sturm who gave \$200 and Bill Kerkhoff gave \$2,500
Chilliwack company Visscher Holdings gave \$5,000, and there are multiple
donations from Neufeld himself.

466

In an email sent to *The Progress*, Neufeld said it was his intention to ask for a jury trial "so that the citizens of Chilliwack can fully participate in this important issue of Free Speech."

While unusual, six-member jury trials can be requested by either the plaintiff or the defendant in civil matters.

None of the claims made in the civil suit has been proven in court.

Neufeld is on the ballot running for re-election in the Oct. 20 municipal election.

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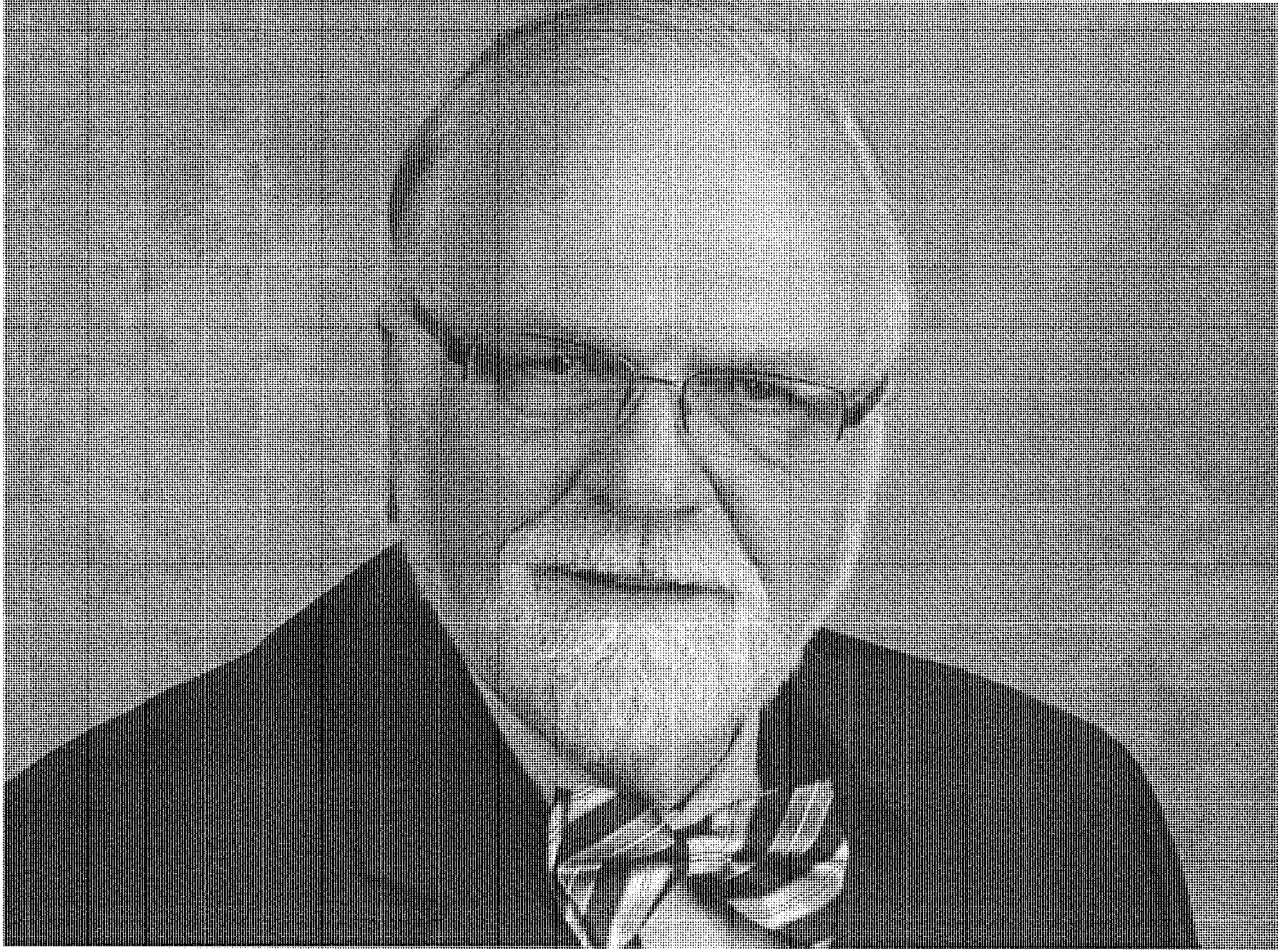


About 350 people showed up for a rally outside the Chilliwack School Board office on Tuesday night, to show their support for LGBTQ students, teachers, staff and parents. Meanwhile, inside the board office, Trustee Barry Neufeld was announcing he is stepping back from some of his duties, but not all of them. (Greg Laychak/ The Progress)

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Election results: Voters ignore bulk of anti-SOGI school board candidates

BARRY NEUFELD / FACEBOOK



Chilliwack school trustee Barry Neufeld.

Voters shunned most Lower Mainland school board hopefuls who came out against new learning resources intended to familiarize students with LGBTQ people.

A fraction of the candidates who were opposed to the province's move to include SOGI (sexual orientation and gender identity) in its new curriculum drew enough support to earn turns as trustees, with dozens of would-be anti-SOGI trustees shown the door by voters in their respective cities.

The Education Ministry doesn't require school boards to approve its so-called SOGI 123, but dissenting districts would have to choose some other similar learning resources to help teachers with the new curriculum.

While Chilliwack's school board could be considered the least LGBTQ-friendly of all those in the region, even its anti-SOGI candidates will be outnumbered by trustees who didn't express concerns about the provincial resources. Barry Neufeld, Darrell Furgason and Heather Maahs were the only candidates critical of, or staunchly against, the materials who won seats on that city's school board. Another two anti-SOGI hopefuls narrowly missed their bids in Chilliwack.

During Neufeld's last term as trustee, he faced a human rights complaint by the B.C. Teachers Federation and calls for his resignation from B.C.'s education minister and others after he criticized the SOGI program, saying that allowing young children to choose their gender amounted to "child abuse."

Last week, Neufeld urged parents to vote with their children's health in mind. "It doesn't take long for this evil ideology to affect our children's minds. And, of course, there are other concerning issues in the school district as well. But our children's mental health is the most important," he wrote on Facebook.

Neufeld gathered the second most votes among all trustee hopefuls in Chilliwack.

In Burnaby, Laura-Lynn Thompson, who recently insisted "gender fluid ideology has no place in our schools" and who called SOGI materials "crazy teaching," received the third fewest votes of all trustee hopefuls. The fewest votes went to Jimmy Zhao, who, [according to the Burnaby Now](#), recently responded to a question about mental health by expressing concern about SOGI 123.

Abbotsford's Korky Neufeld and Phil Anderson were among the roughly half-dozen anti-SOGI candidates voted onto school boards in the region. Korky took home more votes than any other trustee-elect, while Anderson made the cut on that city's board by several hundred votes.

Just a single anti-SOGI candidate, Richard Lee, made it onto the board in Richmond, with the remaining members of his "Parents Slate" turfed by voters in that city. The slate had formed over concerns that parental rights were "becoming an endangered species in the sphere of our public school system."

Tony Ward, a candidate who had been presented for the consideration of anti-SOGI voters by website [bcsogi.ca](#), was elected to Langley's school board.

During his campaign for mayor of Vancouver, Fred Harding had said, "They got it all wrong" with SOGI and he demanded more consultation with parents. No candidates on Harding's Vancouver 1st slate for school board came close to winning. Neither did Tony Dong, who quit the party over Harding's comments and finished his race as an Independent.

Candidates in Surrey, Delta, New Westminster, North Vancouver and Coquitlam who had been recommended by [bcsogi.ca](#) all lost.

mrobinson@postmedia.com

[CLICK HERE](#) to report a typo.

Is there more to this story? We'd like to hear from you about this or any other stories you think we should know about. Email vantips@postmedia.com.

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A mother's perspective - Chilliwack Progress

Oct. 28, 2018 5:30 p.m. Letters

I am writing this in response to trustees Barry Nuefeld and Darrell Furgason's comments on social media after they were elected and the horrible comments that have followed by their supporters.

How far have we really come as a "progressive", "forward" society when we still have people murdered, beaten, taunted, shamed, dismissed and denied the same rights as everyone else, all for one reason: sexual orientation/sexual identity.

Think for a minute, sit and really think, if one day complete strangers, followed by your government decided that you could no longer be heterosexual, who you are, who you were born to be.

Let that sink in..

Being afraid for your life, scared to let anyone know, mocked, ostracized, your existence denied, having your friends and family whom you have loved your entire life turn their backs on you, losing out on that perfect job, not allowed to marry the person you love, denied access to use a washroom. Just Imagine.

I can't!

My heart is broken for every single LGBTQ person affected by this insane need to control another person's identity, sexual orientation and the denial of their human rights – rights that any heterosexual person would fight for if the LGBTQ community and government were actively trying to keep them from you.

What's even more horrifying to me is the bigoted disgusting comments applauding these actions, those who think it's ok because "gays" and "trans" are perverts, subhumans, or they go against what God says.

Well here's what I say to you and anyone who thinks like you:

My son isn't a "gay" or "fag." He is a human being!

My son isn't a pervert! He doesn't run around molesting children or trying to "turn" anyone gay!

My son isn't going against what your God says!

He is being exactly who he was born to be, a kind, caring, thoughtful, loving, compassionate, contributing member of society.

How dare you say my son's life is sin!

How dare you say his mere existence and human rights infringe upon your privileged heterosexual life!

How dare you say that who my son is at his core, is a sin!

My son is the gift I was given by God, to love and nurture and help guide into the wonderful human being he is today.

While you were taught to hate him, he was taught to love and forgive you.

You have no right to say he or anyone's son or daughter shouldn't exist.

You are going against your own God by hating your fellow man because of your irrational fears.

You are going against your own God by harming your fellow man, mentally, emotionally and physically.

You are going against your God by promoting violence.

How does one live with themselves, using their God to further their own fearful, hateful agenda?

Stop! Just Stop! Stop using God as your excuse for your fears, stop using God to hide your bigoted, narrow-minded, intolerance to your "fellow man"

Start thinking! Start imagining what you would do if people treated you the way you treat the LGBTQ community!

Start thinking how you would feel if you or your child couldn't have the same rights, and respect and common human decency as everyone else.

Start thinking how you would feel if people protested your existence.

Start thinking, and while you're thinking remember this:

Your God is watching!

Sincerely, one disgusted life long community member and fierce believer in human rights and inclusion for all.

Laura Keeley,

Chilliwack

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New Chilliwack school board sworn in after divisive election - Chilliwack Progress

Paul Henderson Nov. 13, 2018 8:18 p.m. Local News News

Chilliwack's new school board was sworn in Tuesday evening and while the divisiveness of the election was not unaddressed directly at the meeting, the conflict reared its head indirectly.

The inauguration followed a tumultuous election campaign where an anti-bullying resource designed to protect LGBTQ students was strongly opposed by a slate of candidates with an admitted religious focus led by incumbent Barry Neufeld.

Neufeld along with fellow anti-SOGI 123 candidates Darrell Furgason and incumbent Heather Maahs were elected to the board.

The election culminated in an expensive and lengthy recount caused by fellow anti-SOGI 123 candidate Kaethe Jones who lost the last seat on the board to Jared Mumford.

• READ MORE: Only one vote of 24,700 ballots changes after Chilliwack school board election recount

On the other side of the SOGI 123 debate were a number of progressive candidates in favour of the anti-bullying resource. Elected was incumbent Dan Coulter, along with Mumford, Willow Reichelt and David Swankey.

The meeting Tuesday, which lasted less than 20 minutes, involved electing a board chair, vice-chair, in addition to representatives to the B.C. Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) and the B.C. School Trustees Association (BCSTA).

With the board split along distinct four-three lines, it was unsurprising to most watching that Coulter was nominated and then acclaimed as chair of the board.

Coulter then called for nominations for vice-chair. Neufeld nominated Maahs, and Swankey nominated Reichelt. Both accepted their nominations and spoke briefly to why they felt they should be elected.

Maahs suggested that having her and Coulter as chair and vice-chair made sense given the experience they both have, and she alluded to the divisiveness in the election suggesting that since voters chose her and Neufeld and Furgason, the board leadership should represent that diversity of views.

"I think in view of the results after the election," Maahs said. "I think the voters spoke in who they elected to the board and I think that it would be in the best interests of this board to look towards a really good working relationship having myself and you [Coulter] as the chair and vice-chair."

Reichelt countered that she should be elected, again alluding to the SOGI 123 discussion pointing also to her experience as a student, parent and teacher in the

Chilliwack school district.

“I also think it’s very important in the current environment to send a strong message that we have an inclusive board so therefore I think I’m a better choice as board vice-chair,” she said.

Reichelt was elected.

After that, was nominations for BCPSEA and another vote ensued.

Neufeld nominated Maahs, while Coulter nominated Mumford, and Mumford was chosen. Maahs was then acclaimed as the alternate, again nominated by Neufeld.

Then came the final position, the board’s representative to the BCSTA. Mumford nominated Swankey and he was acclaimed. At that point, the progressive foursome ran out of names, and Neufeld put forward Furgason as the BCSTA alternate. He was acclaimed.

• **READ MORE: Chilliwack school board results reveal clear split**

• **READ MORE: VIDEO: Education Minister talks SOGI 123 and the Chilliwack school board election**

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Chilliwack Trustee Barry Neufeld says he's the victim of workplace discrimination - Chilliwack Progress

Sarah Gawdin Jan. 16, 2019 1:30 a.m. Local News News

With security at the door, and a lineup of people waiting to attend Tuesday night's School Board meeting, it's no surprise that the evening was full of the same sorts of dramatics that have plagued School District 33 for the last 18 months.

"This thing has become sort of normal," commented board chair Dan Coulter, after the meeting.

However, regardless of how normal the discord has become for Chilliwack's school board, what is new is Trustee Barry Neufeld's claim that he's the victim of workplace discrimination.

"Yes, I was discriminated against," said Neufeld during the meeting's first question period. "I intend to do something legally about it.

RELATED: Controversial Chilliwack trustee won't be allowed in schools

"Three trustees with only one month of experience voted to treat me – with 24 years' experience – as if I were a dirty old man. And the chair, who's been on the board for six years ... has turned against me and has treated me like *persona non grata*."

During the board's Dec. 11, 2018 meeting, a motion was brought forward to approve the chair's assignment of trustees to board schools, which Neufeld was excluded from due his condemnation of the SOGI 123 teaching resource and concern his comments were leaving some staff and students feeling unsafe.

"We've never accused him of being a physical danger, but he does make them feel unsafe," explained Coulter after the meeting. Barry "thinks because he's not a threat to their physical safety ... then people shouldn't feel unsafe, (but) it's not up to him to tell people how they can feel."

Last year, Neufeld voluntarily stepped down from his liaison duties after a B.C. human rights complaint was filed against him.

The School Act, which governs the powers of B.C. school boards, doesn't list being a school liaison as a trustee's right. "Barry Neufeld's rights and job as a trustee, there's no infringement on that, and he has full privileges," said Coulter during the meeting.

The Progress reached out to Barry Neufeld for comment, but didn't receive any answer by press time.

As for the board's position on Neufeld's claim of discrimination, "it was a decision of the board (to remove Neufeld from his liaison duties)," continued Coulter. As part of the board, Neufeld was able to vote on his inclusion as a school liaison, however, the

vote was for his exclusion.

READ MORE: Anti-SOGI school trustee files defamation lawsuit against BCTF president

“But once the board takes a vote, as we’re a corporate board, it’s a decision. We’re one body, and only the board (as a whole) can make decisions, not individual trustees. (So) the difference here is (Barry’s) attacking people on grounds of protection against the Charter and Human Rights Act, and when he’s talking about him being discriminated against, I just don’t know (what) grounds he’s being discriminated against.

“There’s nothing in the legislation, just his opinion, (but an) opinion is not a ground of protection in the Human Rights Code.”

And while there’s no definitive answer of legal action from Neufeld, Coulter says the board “did not discriminate against any trustee, (and will) just keep working as we’ve been. So far we’re trying to be professional.”

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UPDATE: Founders of defunct autism society shocked at Chilliwack school trustee's fundraiser - Chilliwack Progress

Paul Henderson Nov. 23, 2018 1:36 p.m. Local News News

The founders and former directors of a Fraser Valley charity focused on helping families affected by autism were shocked when they learned Chilliwack school trustee Barry Neufeld was raising money online for their society.

That's because the Fraser Valley Autism Society (FVAS) shut its doors more than a year ago.

"Barry Neufeld, Chilliwack School Trustee, is not raising funds on our behalf," FVAS founders and former directors Dan and Virginia Renaud said in a statement issued.

"Anyone claiming to be raising funds on behalf of the Fraser Valley Autism Society would be doing so without prior authorization. The donation page was started without any correspondence between Mr. Neufeld and any previous Board Member of the FVAS."

Neufeld has garnered considerable media attention for his controversial stance against the LGBTQ anti-bullying resource used across the province called SOGI 123. His position has led to backlashes from parents, schools, it has forced him to back away from duties in the previous term of the board, and even led the Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows school board to decline hosting a B.C. School Trustee Association because Neufeld insisted on attending.

• READ MORE: School board refuses to host meeting after anti-SOGI trustee plans to attend

Neufeld has been rebuked for his views by the last Chilliwack school board chair, the teachers' union, and even Minister of Education Rob Fleming.

And a long Facebook post on Nov. 20 expressed his opposition to SOGI 123 on a new front, namely, that "a large proportion of kids who present as gender dysphoric are actually on the autism spectrum."

"It is disturbed and mentally ill children -obsessive/compulsive, sexual abuse survivors and post-traumatic Stress syndrome kids, as well as autistic, that I am worried about," Neufeld wrote. "If they learn about this new non-binary gender ideology, I fear there will be a dramatic increase of children clamoring for social transition, puberty blockers and a lifetime of taking hormones."

Also included on his Facebook page was a link to "Barry's birthday" fundraiser.

"For my birthday this year, I'm asking for donations to FRASER VALLEY AUTISM SOCIETY. I've chosen this nonprofit because their mission means a lot to me, and I hope you'll consider contributing as a way to celebrate with me. Every little bit will

help me reach my goal.”

By Friday, his “fundraiser” had raised \$250, yet the Renauds told *The Progress* that “there are no active fundraising campaigns and all bank accounts are closed.”

Asked about the link between autism and gender dysphoria, the Renauds said they wanted to stay away from the SOGI 123 controversy and Neufeld’s remarks. Another former board member said she had never heard anyone link autism and gender dysphoria, and she called the notion “ridiculous.”

The Renauds said they wanted to ensure the good work done by the FVAS over the years was not smeared by Neufeld’s online statements.

“The FVAS had a long history of providing much-needed support for families affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder. This was always done using accurate, scientifically sourced information, respecting all individuals. We do not wish to be associated, either as the FVAS or separately, with Mr. Neufeld’s statements regarding autism.”

Asked about the Facebook post, Neufeld said he didn’t know FVAS was no longer in operation.

“Facebook gave a list of charities to donate to,” he told *The Progress* via email. “I was not aware that the FVAS had been shut down. I guess FB wasn’t aware either. Now I am trying to get FB to redirect the funds or issue refunds.”

• RELATED: Anti-SOGI school trustee files defamation lawsuit against BCTF president

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No. 35152
Chilliwack Registry

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

BETWEEN:

BARRY NEUFELD

PLAINTIFF

AND:

GLEN HANSMAN

DEFENDANT

LIST OF VIDEO MEDIA

YYYY MM DD	Description of Video Media
2017-10-24	VIDEO: Global News Backlash after school trustee criticizes LGBTQ program: https://globalnews.ca/news/3822108/chilliwack-school-trustee-demands-apology-from-fellow-board-member-following-lgbtq-facebook-post/
2017-10-24	VIDEO: A Chilliwack school trustee should step down after his post about LGBTQ-friendly curriculum, says BCTF president https://www.btvancouver.ca/videos/latest-newscast-oct-24th/
2017-10-25	VIDEO: School trustee apologizes to those hurt - video - CTVNews
2017-11-20	VIDEO: Langley mom takes inclusion movement B.C.-wide; The recently renamed BC Parents for Inclusivity are hosting a rally in Abbotsford on Tuesday http://www.langleyadvance.com/news/video-langley-parent-takes-movement-province-wide/
2017-11-21	VIDEO of Barry Neufeld Speech at Culture Guard Event
2017-11-21	VIDEO 1 Barry Neufeld, Chilliwack school trustee, compares gender transitioning to 'child abuse' - Global News

2017-11-21	VIDEO 2 Barry Neufeld, Chilliwack school trustee, compares gender transitioning to 'child abuse' – Global News
2017-11-21	VIDEO 3 Barry Neufeld, Chilliwack school trustee, compares gender transitioning to 'child abuse' - Global News
2018-01-17	Tensions flare as B.C. parents protest 'transphobic' school trustee [with video] https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/tensions-flare-as-b-c-parents-protest-transphobic-school-trustee-1.3763289
2018-01-20	VIDEO: B.C. school trustee vows to stay following controversial LGBTQ remarks https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/b-c-school-trustee-vows-to-stay-following-controversial-lgbtq-remarks-1.3768612
2018-04-13	VIDEO: Teachers' union files complaint against trustee over anti-trans comments [with video] https://bc.ctvnews.ca/teachers-union-files-complaint-against-trustee-over-anti-trans-comments-1.3884769