

***Canadians For Positive Community Standards* Brief regarding the Equity Policy,
Sexual Orientation Strand**

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Concerns Regarding Imbalance within the Sexual Orientation Strand of the Equity Policy

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It is commendable that the Board of Education is attempting to create an inclusive society within the school system. Human beings who have different orientations should not be ostracized. That being said, the danger and serious problem is that in the over-zealousness of the social engineers to “make things right” for the minorities, the rights of the public-as-a-whole are often forgotten.

How is the public-as-a-whole being forgotten or cast aside? In our view the answer is – by being placed on the defensive and by not having their values treated equally in this document. For example, we do not see a great deal said about the importance of the traditional family in the material produced by the Board.

We note that a number of the policies in other strands of the Equity document are by their nature, non-controversial. For instance, Anti-racism and Ethno cultural Equity. But these statements of support of obviously fair principles applicable to *all* of mankind are nestled in with the policy on Sexual Orientation which has a much narrower focus and the potential for changing society to the detriment of its basic, perpetuating unit – the family (traditional) as we know it.

What we are saying, then, is that support for inclusiveness must not be at the expense of the values of the public-as-a-whole – and mainstream society. Chief Justice McLachlin (S.C.C.) in *Chamberlain v. Surrey School District #36*, states it best in the following quote:

“As my colleague points out, the demand for tolerance cannot be interpreted as the demand to approve of another person’s beliefs or practices. When we ask people to be tolerant of others, we do not ask them to abandon their personal convictions.”

We look forward to further specific and fair dialogue with the Board.

Respectfully submitted,
Canadians for Positive Community Standards