

Position Statement



Ontario's Health and Physical Education Curriculum

Background

The Government of Ontario plans to implement a new Ontario Health and Physical Education Curriculum (Elementary) in September. The curriculum, which will be the first update since 1998, will follow other provinces, such as Nova Scotia, Quebec and Saskatchewan.

The Curriculum has been opposed by some parents and community groups, who deem it incompatible with their values, or challenge the education system's role in teaching such subject matter. At times, objections have taken a homophobic and/or transphobic tone, leading the Premier of Ontario to call the criticism "homophobic".

Our Position

As a health care organization providing services and support to diverse communities (including youth, LGBTQ people and newcomers to Canada) Sherbourne supports a curriculum that provides safe space for discussion about all sexual orientations and gender identities, different types of families, consent and safer sex.

We believe that an evidence-based, factual, respectful and inclusive approach to sex education plays an important role in supporting informed choices that lead to health and wellbeing.