



Premier of Saskatchewan

Legislative Building
Regina Canada S4S 0B3

December 16, 2015

Cynthia Schultz
124 Mayfair Crescent
REGINA SK S4S 4H9

Dear Ms. Schultz:

Thank you for your letter of October 26, 2015, regarding the proposed Bill 612, "The Respect for Diversity Student Bill of Rights", and advocating for safe spaces for all students, including those who identify as gender and/or sexual diverse. I apologize for the delay in my response.

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to ensuring school environments are safe and accepting places where student success is a priority and everyone feels accepted, including students who are gender or sexually diverse. Gay-Straight Alliances (GSA), and other broader Social Action Committees (Allies in Action, Social Justice Club, etc.), are great examples of how schools can support the safety and inclusion of these vulnerable students.

At this time, we are not considering pursuing legislation for GSAs in Saskatchewan. In October, the government released the document entitled *Deepening the Discussion: Gender and Sexual Diversity* to all provincial school divisions. The online professional learning resource is intended for school division staff to develop a deeper understanding of gender and sexual diversity and to assist them in providing safe, equitable and inclusive learning environments for all students.

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In addition to the online professional resource, your letter also referred to the Ministry of Education's policy statement in regards to this issue. The policy statement indicates that all school divisions are directed to respond positively to students' requests to establish a student alliance for gender and sexual diversity in their schools. In the event that any students' request for an alliance is denied, the Ministry of Education will work with the school division to ensure that the needs of each individual student are being met.

It is with the support of thoughtful and caring educators such as yourself that we will be able to create safe and accepting learning environments for all students in Saskatchewan.

If you have further questions, I invite you to contact Kevin Gabel, Executive Director of Programs, at 306-787-1843 or kevin.gabel@gov.sk.ca.

Thank you for taking the time to write with your concerns.

Sincerely,



Brad Wall
Premier

cc Honourable Don Morgan, Q.C.
Minister of Education

Kevin Gabel
Executive Director, Programs Branch
Ministry of Education

