

The Sexual Education and Gender Identity Debate: Our Concerns



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COPA National is concerned about the debate over sexual education and gender identity that has been in the news for several weeks. Certain provinces have passed or are planning to pass laws that will, in effect, limit the power of children to disclose their gender identity in schools or be able to participate in sexual education programs without parental consent.

COPA National recognizes that parents are their children's first educators. However, when it comes to questions of gender identity or sexuality, some children do not feel ready or free to either discuss their sexuality or reveal their gender identity at home. By passing laws that limit children's rights in schools, legislators are effectively increasing their vulnerability.

*"COPA National has been working for many years to prevent child abuse and defend the rights of children to be safe, strong and free," pointed out President of the Board, Mona Audet. "In this debate, the school must remain a place for children to be **safe, strong and free**, and we invite legislators and the public to consider the children whose rights are at risk of being violated."*

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The mission of [COPA National](http://COPANational.com) is to prevent and interrupt violence, bullying, and child abuse on individual, organizational, and systemic levels by offering simple and effective tools and resources that promote positive social change.

Source:

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