

May 7, 2014

Vancouver School Board
1580 West Broadway
Vancouver, B.C.

Attention: Committee members, Committee III

Dear Colleagues

Re: Proposed policy with respect to LBGT students

I write to support the proposed policy with respect to LBGT students.

I am a lawyer who has been working on trans legal issues for 20 years. Because there are not many lawyers in the country who special the subject. I am also a member o Professional Association for Trans Canadian Bar Association’s national Sexual Orient which has chapters in every province.

The Law

The law requires that schools comply with *Human Rights Code*.

That law protects trans* people on the basis of sex. It is important to understand that, while campaigns to add ‘gender very important complaints bro the grounds of ‘sex’. s legislation are **all** human rights be successful on

Human rights law requires three things of school boards;

- Not to discriminate against trans* students
- Not to permit trans* students to be the object of bullying; and
- To accommodate the individual needs of trans* students.

The Law Applied to the Facts

In practice, that means that the School Board is **already subject to** the policy being proposed, which simply embodies what the school board is by law obliged to do.

I have elementary-school trans* clients in other school districts which are not as progressive as VSB. Their response to accommodating trans* students has been abysmal – so bad that I have had to file human rights complaints.

Passing the proposed policy will inform teachers, staff, students, parents, and, most importantly, trans students, of what a trans student is entitled to expect from their educational experience.

With this letter I enclose a copy of the Canadian Federation of Teachers book, "Supporting Transgender and Transsexual Students in K-12 Schools: A guide for educators". It is an invaluable resource in developing individualized accommodation plans for trans* students.

I look forward to speaking to you at your meeting on May 14, 2014.

Yours with

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Lawyer
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