



BRITISH COLUMBIA
CENTRE *for* EXCELLENCE
in HIV/AIDS



**Gender and Sexual Health Initiative
(GSHI)**

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Vancouver Board of Education
School District #39
1580 West Broadway
Vancouver, B.C.
V6J 5K8

To: patti.bacchus@vsb.bc.ca
Cc: mlouie@vsb.bc.ca

Re: Draft Revised Policy and Regulations: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities (ACB and ACB R-1)

Dear Board Members,

We are writing on behalf of the Gender and Sexual Health Initiative (GSHI) at the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS (BC-CfE HIV/AIDS) to express our support for the Vancouver School Board's (VSB) revised policy ACB and regulations ACB-1 for Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities.

The overall mission of the GSHI is to inform evidence-based policy and practice in gender, sexual health and HIV/AIDS and reduce health inequities among marginalized populations. We are committed to research that promotes gender and sexual equity, and human rights for all, which includes access to safe, non-judgmental health care free of stigma and discrimination. We believe that decisions should be made based on the best available evidence.

We believe that the revisions made to the ACB policy and regulations ACB-1 are based on the best available evidence. These revisions are a step to making Vancouver schools safer for Trans* and Gender-Diverse students. We commend the VSB Committee III for the research and work they have done to make revisions that are reflective of evidence-based research.

We encourage VSB board members to vote in favour of the revised policy for the betterment of our schools and the safety of all students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Kate Shannon, PhD, MPH
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& Associate Faculty, School of Population and Public Health
University of British Columbia
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