



April 5, 2016

Dear parents/guardians,

There has been significant news coverage in the past few months about Alberta Education's "Guidelines for Best Practices: Creating Learning Environments that Respect Diverse Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities and Gender Expressions." School boards across Alberta have been asked to use these provincial guidelines to help develop their own policies and guidelines.

These guidelines are just one way the CBE is responding to the recent amendments to the *School Act* (Bill 10), which broaden the CBE's responsibility to promote welcoming, safe, caring and respectful environments that foster a sense of belonging and a respect for diversity in our schools.

On March 29, the Board of Trustees unanimously passed second reading of policy changes related to Bill 10 at a public board meeting. The Board of Trustees' policies guide Administration in creating detailed regulations for the benefit and protection of our students and staff

The amendments to the *School Act* have also resulted in six key areas of focus for the CBE:

- New student code of conduct
- Addressing bullying behaviour
- Sharing responsibilities with parents and students
- Student-run organizations
- Guidelines for gender and sexual minority youth
- Protections for staff

Administration has reviewed its regulations and has prepared draft Administrative Regulations and guidelines which address each of these areas, including its own guidelines for gender and sexual minority youth. These draft documents, along with the Board of Trustees policy, formed the submission that was delivered to the Minister of Education at the end of March, 2016. This submission will create a dialogue between the Calgary Board of Education and the Minister of Education to ensure we comply with all aspects of the recently amended legislation. Together this work strengthens the Board's policies and CBE practices around creating safe and caring environments for all students and staff.

Every day, we work together to create safe, caring and respectful communities for each and every student and staff member so they can feel a sense of belonging.

The presentation and draft documents are posted on our website at [www.cbe.ab.ca](http://www.cbe.ab.ca). We invite you to review them to see how the CBE is responding to ensure we continue to provide the best learning environments for our students, staff and families.

If you have questions about your student or individual school, we encourage you to speak to your principal.

Sincerely,



Joy Bowen-Eyre  
Chair, Board of Trustees



David Stevenson  
Chief Superintendent

