



TEN WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT MODERN AND INCLUSIVE HEALTH EDUCATION

Whether it's through your Member of Provincial Parliament, through the consultation process, or within your own local community, there are many ways to let Ontario's children, youth, and teachers know that you have their back education. We've collected ten ways that you can stand up for inclusive and modern sexual health education. Have any questions or great ideas you want to share? Let us know at organizing@the519.org. Are you a student right now? Connect with us and we can put you in touch with amazing youth organizers who are working on this issue.

Contact or Lobby Your Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP)

It's important that your Member of Provincial Parliament knows that you believe in modern and inclusive health and physical education and that you expect them to have the backs of Ontario's children, youth, and teachers.

You can find who your MPP is [here](#), and their contact information [here](#). We strongly suggest that you call over sending an email to register your concern, as emails on issues like this are often ignored.

If you are interested in setting up an in-person meeting with your MPP, we have prepared a [lobbying kit and key facts](#) to help support you. Want to talk meet with your MPP but need some additional support or some like-minded folks to attend with you in solidarity? Send us an email at organizing@the519.org and we will be happy to do our best to support you.

Participate in Upcoming Consultations

The Provincial Government recently [announced](#) what the consultation process for changes to the Health and Physical Education Curriculum will look like. Unfortunately, opportunities for true, meaningful consultations are very limited. There are three main ways to be involved in the consultation: Through an online survey, telephone town halls, and through organizations and individuals hosting their own forums to create “dedicated submissions packages.”

This consultation is critically lacking in opportunities for direct, representative participation of youth, educators, parents, community organizations and health experts. The Province has also implemented a “[snitch line](#)”, where parents can report teachers teaching the 2015 curriculum. This is an unacceptable, cynical move meant to scare teachers into teaching out of date, harmful material.

With that said, it is important to engage in the process to make sure our voices are heard as clearly as possible. Here are some options on how to best engage:

- Seek out a local forum held by a community organization. No forum happening in your neighbourhood? We will be creating a guide to hosting one once more information becomes available.





- Use the government's [website](#) set up for parents to register their concerns about the current curriculum and teachers to share your thoughts about removing essential educational topics from students' education. You can use our [key facts](#) to help shape your message.
- Participate in the town halls and online survey as they become available.
- Organize a group of friends and allies to participate as well. The more voices we have, the louder we are.
- Share your experience on social media using the hashtag #haveyourback

Once we know more about consultation opportunities we will be sure to share it with you and will try our best to help you organize folks in your region to work together in organizing local opportunities.

Connect with Your School Board and School Board Trustee

School boards and school board trustees are your local connection to the education system. Many school boards and trustees have already come out against the repeal of the 2015 curriculum. Contact your local trustee and:

- Set up a meeting or phone call to discuss the changes to the curriculum, using information from the [key facts](#) and [lobbying toolkit](#).
- Thank your trustee and board if they are supportive of the 2015 curriculum and ask them to continue to fight for the safety and health of their students.
- Ask them to keep you informed of any upcoming consultation activities.

You can also get active in supporting trustees who have voiced their support of the 2015 curriculum. You can find your local school board [here](#) and your trustee through your local school board website.

Participate in our Days of Action

On Tuesday, September 4th, the first day of school, we are asking all of you to share messages of support for children, youth, and educators to let them know that we #haveyourback. Share a quick message, video, or tweet with the hashtag #haveyourback about something related to:

- Your experiences of the first day of back at school experiences.
- How you will support students and teachers returning to the classroom.
- Why health education is important to you.
- What you would like to see in a [Parent's Bill of Rights](#).

On Wednesday October 3rd, [We Have Your Back](#) will be coordinating a province-wide day of action. We encourage community agencies, parents, educators, and students to participate by hosting an event. The day of action will include a short, easy to use lesson plan that focuses on material that has been left out due to the repeal. We will be sending more information out shortly, be sure to check our [website](#) for updates!





Support Kids

For Ontario's students, especially those who identify as LGBTQ2S, the repeal of the curriculum sends a harmful message that gender and sexually diverse communities are something that should not be discussed or celebrated. Make sure that children and youth in your life know that you have their back and that they can turn to you with questions or concerns. You can:

- Find educational resources for yourself and children and youth in your life on our [website](#), including weekly sexual education videos by [Dr. Nadine Thornhill](#) (starting in mid-September).
- Ask children and youth what they are being taught in their classrooms. What's missing? What do they need to know that they don't?
- Encourage youth and kids to be involved in this issue as the consultations begin. Elevate their voices and experience when you yourself are advocating.

Support Teachers

Teachers are on the frontline of this issue and many have come out strongly in support of the 2015 curriculum. It's important that they know that you have their back and that you believe your child should be provided a comprehensive education in the class room, especially with the recent creation of the curriculum snitch line. As the school year begins, find a moment to:

- Ask your teacher their thoughts about this curriculum change and how they plan on managing it.
- Let them know you support the 2015 curriculum.
- Ask how you can be of support to them. Provide them with additional [resources](#) if needed.
- Let your school's administration and parent council know you support teachers who teach modern and inclusive education.
- If your child's teacher is not supportive, visit the school librarian or talk with other school educators about ensuring that relevant resources are available to all students.

Get Involved with Your School's Parents Advisory Council / Committee

Most schools have a more formal way for parents to be involved. Whether it is a council or committee, being involved is a good opportunity to keep up to date about what is happening in your school and school board, and to make it known to your local community that many parents believe in inclusive and modern health education. Consider:

- Joining your parent council group – and encourage fellow likeminded parents – and advocate to publically support the 2015 curriculum, and to support parents who decide to teach it. Advocate for a letter to be sent to your local trustee, school board, and MPP with this message.
- If you are unable to join, write a letter to your council asking them to publically support the 2015 curriculum.



- Work with your parent council to support/plan/champion opportunities for learning about sexual health and wellbeing inside and outside the classroom.
- Meet with the administration of your school, as part of the council or as an individual parent, to let them know you want them to support teachers who continue to teach the 2015 curriculum.

Connect With Local Organizations

Community-based organizations across the province are advocating in support of the current curriculum. Many also offer programming that may fill some of the educational gaps left by this repeal. You can find a list of community organizations who have endorsed the We Have Your Back campaign [here](#). Consider:

- Contacting local community agencies and organizations to see what programs they have and how you may be able to advocate together
- Encourage them to be involved in the upcoming consultations and in getting the word out to their service users
- Does your child access services or programs at a youth organization? Talk to the staff about having information resources or sessions about issues left out the curriculum by the repeal
- Are you a member of a professional association, trade union, or other organization? Reach out to your representatives and encourage them to mobilize their membership around this issue. We'd be happy to talk with them as well!

Consider Legal Action

The We Have Your Back Campaign is working with a number of legal organizations, including the HIV Aids Legal Clinic Ontario (HALCO), Justice for Children and Youth (JCFY), and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA), to bring human rights complaints and civil action against the repeal of the 2015 curriculum. If you are interested in learning more or potentially participating in an action, contact us at organizing@the519.org.

Connect With Us!

When you do something, let us know! It's great to hear what allies are doing across the province, and we can amplify your work through our [website](#) and [social media](#). When folks see others take action, it makes it easier for them to take action too.

We're happy to talk with you about how we can help support you in any actions that you take or answer any questions or concerns. Please contact us at organizing@the519.org. If you haven't already, sign up for our mailing list at www.wehaveyourbackontario.org

