203 HUMAN SEXUALITY AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION INSTRUCTION

Beliefs

The Maskwacis Education Schools Commission (MESC) follows cultural and traditional teachings of the Maskwacis Cree, in particular Wahkohtowin. Wahkohtowin is the belief that all things are related and connected, that all of existence has spirit and that living in a good way requires us to maintain good relationships with each other and other aspects of existence. We recognize that respect for mother earth, elders, youth, and the Treaties are paramount to planning ahead and making decisions for future generations.

The MESC believes that education on Human Sexuality is important for student learning and components of the provincial curriculum will be taught in MESC schools.

Procedures

1. Prior to offering any part of the Human Sexuality component to students, principals must provide notice to parents under Section 11.1 of the Alberta Human Rights Act by completing Form 202 -1 identifying course outcomes and instructional materials to be used.

2. Careful consideration of Maskwacis Cree customs and traditions will be exercised during preparation and presentation of controversial issues.

3. Pursuant to section 11.1(2) of the Human Rights Act, parents/guardians may request that their child be excluded from the above-identified instruction, without academic penalty. In order for parents to exercise this option they must sign and return Form 202 -2 on or before the date of the instruction indicated in Form 202 – 1.

4. Suitable educational alternatives will be provided by the school for those children who do not participate.

5. The selection of the teacher for this strand should be done with sensitivity.

6. The use of community resource personnel (e.g. Health Services) trained or knowledgeable in this area is encouraged.

7.   Any changes or additions to the approved Human Sexuality curriculum strand must receive written approval from the Associate Superintendent: Learning Services or his/her designate.

Reference
Human Rights Act of Alberta