



Ontario Medical
Students Association

July 21, 2018

PRESS RELEASE: OMSA supports the current Health and Physical Education Curriculum; reversion to the 1998 Education Curriculum is a move away from inclusive health education.

The Ontario Medical Students Association (OMSA) regrets the Ontario Provincial government's intent to repeal the updated 2015 Ontario Health and Physical Education Curriculum and revert to the curriculum developed in 1998.

The curriculum implemented in 2015 is the culmination of years of consultation with 2,400 educators and other stakeholders via interview sessions and an online survey, and 700 students in 26 face-to-face regional consultation sessions. A program rooted in the promotion of respect and diversity, it teaches about differences in sexuality and gender identity, the importance of healthy and consensual relationships, and strategies to safely use social media. While it is reassuring that the government has indicated that the new curriculum will include consent, there are novel challenges that have surfaced in the twenty years since the 1998 curriculum was developed. To return to this outdated curriculum does a great disservice to the students of Ontario. Access to a robust, comprehensive and evidence-based Human Development and Sexual Health curriculum is paramount to a healthy and well-informed populace.

OMSA looks forward to collaborating with the Ontario Provincial government, health-care providers, educators and other experts to ensure that the youth of Ontario continue to receive a thorough and evidence-based Human Development and Sexual Health curriculum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "AD", enclosed within a circular scribble.

Andrew Dawson
Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Cory Lefebvre".

Cory Lefebvre
Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Silvio Ndoja".

Silvio Ndoja
Director of Representation

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Charlotte Fuller".

Charlotte Fuller
Director of Communications

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Sydney McQueen".

Sydney McQueen
Director of Education