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Reverting the current Ontario Health and Physical Education Curriculum puts our students at risk

For Immediate Release – July 19, 2018

Hamilton, ON – The Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations (OFHSA) agrees with our Ontario Education partners; the Ontario Healthy Schools Coalition (OHSC), the Ontario Physical and Health Education Association (OPHEA), the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) and the Ontario Association for the Support of Health and Physical Educators (OASPHE). We believe that our children and youth will be negatively affected as a result of the new PC government's decision to revert back to the outdated 1998 sexual health curriculum that was replaced by the 2015 Human Development and Sexual Health component of the Ontario Health and Physical Education Curriculum.

The 1998 curriculum does not address sexting, gender equity, online bullying, or information about consent. The removal of these topics, which are all important issues in today's world, will affect the lives of many of our students and youth. The claim made by the new PC government that parental consultation did not take place is unfounded. OFHSA, along with over 170 organizations, 2,400 educators and over 4,000 parents were part of the ten year consultation that led to the development of the 2015 Ontario Health and Physical Education Curriculum, including the sections on Human Development and Sexual Health.

As a voice for parents across the province, it is the opinion of OFHSA that the best way to serve the students, youth and parents of Ontario is to leave the current 2015 Human Development and Sexual Health component in place while the new PC government holds further consultation over the coming year. This will not only ensure the safety of our students and youth but will also allow the issues not included in the 1998 curriculum but relative in today's world to continue to be taught.

The Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations is an organization of volunteer members that have been actively working alongside our partners in education for over 100 years to ensure that the education, health, safety and social well-being of children and youth are a priority for all in this province.

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The Best for Each Student
