

## A government that proposes a transphobic law cannot be trusted with sex education

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Montreal, November 1, 2021. - The Coalition ÉduSex would like to express skepticism and concern following the announcement that the sex education compulsory content will be included in the new Quebec Citizenship and Culture program.

The Coalition ÉduSex is questioning the ability and willingness of the Ministry of Education to develop a sex education program that will truly teach “respect for oneself and others” and “equality for all”<sup>1</sup>, given the almost simultaneous announcement by the government of Bill 2, which is strongly denounced by trans, non-binary and intersex people and 2SLGBTQIA + rights groups as "the most transphobic bill ever proposed in Quebec"<sup>2</sup> and which, if adopted, would make Quebec “ the least inclusive province in the country for trans people ”<sup>3</sup>.

During public consultations on the overhaul of the Ethics and Religious Culture (ECR) program in February 2020, the Coalition submitted a brief comprising eleven recommendations, in particular "that students' learning in sexual education not be evaluated, that is to say that they not be graded, in order to avoid normative judgment"<sup>4</sup>. The inclusion of sex education content in the Quebec Citizenship and Culture program carries the risk of imposing such a judgment on complex and fundamental relationships that young people develop during this formative time.

Moreover, with the new Quebec Citizenship and Culture program, the members of the Coalition ÉduSex are concerned that the training offered to teachers in preparation for the deployment of the sex education content is inadequate and insufficient, and will not place the necessary emphasis on the non-judgmental posture necessary to ensure a positive, inclusive and anti-oppressive approach for youth from 2SLGBTQIA+ communities.

### **Inclusive training?**

It is important to remember that studies have shown that sex education should be a responsibility carried by several qualified people (sexologists, trained teachers, community organisations, school nurses, members of socio-professional teams, regional public health departments, etc.) in order to offer a mixed approach, adapted to the realities of each sector and to the diverse needs of young people<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> [Culture et citoyenneté québécoise remplacera l'ancien programme Éthique et culture religieuse](#) Cabinet du ministère de l'éducation, 24 oct 2021

<sup>2</sup> [Bill 2 is 'the most transphobic bill ever proposed in Quebec,' activist says](#) T'Cha Dunlevy, Montreal Gazette, 25 oct 2021

<sup>3</sup> [Une atteinte aux droits des personnes trans et non binaires](#) Dalia Tourki, Le Devoir, 26 oct 2021

<sup>4</sup> [Éducation à la sexualité: soutenir une approche flexible, concertée et diversifiée](#) Coalition ÉduSex, 21 fév 2020

<sup>5</sup> [Promouvoir des programmes d'éducation à la sexualité positive, inclusive et émancipatrice](#), Julie Descheneaux, Pagé, Piazzesi, Pirotte, FQPN, 2018

# ÉduSex

Coalition pour l'éducation  
à la sexualité au Québec

## **Community organisations continue to be ignored**

Since January 2021, the Coalition ÉduSex has repeatedly requested to meet with the Minister of Education, Mr. Jean-Francois Roberge, to present our demands and the petition signed by more than 5,600 Quebecers. We are still waiting for this meeting in order to highlight the expertise and the essential contributions of community organisations, which compensated for the lack of sex education programs in Quebec schools during years of austerity and which continue to support teachers in the deployment of positive, inclusive, and anti-oppressive sex education.

## **The Coalition ÉduSex**

The Coalition ÉduSex was formed in 2018 following the return of sex education compulsory content to elementary and high schools in Quebec. Over one hundred community and labor organisations have united to ensure that the sex education that is offered is representative of different realities and identities, while also fighting persistent social inequalities through education.

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## **Relation de presse**

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