



May 1, 2023

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
4th Floor, Brunswick Place
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Halifax, Nova Scotia
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VIA EMAIL: educmin@novascotia.ca

Minister Druhan,

We are writing today to share our concerns about the rising amount of homophobic and transphobic hate and discrimination occurring in Nova Scotia schools.

From the desecration of the Pride Flag at Bay View High School to hostility and bullying toward 2SLGBTQI+ people recently reported by CBC News in Cape Breton and recent events we've been made aware of at CSAP schools in the HRM, the tide is turning in the wrong direction when it comes to supporting queer students and members of our communities and protecting their rights.

We agree, schools are part of our communities and reflect the issues and experiences of the community of which they are a part. The growing issue of homophobic and transphobic acts in communities across our province and country is equally disturbing and concerning and must be addressed.

We need a government that stands up against intolerance and hate.

We are also concerned that the current response by some staff and administration is not adequate. It's up to the Education Department and yourself as Minister to ensure students,



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staff, and administrators have the tools they need and the ability to ensure that everyone's rights to a safe education are upheld.

As NSNDP spokespersons for Education and 2SLGBTQI+ Affairs, we are requesting to meet with you in a timely manner to discuss these issues and solutions moving forward.

2SLGBTQI+ students and staff deserve safe spaces to live and work.

Sincerely,



Lisa Lachance
NSNDP 2SLGBTQ+ Affairs Spokesperson



Suzy Hansen
NSNDP Education and Early Childhood Development Spokesperson



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