



Update from the PCCE Independent Schools Consultant

2018 12 06

On November 29th, 2018 principals and board members of most of the Independent Schools met with the PCCE leadership. The meeting provided an opportunity to share observations and reflections on the service and support that PCCE offers to those schools. It was a positive meeting of frank discussion that helped develop a better understand of the issues that are most important to the Independent Schools and to PCCE.

A Ministerial Order was delivered to noncompliant Independent Schools on November 13, 2018. It orders the boards of those schools to:

1. Impose a government-created policy and code of conduct on their schools, replacing the policies which they themselves previously created and adopted.
2. Post a link on the schools' websites to the Ministerial Order and the government-created policy and code of conduct.
3. Remove their own safe and caring policies and codes of conduct from their websites.
4. Distribute a letter from the Minister of Education to the parents or legal guardians of each student enrolled in their school.

This ministerial order did not change or add anything essential to the existing legislation, but it linked the timeline for compliance to the school budget preparations of Spring of 2019. It pledged removal of funding from schools that have not followed the minister's orders by that time. This notwithstanding the fact that the legislation itself is under judicial review.

On Monday December 3rd, 2018 the Appeals Court heard arguments to establish an injunction on the implementation of the objectionable sections of Bill 24. The JCCF lawyers (Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms) expressed cautious optimism that the three judges will give this appeal a thorough and fair consideration. During the proceedings the judges pressed the government lawyers on the evidence that Bill 24 is doing harm to children and that the minister's decisions regarding funding are harmful to schools. Please, pray for these three Appeal Court judges. They have a lot of material to consider in the context of an ideological government and a changing culture.

References:

Parents for Choice in Education:

- <https://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/corbella-some-alarming-revelations-about-gsas-at-alberta-court-of-appeal>

ARPA Blog review after the Appeals Court Hearing:

- https://www.facebook.com/plugins/video.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Farpacanada%2Fvideos%2F1985865198373731%2F&show_text=0&width=560

Press:

- <https://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/religious-schools-argue-gsa-act-violates-parental-rights-and-values/wcm/55b75cdc-7574-4673-a8a1-f22c3266b347>
- <https://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/corbella-provincial-lawyer-provides-bad-info-at-court-of-appeal-into-gsas>
- <https://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/corbella-some-alarming-revelations-about-gsas-at-alberta-court-of-appeal>