

Sexually graphic material to kids in Alberta schools

BACKGROUND

My name is Theresa Ng and I am an Edmonton mother, former teacher and author of the blog Informed Albertans.

On March 13th I published an article exposing how a taxpayer funded website, recommended by Alberta Education for K-12 children, linked directly to a number of community support groups that included sexually graphic articles and content.

The content included images of naked men being flogged and restrained with suggestions on how to use specific BDSM products, including links to purchase those items from an online sex shop. An article about masturbation included advice to “pay for porn” and “visit a group masturbation night at your local sex club.”

The day after the blog article was published, 18 of the original 66 community support links on the Alberta GSA Network were removed because they were deemed inappropriate for K-12 children - which is far from being an isolated issue or an accidental oversight.

For months students have had access to sexually graphic material with only 1 to 2 clicks from a government funded and recommended website intended to offer support to K-12 children. Most troubling is that if I had not personally happened to come across these links they would still be there.

REMOVING LINKS - NOT A SOLUTION

Even after the initial removal of over 25% of the listed community supports, many links still remained that continued to direct children to sexually graphic material. In fact, it took over 3 weeks until the entire section of “Community Support” links was completely removed from the GSA Network website on April 4th.

The fact is that the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services (iSMSS) at the University of Alberta, who organizes the GSA Network for all Alberta schools, did not properly vet their links and community supports.

Most concerning is that Alberta Education has continued to permit these same individuals from iSMSS to operate this network for students, even though they have severely violated the trust of Albertans and endangered the safety of children. In fact, the website and network are still being recommended by Alberta Education to support K-12 children in this province.

After publishing my blog article I started a petition asking for a public response to one simple question:

To our Minister of Education:

Will you assure Alberta parents and taxpayers that iSMSS, along with any associated staff and Directors, are no longer involved in any capacity with the K-12 curriculum re-write or the provision of resources, research or teacher training that is being funded by the Alberta government?

It is essential that parents and citizens across Alberta pressure our government for accountability and send a strong message that we expect and deserve a much higher standard of professionalism and conduct from those entrusted with the care of our kids within Alberta's K-12 education system.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Please visit my website listed below where you will find a video describing the issue in more detail, including a link to the online petition, and an address where to send letters to the Minister of Education.

I urge you to invest some time today to become informed and take action to ensure that our Alberta government takes responsibility to ensure the safety of all children and restore public confidence in our education system.

To view the video and links please go to:
informedalbertans.wordpress.com
and access the tab at the top of the site that says
“Sexually Graphic Material to Kids in Alberta Schools: What you can do”