

Office of the Premier  
307 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

February 23, 2024

Dear Ms. Smith,

As faculty of the Alberta University of the Arts, we condemn the recent proposals by Premier Danielle Smith seeking to limit transgender healthcare and participation in society. We will always be committed to fostering a safe environment where diverse identities are celebrated and safeguarded. Among our students, 35% identify as members of the 2S/LGBTQ+ community with a percentage of that comprising non-binary and trans\* individuals. The Premier's suite of measures seeking to restrict healthcare for transgender children, disclose private information regarding their gender identity without their consent and segregate transgender women from participation in sports do not reflect the values of our community.

Any proposal regarding the health and welfare of transgender children needs to include expert medical advice and involve consultation with all concerned parties: teachers, social workers, families, legal professionals, and most importantly the transgender community. Instead, the UCP's proposal interferes with Canadians' protected charter rights and runs contrary to the evidence-based medical practices and research over the past 80 years.

If implemented, this suite of measures risks placing trans\* youth who have unsupportive families in harmful situations, segregates trans\* women from participation in social activities, and limits access to resources for trans\* youth, even with parental consent. It is well established that transgender students are at much higher risk of homelessness-related circumstances, unsafe living situations, food insecurity, unemployment, and underemployment.

AUAFA calls on Alberta's government to fully rescind its plan to implement regressive transgender legislation. We stand in solidarity with 2S/LGBTQ+ youth, educators, and all who are committed to fostering a society where every individual can live authentically and safely. We will continue to fight against policies that threaten our communities and we will continue to work tirelessly to support the well-being and rights of 2S/LGBTQ+ individuals based on research and evidence-based policy recommendations.

We urge all Albertans to join us in condemning this policy and advocating for the protection and respect of all youth, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. The future of these youth depends on our ability to uphold the values of compassion, understanding, and equity for all.

With sincerity,



Paul Robert  
President, AUAFA  
auafa.president@telus.net