

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM43.14	ACTION			Ward:All
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Affirming the City of Toronto's Support for Comprehensive Sex Education - by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton, recommends that:

1. City Council affirm its support for comprehensive sex education, as reflected in the Province of Ontario's current public education curriculum.

Summary

Sexual education is a critical component of Ontario's public education curriculum. Not only does it provide students with important information about their own biology and maturation, it addresses a wide range of issues that are current and relevant to students' safety and wellbeing. As such, sexual education programs must be kept up-to-date and reflect the real situations, issues, and concerns that students will encounter.

Ontario's present sexual education curriculum has addressed long-standing gaps. It empowers girls to achieve autonomy over their own bodies and teaches students about the importance of consent. It also allows for students to acquire sexual literacy and comprehension before being confronted with various health risks or exposed to explicit materials - all the more important in light of the widespread use of data-enabled cellphones by children as early as grade school. Further, it draws on evidence-based research and helps to educate students on other important subjects, such as the risks of substance abuse, personal health, and safety.

Toronto values the health and safety of all children and City Council should therefore affirm its support for Ontario's sex education curriculum.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM43.14