Objections to Anti-homophobia Curriculum in Schools

Here are some quick responses for educators when talking to parents.

"Parent Rights" "This is against our rights as parents to teach our own set of family values." • As teachers, we do not condone children being removed from our classes when we teach about Aboriginal people, people of colour, people with disabilities, or gays and lesbians. • You can teach your child your own values at home. Public schools teach everyone about respecting diversity and valuing everyone. • This is not about parent rights. Children have the right to an inclusive education free from discrimination.	**Religion and Cultural Objections** "This is against our religion/culture." • As teachers, we do not condone children being removed from our classes when we engage in antiracism education. This issue is no different. • All children, including yours, have a right to an education free from discrimination. • Teachers and principals have a legal obligation to respond to all forms of harassment and discrimination in schools. (Note: Don't enter into debates about meanings or merits of scriptural texts.)
Sexuality "It's recruitment or teaching about sex!'" • No one suddenly chooses to become lesbian or gay simply because they heard about the topic in school. • Anti-homophobia education at the elementary level does not include discussion about sex or sexual practices. • Secondary students need accurate information about relationships and safe sex. Lack of information can have tragic consequences for youth.	**Age Appropriateness** "My child is too young for this topic!'" • Children are already learning homophobic slurs starting in the primary years. My job is to make school safe and counter all name-calling. • All families deserve to be represented in the curriculum. The mandatory provincial curriculum includes diverse family structures. • It is our job as educators to teach accurate, up-to-date information to every child, including yours.