

EXPERT ALERT

Don't say "sex" or "religion" in class: Alberta's new parental opt out clause in school

University of Calgary expert in education available for comment at Congress 2012 in Waterloo

May 29th, 2012 – Waterloo, ON – If parents in Alberta don't want their kids to hear about sex, the province's opt-out legislation allows them to take their kids out of class. What led to the enactment of this controversial legislation, and what issues have arisen as a result?

Dr. Dianne Gereluk, Professor of Education at the University of Calgary, is available to comment on her paper “Don’t Say the Words ‘Sex’ or ‘Religion’ in Class: Alberta’s new parental opt out clause in schools,” presented at the 2012 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences in Waterloo. Dr. Gereluk’s paper addresses this contentious legislation, its implementation, and what this means for teachers in Alberta.

Dr. Gereluk’s research focuses on cultural and religious accommodations in schools under liberal democracies, including dress codes, sexual orientation and controversial education. She is past treasurer of the Philosophy of Education Society of Great Britain, and currently sits on the board of governors for the Calgary French and International School.

When: May 29-30, 2012

What: Opting out of sex ed in Alberta

Where: Waterloo, Ontario

Who: Dr. Dianne Gereluk, Faculty of Education, University of Calgary

For more information, story ideas or to schedule an interview, please contact:

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About the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences

Organized by the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Congress is the largest interdisciplinary conference in Canada. Described as a “conference of conferences,” Congress involves nearly 70 academic associations that represent a rich spectrum of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, including literature, history, theatre, film studies, education, music, sociology, geography, social work and many others.