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Opinion: Facts based on evidence serve best interests of children

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In past weeks, the quaint community of Chilliwack has transmogrified into Ground Zero for a one-sided debate on gender fluidity (the idea that gender is changeable and not determined by biological sex).

At issue is the public school district's forced acceptance of all aspects of the SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) curriculum put forth by the B.C. Ministry of Education. The overall goals are to provide a safe, bully-free, respectful and accepting environment for students of all sexual orientations and gender identities. To accomplish this, students will be taught that gender fluidity is a norm, that they can identify by any gender or name (without the knowledge of their parents) [Parents who do not accept trans children can cause their children great harm and encourage suicide.] and they can utilize the washroom/change room of their choice. [Teachers are usually wise enough to keep sexually curious young boys under control.]

As a result of these controversial plans, adult efforts to create a "safe" environment for children have brought bullies, haters [you bet!] and the "no-free-speech-for-you" crowd to the forefront. If not for the Orwellian undertones, the situation would be comically ironic.

Much of the anger is being directed at school board trustee Barry Neufeld, who has served in this position from 1993-2008 and, more recently, 2011 until now.

The trouble began last fall with a Facebook posting in which Mr. Neufeld claimed that changing the gender of children was "nothing short of child abuse." Since then, he has apologized for those words and stated that he supports the principles of inclusion. But he still refuses to support teaching the controversial concept of gender fluidity to children as scientific fact. [Here is our first ignorant bigot.]

His ideas may not be popular but, before they are condemned, shouldn't educators and parents at least take the time to determine if they are grounded in fact? Or folly? [Uh, We already know they are grounded in folly. What kind of research has the writer of this article done? None!]

After all, aren't the best interests of children served when they are taught facts based on proven evidence rather than mere feelings? [Amen! But be sure you really have the true facts.]

Mr. Neufeld didn't invent the idea that gender fluidity is akin to child abuse. The American College of Pediatricians [Here is our second bunch of bigots – a known LGBTQ hate organization.] used those exact words in a statement to legislators and educators that warned about the dangers of gender ideology and asserted that, "No one is born with a gender. Everyone is born with a biological sex." [Actually, everyone is born with a fixed and unalterable gender.]

The College represents a smaller group of pediatricians [about 600] that broke off from the American Academy of Pediatricians [about 64,000 members], in part because of differences in their acceptance of gender ideology and surgical sex change. However, they are board-certified pediatricians who, in their expertise, refuse to accept the new ideas about gender. [Being a 'board certified pediatrician doesn't mean you know a darn thing about gender identity.]

This newspaper recently posted the comments of Dr. James Cantor, a sex researcher, director of the Toronto Sexuality Centre and writer of the blog [Sexuality Today](#). [There is no blog!] He is also committed to the scientific process and evidence-based facts. He compiled the 12 studies [Funny, there is no reference to any of these 'studies'. Also note- he didn't participate in the studies, he just wrote down the names of studies probably done by ignorant bigots or LGBTQ haters.] that showed long-term outcomes for transgender children and found that all of the studies came to the same conclusion — "the majority of kids cease to feel transgender when they get older." [This statement is so completely wrong that it defies any comprehension. Every trans adult walking around today began as a trans kid!] The degree of the majority varies, [What does this even mean?] but all studies had the same outcome.

Dr. Cantor sums it up by writing that, despite variations in methods, time and country, "every single study without exception has come to the identical conclusion. [This is so blatantly false that a two-year old could figure out it is nothing but a lie!] This is not a matter of scientists disagreeing with one another over ... conflicting reports. ... Rather, activists are rejecting the unanimous conclusion of every single study ever conducted ... in favour of a conclusion supported by not one." [I sincerely doubt that Dr. Cantor himself has read 'every single study ever conducted'. He only 'compiled' 12. This man is a classic bigot and hate monger.]

In other words, science has not yet provided proof for the controversial ideological concept of transgenderism [There is no such word as 'transgenderism' (transgender is an adjective, not a noun or a verb.) as presented in this curriculum.

Yet, for merely questioning these ideas, [Imagine! He actually questioned the ideas of a bigot and hate monger! How horrible!] Mr. Neufeld he has been made into a pariah, and subjected to protests, name-calling and numerous [calls for his resignation](#).

There is a vast difference between concepts based on hypothesis and those based on fact. Before we shout the loudest and attempt to shut down those who disagree with us, we should be very clear about which one we have in our hand. [After all of this, do you have any doubt that the writer of this piece should be transferred to classified ads?]

*Susan Martinuk is a Vancouver-based columnist. [Do not pay any attention to anything she writes in the future!]*

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