



Students petition Alberta Legislature to mandate Sexual Consent Education

University of Calgary Consent Awareness and Sexual Education club strives for prevention through k - 12 education curriculum.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 14, 2015

As part of their advocacy for long-term sustainable changes and improvements to sexual assault prevention, the University of Calgary's Consent Awareness and Sexual Education Club (CASE) is taking a proactive step calling on students and Albertans to petition the Legislative Assembly of Alberta to mandate the inclusion of legal, responsible and healthy, affirmative sexual consent as part of the province's sexual education curriculum.

The petition coincides with the Ministry of Education's curriculum review and provincial election seeking to make an impact prior to election day on May 5th, 2015, with hundreds of signatures already collected.

CASE volunteer Sarah Hogendorp and Vice President Academic Jennah Martens-Forrester are spearheading the initiative, distributing the petition city-wide through independent volunteers, additionally the petition is available for signing at the University of Calgary Q Centre and University of Calgary Women's Resource Centre. Hogendorp and Martens-Forrester hope other groups pick-up the cause to make an even greater impact.

CASE's actions follow MLA Laurie Blakeman's lead in recent efforts in Legislature, including on March 11th, 2015 she stated, "today I'd like to encourage [the Minister of Education Gordon Dirks] to come hand in hand with me and take another very progressive step forward by mandating the teaching of consent to young people as part of the school curriculum." Blakeman further stated: "Consent is fundamental in educating young people on the importance of individual rights, reinforcing gender equality, and reducing sexual violence, especially amongst females."

CASE President Emily Leedham underlines CASE's prevention strategy, saying: "to reduce acquaintance sexual assault on campus, students need to have a comprehensive understanding of consent before they reach post-secondary. If students are learning about consent for the first time in university, it's too late. We need our political candidates to commit to making this a priority in Alberta."

Contact:

Emily Leedham, President
Consent Awareness & Sexual Education Club
www.ucalgarycase.ca
case@ucalgary.ca

