



Hillside Jr/Sr High School

"A Caring Commitment to Learning"



Northern Gateway
Public Schools

Notice Form Under Section 11.1 of the Alberta Human Rights Act

Date: **September 23, 2019**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The CHAMP team based from Fox Creek (Community Helpers and Mentoring Projects) from Northern Gateway Public Schools, will be offering the 'Get Connected' Program as part of your child's Grade 9 Health curriculum on Wednesdays from September through December 2019.

The Get Connected Program is an initiative of the Community Helpers Programs which is part of Alberta's suicide prevention strategy that includes building communities' capacities to help each other. Research tells us that young people often turn to each other when they encounter a problem. The focus of the Get Connected Program is to strengthen the helping skills that students already have and to increase their knowledge of the many resources and services available in our community.

Topics covered include: ethics, communication, personal limitations and strategies, crisis situations and helping resources, mental health awareness, understanding suicide, substance abuse, relationships, violence and conflict, education & learning, dealing with loss, career development, and decisions/personal standards.

Because the relationships and personal standards module includes information about STIs (sexually transmitted infections and the transmission of HIV), you are being informed of the program and have the option to exclude your child from that portion of instruction, without academic penalty, by having your child either:

- a) leave the classroom or place where the instruction is taking place or where the instructional material is being used for duration of that part of the instruction; or
- b) remain in the classroom or place where the instruction is taking place without taking part in the instruction or use of instructional material.

In order to exercise this option, you must sign and return the attached exemption form (on the back of this letter) to Hillside's Main Office on or before the date of the instruction indicated above. If this form is not returned before that date, your child will be included in the instruction above.

For reference, the Get Connected Program encompasses the following subjects in the Alberta Education Program of Studies for Health:

Wellness Choices • Students will make responsible and informed choices to maintain health and to promote safety for self and others.

Relationship Choices • Students will develop effective interpersonal skills that demonstrate responsibility, respect and caring in order to establish and maintain healthy interactions.

Life Learning Choices • Students will use resources effectively to manage and explore life roles and career opportunities and challenges.

If you would like additional information about the content of the Get Connected Program, please contact Mrs. L. Newman, Counselor, at Hillside, or Sandra Hardy, CHAMP Team Manager at 780-633-3742 or email Sandra.Hardy@ngps.ca

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Student Exemption Under Section 11.1 of the Alberta Human Rights Act

TO: Principal/Teacher of Hillside Jr/Sr High School, of Northern Gateway Public Schools.

In response to the notice provided to me by the Board of Trustees of Northern Gateway Public School Board dated September 23, 2019 indicating that a course or program of studies in which my child in enrolled, or an instructional material or exercise used in a course or program of studies in which my child in enrolled, includes subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with human sexuality, I,

_____ (parent / guardian name), in accordance with section 11.1(2) of the *Human Rights Act*, hereby request that my child,

_____ (name of child) be excluded from the instruction, exercise or the use of instructional material identified in the notice.

I request that my child: (check relevant box)

A) Leave the classroom or place where the instruction is taking place or where the instructional material is being used for the duration of that part of the instruction.

OR

B) Remain in the classroom or place where the instruction is taking place without taking part in the instruction or use of instructional material.

I confirm that I am the legal guardian of _____ (name of child) and have chosen to exercise my option to have my child excluded from the instruction described in the notice from Hillside Jr/Sr High School on the dates indicated in the notice. I also confirm that it is my obligation to ensure that this form is returned to the school principal/teacher on or before the date of the instruction indicated in the notice.

Grade : 9

 Parent/Legal Guardian

 Date

 Independent Student

 Date