Statement – Alberta's School Flag Regulations

November 3, 2026

The Ontario Principals' Council (OPC) is alarmed by recent changes to Alberta's regulations governing the display of flags in schools. These changes have serious negative implications for Indigenous students and Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex and Asexual (2SLGBTQQIA+) students, as well as the broader community. Restrictions on displaying Indigenous flags outside designated days and the prohibition on displaying Pride flags are deeply concerning. While schools may apply for exemptions, decisions about the display of flags should unequivocally uphold human rights, especially for those who are underrepresented and underserved. Flags, including the Pride flag and Indigenous community flags, are important symbols of identity, inclusion and belonging. Their presence in schools helps students, families, staff and the broader community know that they are seen, respected and valued.

Schools have a legal and ethical responsibility to promote understanding, acceptance and respect for diversity. Decisions that impact inclusion and belonging in schools have broader implications for how we recognize and support the diverse identities and experiences of all students and their families.

As duty holders under human rights legislation, principals and vice-principals are committed to creating barrier-free, anti-oppressive learning communities that support the well-being, belonging and success of every student. Access to a learning environment free from discrimination is a right for every student, and schools are at their best when all students are affirmed, respected and valued for who they are.

We are committed to leading for Truth and Reconciliation by striving to reconcile our relationships with the land and Indigenous peoples. Further, as a Rainbow Registered organization, the OPC is committed to fostering inclusion and respect for 2SLGBTQQIA+ communities. These commitments reflect OPC's value of championing anti-oppressive communities where ongoing systemic barriers that perpetuate inequities are challenged and addressed.