



MEDIA RELEASE

Joint Statement

September 18, 2023

In School District 22, we, the Board of Education, in collaboration with the Vernon Teachers' Association (VTA) and CUPE 5523, issue this joint statement to affirm our unwavering support for inclusivity, diversity, and the promotion of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity rights within our educational community.

Our collective commitment is rooted in our desire to provide high-quality education and foster a secure, inclusive environment for all students, staff, and community members. We firmly believe that embracing diversity and upholding human rights is essential for the well-being and prosperity of our entire district.

As individuals dedicated to education and advocacy, we have observed the profound impact of anti-2SLGBTQ+ campaigns. These efforts have far-reaching consequences, particularly affecting our community's students, staff, and families who rely on our unwavering support. Within our schools, we have taken significant steps to establish safe spaces. We are dedicated to ensuring that every student and staff member experiences a strong sense of belonging. We unequivocally denounce any disinformation aimed at undermining the progress we have made to support our students, staff, and families.

To our 2SLGBTQ+ students, district staff, and families, we want to reiterate our unequivocal recognition of your presence, rights, and dignity. You are integral members of our school community, and we are steadfast in our commitment to fostering an environment where you can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. We will work toward safeguarding your rights and dignity and will continue to support inclusive spaces that celebrate diversity.

Collectively, we pledge to continue our ongoing collaborative efforts within School District 22 – between the Board of Education, and in conjunction with the Vernon Teachers' Association (VTA), and CUPE 5523, to promote the principles of inclusivity and diversity, as well as safety for all. This commitment demands our unwavering attention and action, and we remain dedicated to these principles as we move forward.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christine Perkins", written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Christine Perkins
Superintendent, SD22

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave MacKenzie", written over a horizontal line.

Dave MacKenzie
President, VTA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gray Boisvert", written over a horizontal line.

Gray Boisvert
President, CUPE 5523