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## News Release

### Statement pertaining to “Sensitive Content”

March 19, 2021

In response to Minister Cliff Cullen quoting Manitoba Association of Parent Councils’ Executive Director Brenda Brazeau on his social media platforms, MAPC would like to clarify statements made by Ms. Brazeau.

In response to his social media post, a commenter posted a MAPC position statement from 2013, ‘Opting Out of Provincial Curriculum’. On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of the MAPC, I sincerely apologize for the wording in this statement. It is out of date and has been removed from our website, as have all of our Position Statements pending review. This is to ensure they all meet the standards of inclusion and equality that MAPC promotes and practices.

The term “sensitive content” comes from the Department of Education policy and from Bill 64 itself:

#### ***Policy — potentially sensitive content***

*144(1) The authority board must establish a written policy respecting potentially sensitive content and ensure that the policy is implemented in every school.*

#### ***Developing policy***

*144(2) In developing the policy, the authority board must*

*(a) consult with each school community council in the regional catchment area; and*

*(b) provide an option for alternative delivery of the potentially sensitive content if there is a conflict between the content and the parent or child's religious, cultural or family values.*

#### ***Parent must be notified***

*144(3) A parent of a student has the right to be notified when instructional materials dealing primarily and explicitly with potentially sensitive content are to be used in a physical education or health education course.*

144(4) *The parent may request, in writing, that the student be excluded from the portion of the course when the instructional materials containing the potentially sensitive content are being used without academic penalty if there is a conflict between the content and the parent or child's religious, cultural or family values. The teacher must facilitate that request.*

### **Exception**

144(5) *Despite subsection (4), the student must receive instruction in the potentially sensitive content by way of alternate delivery.*

### **Definitions**

144(6) *The following definitions apply in this section.*

**"alternate delivery"** *means delivery of the potentially sensitive content by the child's parent or by a professional with training in the particular content matter. (« autre mode d'enseignement »)*

**"potentially sensitive content"** *means content within a physical education or health education course that deals with human sexuality, substance use and abuse prevention and personal safety. (« contenu potentiellement sensible »)*

While MAPC supports parents in their quest for the best education possible for their child(ren), we also believe in a thorough education, including important subjects related to human sexuality and gender identity, Indigenous history - including the effects of colonization, genocide and Residential Schools - and all core subjects such as Math, History and Science and the curricula within. These subjects are pivotal in ensuring our children grow up to be educated, empathetic and accepting individuals who learn from the mistakes of those that came before them (including us) and accept all people as they are. We believe educators understand there are appropriate ages and grades for some subjects and the curriculum reflects this. While we respect that people have different cultural, social, and religious philosophies, we also realize that some things are deeply personal and best left for parents to discuss with their child(ren)'s teacher or school administration directly. MAPC apologizes for any offense taken from the position statement or social media posts by Minister Cullen. We encourage parents to contact the MAPC office with any concerns or questions regarding our principles. We also encourage parents to listen to Ms. Brazeau on CBC radio detailing how MAPC feels about Bill 64 <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-29-information-radio-mb/clip/15832008-manitoba-association-parent-councils-worries-provinces-education-plan>

This world thrives on people of all different cultures, religions, gender identities, sexualities, ages, abilities, socio-economic status' and backgrounds treating each other with respect. MAPC has always, and will continue to, promote diversity, acceptance, empathy and compassion for all.

Sincerely,

Maria T. Fernandes  
President  
Manitoba Association of Parent Councils Inc.,