

TALKING POINTS FOR PARENTAL CONSULTATIONS

What is lacking in the Wynne curriculum that should be addressed by Premier Ford's new sex ed

Abstinence is the only true form of “safe sex”

It's time to admit that the use of condoms as a “safe-sex” strategy is a failed experiment. In spite of decades of “safe sex” condom education in schools, we are still seeing sexually-transmitted infection rates hit epidemic proportions in many segments of Canada's population.

In fact, commensurate with the advance of safe sex condom education in schools over the years, we have witnessed a parallel increase in the prevalence of sexually-transmitted infection, underage pregnancy, abortions and youth depression and suicide.

We have to face the facts that although condoms provide some protection against STIs, the overall effect of pushing condoms and “safe sex” on students at younger and younger ages has been that more children are getting sexually active, at younger ages, with more partners. Therefore, in spite of the modicum of protection provided by condoms, the overall effect has been to expose dramatically more children and adults to diseases. The exact opposite of what was predicted by sex education experts is what happened.

Condoms do not provide protection against herpes due to the location of the disease in the genital area, and they have a notoriously high user-impacted failure rate for preventing pregnancy. Over a 1 year period, condoms have an [18% failure rate](#) in preventing pregnancy. If you look at a typical couple over 5 years, the failure rate is dramatically higher.

We must now admit that the constant promotion of condoms to youth, even in elementary school, has given them license to become sexually active. As a result, sexual diseases, teen pregnancy, and abortions have vastly multiplied, not to mention the emotional and psychological problems that heartbreak and sexual abuse bring about in teenagers.

In the case of AIDS, what we know is that condoms are perhaps 60 to 80% effective in stopping the transmission of HIV. When you're talking about catching a fatal disease, 60 to 80% protection is nowhere close to being “safe” because it means you still have a 20%-40% chance of catching HIV/AIDS. This is due in part, because condoms were designed to block the passage of sperm through natural voids in the rubber latex. However, the HIV virus is 400 times smaller than a sperm, and can pass through those voids in the latex.

The term “safe sex” should be banned because it lulls people into the false belief that recreational sex is “safe” when in fact it's extremely risky for contracting a host of STDs, including AIDS.

The argument for condoms as a “solution” collapses even further when we consider that at risk populations have much higher rates of alcohol and drug abuse, making the consistent use of condoms unrealistic.

The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. Four decades is long enough to declare that the condom approach has failed. It is time to end the epidemic of STI's by trying a different approach. One that has proven success around the world: abstinence before marriage. The Ford administration must study the evidence of success of abstinence programs.

The African country of Uganda made news several years ago in its dramatic fight against AIDS. Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni successfully attacked his country's high HIV/AIDS rate through behavior modification. President Museveni said in 2004 that, “AIDS is mainly a moral, social and economic problem,” and that the best way to fight it is with, “relationships based on love and trust, instead of institutionalized mistrust, which is what the condom is all about.”

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Museveni's program was called ABC: "A**bstain** before marriage, B**e** faithful after, and use C**on**doms only when absolutely necessary."

The key to his program was the strong discouragement of condom use for more than 95 percent of the public, because the Ugandan government was well aware of their high failure rate.

When the ABC program was instituted in 1992, the adult HIV/AIDS infection rate was an astounding 30 percent in the capital of Kampala and other large urban areas, and the national life expectancy for the entire country was a dismal 44 years. As the ABC program took hold, the adult HIV/AIDS infection rate dropped 80 percent in just 10 years, to 6 percent in 2002, and the life expectancy jumped by 8 years.

Bringing it closer to home, we can look at a Canadian example. A case study in the City of Hamilton, Ontario provides proof-positive that the tired old "Safe-sex-Use-A-Condom" approach to sex education does not work, and in fact, always ends up increasing the rate of teen pregnancy, abortion and STIs.

The City of Hamilton and Hamilton Public Health used to fund *Planned Parenthood Hamilton* to drive all of its sexual health policies and programming. The City wanted to do something to stop the alarming rate of teen pregnancies in Hamilton, which were some of the highest in Canada.

So in 1986, Hamilton, led by Planned Parenthood as its trusted expert in the area of sexual health, following a new "Safe Sex" campaign that pushed condom use and condom education as the preventative solution.

What was the result? **After 11 years of this type of sex education, the teen pregnancy rate amongst 15-19 year olds in Hamilton INCREASED by 25%.** The exact opposite of what was promised by Planned Parenthood and the public Health Authority.

In 1997, a group of parents called the *Hamilton-Wentworth Family Action Coalition* convinced the City Council to allow their group to try a new public health approach following an abstinence model they developed called "Worth the Wait". What was the result? After just 3 years, teen pregnancy rates dropped by 27%.

This is evidence that more of the same sex-positive, just-use-a-condom approach to sex education, like the Kathleen Wynne's Liberal curriculum intended to continue pushing, would be a failure. Like the City of Hamilton found out, it would produce increased health risks and teen pregnancy rates amongst Ontario's youth. The Doug Ford administration and the Ministry of Education under Lisas Thompson have a valuable opportunity to try something new, with abstinence education, and watch STIs, teen pregnancies, and other social ills plummet.

My source for this information is a video presentation by James Enos, President of the Hamilton-Wentworth Family Action Coalition, here: <https://youtu.be/AkwLT7oebmk>.

Mr. Enos paid for an access-to-information request to get his hands on the public health records of the City of Hamilton. They refused to provide those records to him for a long time and he actually had to hire a lawyer to do it. A judge eventually ordered the City to hand the records over to Mr. Enos. That's how he was able to compare the results of the Safe Sex approach vs. the Abstinence approach.