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December 06, 2011

Tanya Talaga

Some Christian and Jewish groups are denouncing Premier Dalton McGuinty's anti-bullying legislation, calling it a front for his "radical sex education" agenda.

The Institute for Canadian Values held a news conference Tuesday morning, condemning the premier for a section of the new anti-bullying legislation that allows for all publicly funded school boards to "host gay clubs."

The Institute's president is Dr. Charles McVety, a politically savvy Evangelist who was against proposed changes to the provincial physical health and education curriculum last year. Those changes included discussing same-sex couples in Grade 3.

"We don't understand why this keeps coming back," McVety said.

But speaking in Windsor, McGuinty denounced the criticism.

"Are there gay children attending Catholic schools in Ontario? Yes. Are there gay teachers teaching in Catholic schools in Ontario? Yes," McGuinty said.

"The purpose of our accepting schools act is to send a strong signal to all Ontarians, of all faiths and backgrounds, all places of origin, culture, ethnicities, in our province and our publicly funded schools — schools will be warm and accepting of all our children, regardless of their sexual orientation as well."

The anti-bullying legislation, created after recent high profile youth suicides including that of gay Ottawa teen Jamie Hubley, was introduced by the Liberals last week.

"I fully expect Catholic kids will use the word gay," said McGuinty. "I fully expect Catholic teachers will use the word gay and as a Catholic premier in Ontario, I am going to talk about gay kids."

Progressive Conservative MPP Frank Klees sponsored the press conference at Queen's Park and a handful of Tory MPPs were in attendance.

There is a time and place for everything, said Rondo Thomas, of the Evangelical Association, but there is no "time and place" in an 8-year-old's mind to try to make them conceptualize something beyond "tying their shoes."

"The anti-bullying legislation that Mr. McGuinty is proposing constitutes a violation of our religious freedoms that are guaranteed by the Charter of Rights and further to that, it violates the common law of separation of church and state," he said. "Please erase this unnecessary clause and show Ontarians you really care and we will join you in the anti-bullying campaign."

The backlash to introducing this bill could be "quite severe," he added.

Jack Fonseca, of the Campaign Life Coalition, agreed, saying the premier is misguided in this section of the anti-bullying legislation.

"Catholic teaching, the Catholic church and Catholic schools teach love of God and love of neighbour and if that is taught that is the best defense for children — whether they are same-sex attracted or overweight, skinny or wear glasses ... it doesn't matter, that is the best defense."

Fonseca said McGuinty wants to force Catholic schools to do something, regardless of what the bishops say. "That is a violation of Catholic rights in Ontario," he said.

Fonseca also got personal. He said McGuinty, an Irish Catholic, was a convenient Catholic during election time when he is looking for votes.

But the Liberals shot back at the institute during question period.

There is nothing “radical” making sure every student has the tools to succeed in school, said Education Minister Laurel Broten in question period.

“The official opposition needs to be clear where they stand — there is no room for division.”