

Dalton

RE>>>BCTF resolutions...

4/27/96

I do not agree with your position, but I am glad you put it out for public discussion. I am a little confused and disturbed as to why you (Marc) would make moral pronouncements about homosexuality. I thought that the point was to make classrooms safe for ALL kids, regardless of sexual orientation, race, religion or gender.

Date: 3/11/96 15:57

From: Marc Dalton

I've been somewhat torn about making a response to your note to Bruce. I value maintaining a good relationship with you and all the staff and don't really enjoy jumping into a contentious issue.

As a parent of three school-aged children in public schools and as a teacher, I am very much concerned about the motions before the BCTF presently being petitioned against.

I am not against homosexuals as people, but I do not support their lifestyle choices. I believe homosexuality is a moral issue. Most of us agree on many morals: respect, honesty, kindness. There are also many behaviours and acts that most of us would not condone: rape, robbery, assault, drunken driving, pedophilia, incest and so on.

There are other moral issues that large segments of our society do not see eye to eye: gambling, abortion, adultery, pornography. I believe that homosexuality fits in this category.

I became aware of the motions this week-end when a concerned mother of school children approached me and asked if I would get involved in some small way to see the proposals defeated. She handed me a clipping of the Vancouver Sun and some people to write.

There are many, many people who hold homosexuality to be an improper and high-risk behaviour. Though I oppose violence towards these people as well as towards all people, I am against the BCTF ram-rodding the homosexual motion against the wishes of great numbers of parents (and teachers) in this district and in this province.

Thank-you for bearing with me.

Marc

Date: 3/11/97 9:25 AM  
To: Marc Dalton

In your CM you suggested that gay and lesbian students have "extensive external support system" available to them. In your experience could you elaborate on what these systems are? Could you also tell me if you have ever dealt with a gay or lesbian student at this or any other school who has experienced personal difficulties including harassment, lack of family support, hate or violence? Are you suggesting that the school system (front line personnel such as counselors and teachers) not respond to a student in crisis?

With respect to the other resolution, you suggest that it would allow "any kind of social program that this or any future BCTF administration would desire". Are you familiar with the democratic process of the BCTF? Specifically, are you familiar with how the province-wide Representative Assembly works? The statement you issued to the entire staff suggests an incomplete understanding: I suggest that such a statement is, in fact, inaccurate. We as teachers see the social problems of society reflected in the lives of our students. Poverty, racism, sexism, violence and homophobia are issues that students in BC deal with on a daily basis. Wouldn't it be wonderful to think that between 9 am and 3 pm, children could come to a safe environment where they could be accepted for who and what they are, without fear of harassment, value judgements or violence.