

What is "Gender Expression"? How a New and Nebulous Human Rights Construct is Taking Shape in Ontario School Board Policy Documents

Lee Airton, Kyle Kirkup,
Allison McMillan, & Jacob DesRochers

What is this article about? How the meaning of gender identity and gender expression human rights protections is being understood and shaped by Ontario public secular school boards.

Why does this matter? GE and GI human rights protections are new in Canadian law, and many people who work in schools do not know what these protections are and what is needed to prevent these two different forms of discrimination.

What did we do? We collected and analyzed every single publicly available Ontario secular school board policy document that contains gender expression (GE) and/or gender identity (GI). That's over 200 documents!

Half of Ontario
secular school boards
do not have a gender
diversity policy.

Gender expression is often left out when protected human rights grounds are listed.

Gender expression and gender identity are in policies about interpersonal student behaviour, not school structures.

Read the article in the Canadian Journal of Education! https://journals.sfu.ca/cje/index.php/cje-rce/article/view/4103





@leeairton @kylekirkup @DesRochersJake @Mcmil_learn