

# **NEW TESTAMENT BAPTIST CHURCH OF EDMONTON**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **SILENT NO MORE – PASTOR SPEAKS OUT AGAINST RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION AND GRAFFITI SPRAY PAINT VANDALISM TO CHURCH SIGN BY LGBTQ ACTIVISTS**

On Thursday June 30<sup>th</sup> around 8:00 AM staff members at the New Testament Baptist Church and Christian School (Harvest Baptist Academy) reported that the large sign at the entrance of the Church property was vandalized with graffiti spray paint by intolerant activists who do not respect private property or freedom of expression. The Church and sign is located on Highway 16, between West Edmonton and Spruce Grove.

The original sign stated: “AMEND BILL 10 PROTECT PARENTS RIGHTS & RELIGIOUS FREEDOM”. The activists used pink spray paint to cross out the word “Amend” and paint LGBTQ and Kid’s Rights over top of “Parent’s Rights” and painted the statement “End Bigotry” and crossed out “Religious Freedom”.

The Church has notified the RCMP and has filed a hate crime and religious persecution complaint, including vandalism to Church property. The Church has also received hate email, and issued the following statement:

“Respect works both ways, live and let live. We are harmless and would never force anyone to be a Christian or condone the abuse or harassment of any individual or group. Likewise, the LGBTQ community needs to respect the rights of parents to protect our children and religious freedom. We should be able to worship God and preach the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and educate our children in Christian schools without being harassed, our property vandalized, or our ministries defamed and slandered as bigots. The truth and freedom of speech is now being mislabeled as bigotry and hate. Disagreement does not equal hate.

Please note the sign reads “Amend” not “Repeal” Bill 10. We have repeatedly stated we do not want to deny anyone’s rights. We simply want some checks and balances to this unconstitutional Legislation. It was rushed and passed without proper public consultation. Parents must have the right to give consent and be informed on what type of clubs, activities and counselling their children are involved in at our schools.

Our Christian and religious schools are requesting to be exempted from being forced to host anti-Christian GSA clubs. We have zero tolerance for abuse or bullying and reserve the right to handle complex moral issues from a distinctly Christian biblical approach.

We will no longer be silent on this issue and allow the radical political left to persecute Christians and promote their propaganda. It is important for the public to be aware of this ongoing spiritual and legal battle for our fundamental freedoms and the protection of the hearts and minds and souls of our precious children.

This is not some minor act of mischief or vandalism. This is part of a larger global conspiracy involving radical progressive BIG Governments and LGBTQ activists that are demanding culture change to reengineer society and impose their liberal secular values on all citizens. Their key agenda is to promote their ideology and indoctrinate our children.

Noncompliant Individuals or groups that respectfully object on the basis of their conscience, morals or religious convictions, and refuse to endorse or celebrate the gay lifestyle are now being routinely persecuted. For example, the Trinity Western Law School case is a clear example of religious persecution and discrimination against Evangelical Christian students who are being banned from practicing law in the provinces of BC, ON, NB and NS. The liberal establishment has determined they are unfit to practice law if they choose to attend a Christian University and Law School that respects the traditional God given definition of marriage, family and Biblical Christian moral values. Shame of the Law Societies for such blatant anti-Christian discrimination and persecution. We take comfort in the promise of our Lord Jesus Christ that the gates of hell shall not prevail against the church.

The key issue here is the distinction between the basic protection of minority gay rights versus the promotion of the gay lifestyle. The Biblical definition of marriage and traditional family values, sexual behavior and orientation are spiritual and religious theological matters. The political left is seeking to impose their state sponsored liberal secular values and the rainbow religion to indoctrinate our young innocent children. We as Albertans and Canadian citizens need to send a clear message to BIG GOVERNMENT that this is abuse of authority and power. We do not want the government taking the place of God, parents, families, school boards, churches and our religious institutions.

We are praying and requesting the government to cease and desist from imposing their politically correct agenda on all citizens including the new state religion of secular humanism. As Christians we must obey God's word the Bible, and reject the false doctrines of the gay gospel and rainbow theology or any other attack on our Christian faith. Hopefully our elected Government leaders will have the real courage to actually help us protect our children and fundamental freedoms. We do not need politically correct puppets but real leadership that will actually listen to the majority of people with common sense.

I hope and pray that Alberta parents will be on guard and not allow these activists to have special super rights to control our schools or the teachers' unions tell us how to we should raise our children. The next battle is the recent announcement by the Alberta Government to revise the Alberta School curriculum to include Comprehensive Sex Education.

The parents in Ontario are warning us to pay attention and not allow this radical sex education material to harm Alberta youth and students. We must protect our young children from being confused and corrupted by these anti-Christian global and local social activists.

We will not be intimidated or silenced. Going forward we plan to have monthly Sunday afternoon prayer meetings at the Edmonton Legislature, and continue to hold public meetings and rallies to inform all Albertans and Canadian citizens on the urgent need to defend and protect our democratic rights and fundamental freedoms. We have just celebrated Canada Day, lets us pray that God will continue to keep our land glorious and free!"

For more information, contact:



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Enclosures:

1. Sign photographs.