

TAKE
ACTION2023 ALBERTA
ELECTION

Alberta's Election is Rapidly Approaching!

Be sure to get informed, be engaged, and vote! As always, ARPA Canada wants to help you get informed about the issues and equipped for action. We hope this Alberta Election Guide helps. The guide contains five sections on important policy issues. Each section includes a summary explanation of the issue, an update on any developments, a brief summary of ARPA's calls to action, and questions you may choose to ask candidates.



The people who are elected will make decisions on issues we care about as Reformed Christians.

ARPA CANADA ALBERTA ELECTION GUIDE CONTENTS:

- Gender Identity
- Choice in Education
- Freedom of Conscience
- Parental Involvement with a Minor's Abortion Decision
- Monitoring and Reporting Assisted Suicide

The above list is not intended to be comprehensive. Certainly, there are other policy issues that are and should be important to Christians. This report covers issues that are very much alive today and which ARPA Canada has been studying and working on for some time.

So, let's get started.

GENDER IDENTITY

Misconceptions about gender identity continue to affect Alberta. The NDP passed Bill 24 in 2017, which mandated gay-straight alliance clubs in all schools, even those with views of sexuality and gender based on Scripture. This led to Christian schools challenging the legislation, which was later repealed by the UCP administration.

The province continues to promote SOGI 123 (sexual orientation and gender identity) in public schools. The NDP also passed Bill 22, which inserted gender identity into family law, and the UCP promised to reform it but has not yet fulfilled that promise. For years the province has funded and approved medical transitioning without legal restrictions, despite potential harms. At the same time, various municipalities have passed bylaws banning conversion therapy, which could be so broad as to include conversations between parents, teachers or pastors and kids struggling with gender identity.

For more information on this, check out our Gender Identity policy report. arpacanada.ca/policy-reports

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES:

1. Do you support parents having the ultimate authority in raising their children, even if they hold different views than the government on gender identity?
2. How will you ensure that Alberta's healthcare system properly protects children from early medical intervention if they are struggling with gender dysphoria?
3. Will you oppose any bill that bans conversion therapy?
4. Will you follow the example of other jurisdictions (Finland, Sweden Norway, France, the UK) and limit or ban medical transitioning for minors?

CHOICE IN EDUCATION

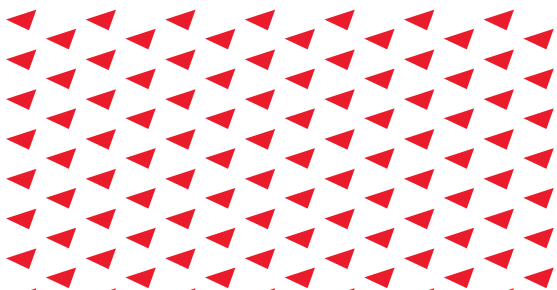
Alberta has a strong history of educational choice. Bill 15: The Choice in Education Act was passed on June 26, 2020, affirming parental choice in education and the primary responsibility parents have for their children's education.

Educational diversity is now enshrined in Alberta's legislation. It recognizes faith-based schools and home education programs as valuable and integral in providing educational choices for parents. Furthermore, it confirms that parents have the fundamental right to make decisions about what is best for their children and families.

For more information on this issue, check out our Educational Diversity policy report. arpacanada.ca/policy-reports

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES:

1. I appreciate how the government provides choices for parents when it comes to educating their children. How would you continue to promote this principle?
2. Would you support allocation of education funding to a per-capita formula for all public school, independent school, and homeschooled students?
3. Will you ensure that parents are informed about the extra-curricular activities that their children are involved in, such as school clubs?



FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE

Freedom of conscience is critical in a strong medical system and protected under section 2(a) of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Healthcare professionals should provide care based on their moral convictions. Patients should have access to doctors they trust and have open dialogue about medical care options.

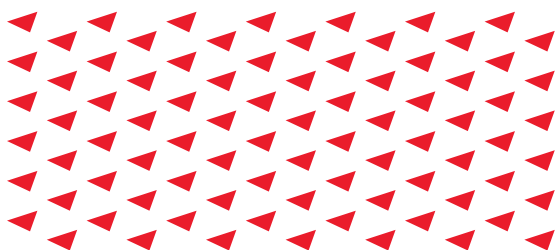
Healthcare professionals have the right not to provide procedures that conflict with their conscience, but most provinces require them to refer patients to other doctors who will provide such services. Currently, Manitoba is the only province with legislation protecting healthcare professionals' right not to refer patients for euthanasia.

Defending freedom of conscience is the right thing to do, and can attract more medical professionals to Alberta.

For more information on the topic, check out our Conscience in Health Care policy report and our Do You Want a Doctor with a Clear Conscience? one-pager. arpacanada.ca/one-pagers

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES:

1. Do you agree that medical professionals should be able to refuse to participate in procedures they believe will harm their patients?
2. Do you think doctors should be able to follow their moral and professional convictions when making recommendations to a patient?
3. Will you defend freedom of conscience to help attract more medical professionals to Alberta?



PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT WITH A MINOR'S ABORTION DECISION

Parental notification is not mandatory before performing an abortion for minors in Canada. Teen girls can have an abortion performed without notifying anyone, and they are then left alone to deal with the physical and emotional consequences.

Parents are involved in virtually all other medical decisions for their minor children. They may have valuable information about their teenager's medical history, and they can provide improved access to medical care for minors through things like transportation to appointments and follow-up care. Parental notification or consent is needed for everything from tattoos to tanning salons to school field trips. Abortion should not be an exception.

Provinces can and should legislate parental involvement when a minor requests an abortion. This is an important issue that election candidates need to hear.

For more information on this issue, go to We Need a Law Provincial Initiatives: Parental Involvement. wenedalaw.ca/parental-involvement

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES:

1. Who should be involved in medical decisions for minors?
2. A female high school student requires parental permission to receive medication like Tylenol, but she does not require parental consent to receive an abortion. Will you commit to amending health care law to ensure that minors require parental notification for such procedures?
3. Undergoing an abortion is a life-changing procedure for a young woman. Will you ensure she can benefit from the advice and care of her parents when making that decision?

MONITORING AND REPORTING ASSISTED SUICIDE

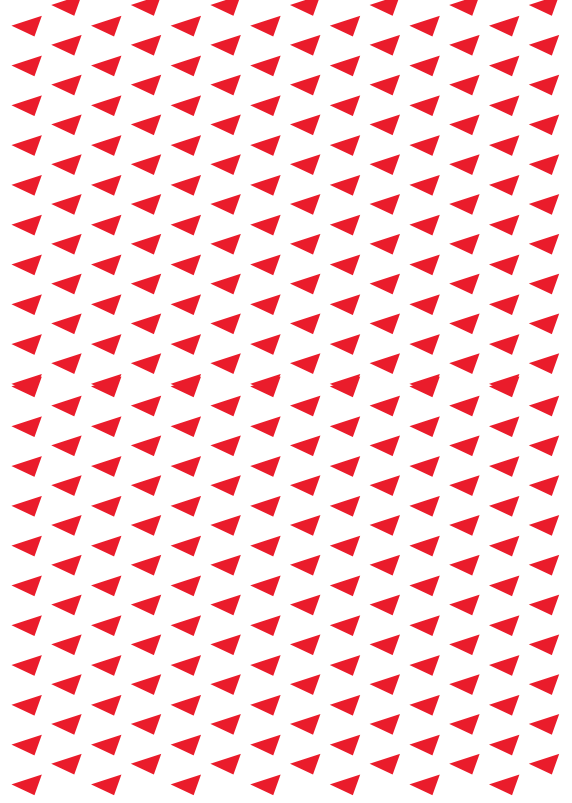
When the Supreme Court of Canada struck down the law that prohibited assisted suicide and euthanasia, it said that the risk of abuse of vulnerable persons could be minimized through a “carefully designed system that imposes strict limits that are scrupulously monitored and enforced.” However, assisted suicide and euthanasia are being performed in Alberta with little oversight.

Demand for euthanasia is increasing rapidly. More than 2000 Albertans have died by euthanasia since 2016. Most MLAs will see this as a federal issue, but the provision of health care, and the recording and reporting of deaths is the province’s responsibility. Please remind candidates and MLAs of the need for “scrupulous monitoring and enforcement” so that the risk to vulnerable Canadians would be lessened.

For more information on this issue, check out our Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide policy report. arpacanada.ca/policy-reports

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES:

1. Do you think that euthanasia is an appropriate solution to suffering?
2. Would you commit to supporting legislation for provincial limits on euthanasia like Quebec has done?
3. What kinds of policies would you support to provide an alternative that doesn’t include euthanasia for Albertans who are suffering?



ARPA Canada is a non-profit organization with a mission to educate, equip, and encourage Reformed Christians to political action, and to bring a biblical perspective to our civil authorities. We are deeply thankful for the financial support of our donors.

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