

IN C O N F I D E N C E

**Government Response to
Report of Petitions Committee
on the
Petition of Maggie Ross: Provide funding for all schools to have
gender-neutral bathrooms**

Presented to the House of Representatives

In accordance with Standing Order 256

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Government response to report of Petitions Committee on the Petition of Maggie Ross: Provide funding for all schools to have gender-neutral bathrooms

Introduction

- 1 The Government has carefully considered the Petitions Committee's report on the Petition of Maggie Ross: Provide funding for all school to have gender-neutral bathrooms.
- 2 The Government welcomes the Committee's report. The report provides a useful summary of gender-neutral/unisex bathrooms, including information on what they are and why they are important for students who identify as gender diverse. It also outlines the concerns of the groups that submitted to the Committee, as well as the Ministry of Education's approach to the provision of gender-neutral/unisex bathrooms in schools.
- 3 This is the Government's response to the Committee's recommendation in accordance with Standing Order 256.

Recommendations and government response

- 4 Select Committee Recommendation: The Government continue to encourage schools to consider providing gender-neutral bathrooms as bathrooms are renovated.
- 5 Government Response: The Ministry of Education currently provides schools with specific guidance on bathroom design. This guidance helps schools to ensure that their new or newly renovated bathroom facilities meet certain standards, which are designed to enhance inclusivity and student safety, comfort, and privacy. The Government affirms the importance of both single sex and gender-neutral/unisex facilities to ensure that all students feel safe and comfortable. It also affirms the importance of providing accessible facilities for students with disabilities. The Government has directed the Ministry of Education to encourage policies and provide guidance that supports the provision of both single sex and gender-neutral/unisex bathrooms in schools. School boards should also consider the appropriate provision of both single sex and gender-neutral/unisex bathrooms when facilities are being renovated or school building projects undertaken.

Conclusion

- 6 The Government accepts this recommendation and has directed the Ministry of Education to encourage policies and provide guidance that supports the provision of both single sex and gender-neutral/unisex bathrooms in schools.