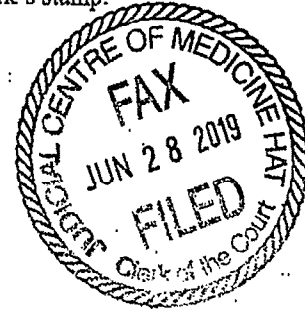


06/28/2019 10:08AM 5873523233

JCCF

PAGE 25/53

Clerk's stamp:



COURT FILE NUMBER

1808-00144

COURT

COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH
OF ALBERTA

JUDICIAL CENTRE

MEDICINE HAT

APPLICANTS

P.T., and others; see attached Schedule "A"

RESPONDENT

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF ALBERTA

INTERVENORS:

CALGARY SEXUAL HEALTH CENTRE and ASSOCIATION
FOR REFORMED POLITICAL ACTION

DOCUMENT

AFFIDAVIT OF H.H.

ADDRESS FOR
SERVICE AND
CONTACT INFORMATION
OF PARTY FILING
THIS DOCUMENTJustice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms
Jay Cameron and Marty Moore
#253, 7620 Elbow Drive SW
Calgary, Alberta T2V 1K2
Phone: (403) 909-3404
Fax: (587) 747 5310
Email: jcameron@jccf.ca

Schedule “A” : Full Style of Cause

APPLICANTS

P.T., D.T., F.R., K.R., P.H., M.T., J.V., A.S., R.M.,
UNIVERSAL EDUCATION INSTITUTE OF CANADA,
HEADWAY SCHOOL SOCIETY OF ALBERTA, THE
CANADIAN REFORMED SCHOOL SOCIETY OF
CALGARY, GOBIND MARG CHARITABLE TRUST
FOUNDATION, CONGREGATION HOUSE OF JACOB
MIKVEH ISRAEL, KHALSA SCHOOL CALGARY
EDUCATION FOUNDATION, CENTRAL ALBERTA
CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL SOCIETY, SADDLELAKE
INDIAN FULL GOSPEL MISSION, ST. MATTHEW
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF STONY PLAIN,
ALBERTA, CALVIN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SOCIETY,
CANADIAN REFORMED SCHOOL SOCIETY OF
EDMONTON, COALDALE CANADIAN REFORMED
SCHOOL SOCIETY, AIRDRIE KOINONIA CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL SOCIETY, DESTINY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
SOCIETY, KOINONIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL-RED DEER
SOCIETY, COVENANT CANADIAN REFORMED SCHOOL
SOCIETY, LACOMBE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SOCIETY,
PROVIDENCE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SOCIETY, PONOKA
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SOCIETY, LIVING WATERS
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY, NEWELL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
SOCIETY, SLAVE LAKE KOINONIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL,
YELLOWHEAD KOINONIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
SOCIETY, THE RIMBEY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SOCIETY,
LIVING TRUTH CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SOCIETY,
LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SOCIETY, PARENTS
FOR CHOICE IN EDUCATION, and ASSOCIATION OF
CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL- WESTERN
CANADA

RESPONDENT

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF ALBERTA

INTERVENORS:

CALGARY SEXUAL HEALTH CENTRE and ASSOCIATION
FOR REFORMED POLITICAL ACTION

AFFIDAVIT OF H.H.

Sworn on June 25, 2019

I, H.H., of Red Deer County, in the Province of Alberta, SWEAR AND SAY THAT:

1. I am a school teacher and am currently employed at a school in Alberta. I have personal knowledge of the facts herein deposed except where based on information and belief, in which case I verily believe the same to be true.
2. On October 11, 2018, I attended a Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) Conference in the town of Strathmore (the "Conference"), which was hosted by the Wheatland Crisis Society, Calgary Queer Arts Society and Altview. The Provincial government gave the local GSA a cheque for \$24,710 for hosting the event and for future GSA programming. See news article attached as **Exhibit "A"** to this Affidavit.
3. I made audio recordings at the Conference, and I produced a transcript from the recordings, attached as **Exhibit "B"** to this Affidavit.
4. The following points were made at the Conference:
 - The then-Deputy Premier and Minister of Health Sarah Hoffman described the formation of Bill 24 in the following terms:

I think that is so important that that your voices are heard and that we act on what you tell us to do as a lot to fit as us being elected officials you are our bosses. You are members of public you might not be able to vote yet but you are definitely our bosses.

And when kids came to us and they said I'm worried about joining a GSA at my school because I am worried that someone will call my parents and tell them I went to the GSA meeting. We thought that is so wrong, that is the opposite point of why GSAs are supposed to be there, right? They are supposed to be there to ensure that you have a safe place to be and that you can support one another and support communities of care. And nobody has the right, in my opinion, and our government's opinion, and fortunately we were in a position to write forward a bill to say absolutely not, will we tolerate...we actually made it illegal for your membership of a GSA to be disclosed before you make the decision to do that yourself its up to every single one of you and members of your community to decide when you talk about who you are to the people that you love. [Transcript page 3]

- Minister Hoffman urged to students in attendance to ask their MLAs if they “voted for you” in regard to Bill 24, and if not, to explain why:

So we brought forward a bill and I am very proud that I voted in support of that bill and I really recommend that you, as the bosses of all the elected officials, when you have a chance, ask the elected officials who work for you if they voted for you on that and if they didn't to explain why. Did they vote, did they not vote and if they voted against it, why they did that. [Transcript page 3]

- Blogger and activist Mike Morrison told the assembled students were that holding such a conference four years ago would have been illegal:

Today I'm going to tell you a little bit about what it means to be here – try not to cry too much – because 4 years ago, almost 4 years ago to the day, this is not something... what we are doing right now – it was not possible four years ago. It would have been against the law four years ago to do what we are doing today and so I really want to talk about, umm, I really want you guys to appreciate how far we have come in four years because it is really incredible. [Transcript page 10]

- The assembled students were told the story of the passing of Bill 10 by the Prentice Government, which was described by Mike Morrison as follows:

They met with people and they actually came back to their full credit with one of the most progressive GSA laws in all of Canada. And, um, so ah that is what Bill 10 is and that is what allows you all to celebrate and to have GSAs here and have conferences like this. [Transcript page 14]

- Mr. Morrison singled out the UCP party for its opposition to Bill 24:

You know Every member of the government, um, the NDP, the Liberals, the Alberta Party voted in support of this law. The UCP voted unanimously against it and or walked out of the room and didn't vote. And so, um, its really important to understand the history of how we got here and who supported us every single time. [Transcript page 14]

- Mr. Morrison encouraged the assembled students to engage in activism:

I'm going to challenge you guys to some things. So now what? What's next? You have your GSAs. You have protection in your GSAs. You have conferences celebrating GSAs. Each one of you has a voice and I want to challenge you guys to do, to take your voices, whether it be on Instagram, musically? is that a thing? I googled cool kid apps, what old fogies call Facebook. What I want you guys to go out there. Because the thing about your age group, and this happens every time someone is your age, when we

were your age. Everyone doesn't think you can do anything. They call you lazy, they call you unmotivated. But I can't help watch the kids in Florida and all over the States and the March for our Lives and see what they did with tweets, with Instagram posts, They organized a march with hundreds of thousands of people. Millions of people all over North America. You know who did that? Were people your age. So I know you can do it. So I am going to challenge you to some things here today. [Transcript page 14-15]

- One of the issues the students were challenged to get involved in is the government policy concerning blood donations from men who have sex with men:

Here's another challenge. Did you know that men who have sex with men can't be allowed or not allowed to be donating blood? Did you guys know that? So, um, ironically, there's a blood donor clinic here this afternoon. I am going to have a chat with them. But this is really important and I'm not just picking on one government. Actually, Three years ago today the liberal government, promised to remove, he called it discriminatory, promised to remove this ban and he has not removed it. So, you all need to reach out to your MPs, your federal government representatives and you need to demand that gay men are allowed donating blood. Because it does nothing but discrimination. [Transcript page 15]

- Another issue students were urged to become engaged in is to ban "Conversion Therapy":

Here's another one. Conversion Therapy. Do you guys know that conversion therapy is still legal in many provinces in Canada? So parents would send their kids to programs... um Electric shock therapy used to happen. Things like that. These are things that are still happening in Canada. Um, and, actually I want to tell you about Devon Hargraves from Why Queer L in Lethbridge Society for change and Jennifer Takashi from Lethbridge Public Interest research group actually put A petition forward to the federal government, the liberal government this week to make sure that its banned federally. And that's incredibly important. The NDPs working they've said they've announced in the fall they'll be introducing this law to ban conversation therapy here in Canada ...and now, hopefully, there is a petition. So Go find this petition. And go sign it. And get your parents to sign it. get your aunts and uncles to sign it. Um like over Christmas time be like hey let's pass around the ipad we're all going to sign this petition. [Transcript page 15-16]

- The students were told that LGBTQ students in schools without GSAs are not accepted:

So there's still 61 schools in Alberta that do not have GSAs because the schools are breaking the law. Will not. Will not allow them. So, um, and actually they tried to sue the government and that was thrown out and now there's a group called Parents for Choice which is trying to drum up interest

to make sure the GSA, this law isn't enforced, because the NDP government has said these schools don't have GSAs by the end of the school year they will use all their funding. And private schools are funded 70% by the government despite their name. So, um, so we need to make sure, but here's the challenge for you. Those kids in those schools, they're probably the ones who need GSAs more than anyone. If they are attending schools where they are not accepted and they are vocally not accepted in the media, those students need to know that its going to be ok. [Transcript page 14-15]

- Mr. Morrison told the students how he helped deceive a youth's parents so she could watch "Love Simon" even though her parents had refused to let her see the movie:

"We had students come, we had adults come, we had people come and it was incredible. And we even had this student, um, a youth come who wasn't allowed to be in there. Her parents refused her to see that movie and so her friends came to us and we had to go to the Cineplex, Landmark Cinemas, get a movie ticket for a different movie. Give it to her so she could show her parents. And so if we think its not happening in Calgary, homophobia, it absolutely is. [Transcript page 18]

5. I swear this Affidavit bona fide and for no improper purpose.

SWORN BEFORE ME at Red Deer,)
in the Province of Alberta, this 25th day of)
June, 2019.)

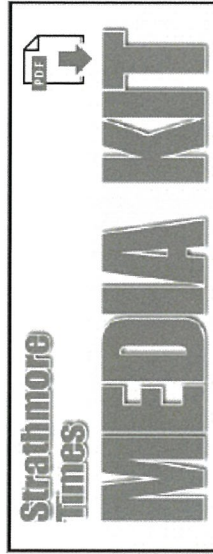
)

Commissioner for Oaths in and for the
Province of Alberta

Marty Moore
Barrister + Solicitor



H.H.



NEWS ▾

FULL ONLINE EDITION

EVENTS CALENDAR

OBITUARIES

CONTACT US



Rural gay-straight alliance summit held in Strathmore

📅 Posted on: October 18, 2018 🧑‍✍️ Staff Writer

From edition: October 19 2018 Strathmore Times

By Miriam Ostermann, Associate Editor

Strathmore set the stage for Canada's first rural gay-straight alliance (GSA) summit last week, where hundreds of students, dignitaries and teachers attended the historical event to discuss GSA roles

Read Online:
June 21, 2019
Strathmore
Times

THIS IS EXHIBIT " A "
referred to in the Affidavit of
H.H.
Sworn before me this 25th
day of June A.D. 20 19
[Signature]
A Commissioner in and for the Province of Alberta
Marty Moore
Barrister & Solicitor



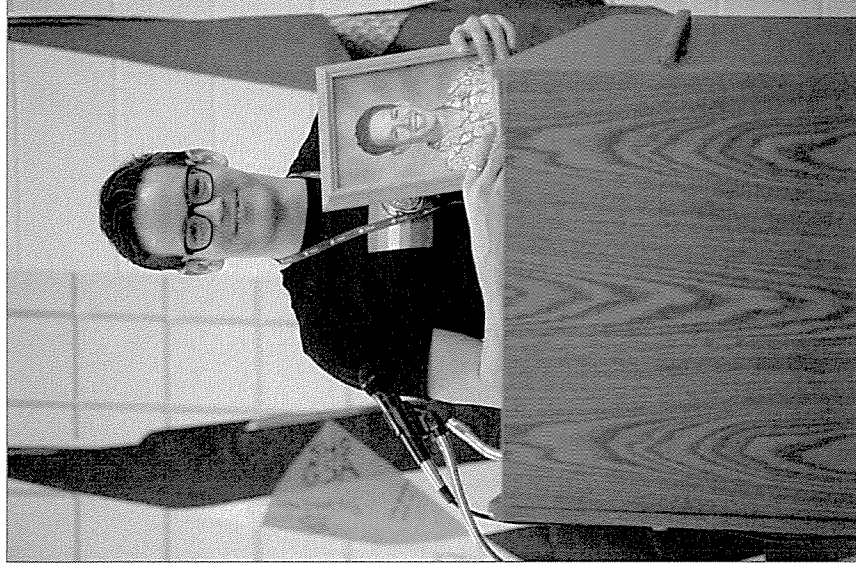
in rural Alberta-based schools. Over 200 students from 15 schools across Alberta participated in the groundbreaking summit on Oct. 11, the first of its kind.

Complete with a resource fair held at Strathmore Travelodge, workshop sessions hosted by Wheatland Crisis Society, Calgary Queer Arts Society and Altview focused on healthy relationships, LGBTQ+ 101 and the creation of GSAs. The summit also featured GSA and LGBTQ+ advocates keynote speakers Gregory John and Mike Morrison.

John, who attended Strathmore High School (SHS) in his youth, is the director of Strathmore GSA and Diversity Summit. He spoke about his hardship of coming out, sexual abuse and healing, and he recognized the summit as therapeutic and epoch-making.

"Edmonton and Calgary have been doing a GSA summit for the last seven years and I think those are very safe places to have

conversations around diversity. In cities of a million people, obviously there's a lot more networking that can go on between schools, so it was really important to



Over 200 students, teachers and dignitaries gathered at the Strathmore Civic Centre on Oct. 11 for Canada's first rural gay-straight alliance summit. The event featured keynote speaker and former SHS student Gregory John.

Miriam Ostermann Photos



have it here, because the conversations don't necessarily get out here as frequently as they do in Calgary," said John. "It wasn't the easiest time coming out and I almost ended my own life as a student here, where I didn't have support. This is deeply personal for me. If I can do something like this and provide the opportunity for kids to avoid that, then I've done my job. "I think that's really the meaning of life, when it comes down to it, to set the roadmap a little easier if you can for students."

The event also welcomed guest speakers Siksika First Nation Elder Clarence Wolfleg Sr., Alberta Deputy Premier and Minister of Health Hon. Sarah Hoffman, SHS principal Kyle Larson and Strathmore Mayor Pat Fule. Strathmore town Councillor Bob Sobol and Chestermere-Rocky View MLA and UCP Deputy Leader Leela Aheer were also in attendance.

"It is the first GSA summit we've got, and who thought that a typical small western community like Strathmore could pull this off? But we did and it's because of progressive-minded people like yourselves and Gregory John ... who worked hard to make this event come to life," said Fule. "It takes brave people to do something different ... and you all are trailblazers. You can make it so you can all be free to be who you are."

Gay-straight alliances and queer-straight alliances are peer-support networks run by students with help from school staff to promote respectful environments and relationships for the prevention or elimination of bullying and discrimination, a safe inclusive space for all students, and equity for sexual and gender minority students.

SHS created its GSA in early 2017 with initially five students participating regularly. The group now has 42 students.

"GSAs have only been allowed within the last couple of years – let alone celebrating it – and coming to a day that's just for them, I think is huge," said Julie Wallace, SHS teacher and event organizer.

On Dec. 15, 2017 the Alberta government passed Bill 24. The legislation assures



that policies for gay-straight alliances are to be created in all Alberta schools, it strengthens the minister of education's ability to ensure every school authority complies with the law, and it protects the identities of students involved in a GSA from being outed to their parents without consent.

"Fortunately, we were in a position to bring forward a bill to say absolutely not will we tolerate – we actually made it illegal – for your membership of the GSA to be disclosed before you make a decision to do that yourself," said Hoffman.

"I think it's important that we follow the direction that we see from our youth, so that 20 years from now (they) talk about how (they) were at the very first conference and how much bigger it is then. It's important for all of us to move forward and that we don't move backwards. Some people like to pretend that there was a better time. I think the better time is tomorrow."

With donations from private donors, private companies and public funding from the provincial and municipal government, Strathmore GSA raised nearly \$40,000 to offset costs for the event and to cushion future GSA student programming. Hoffman also presented the local alliance with a \$24,710 cheque at the event in Strathmore.

A total of 60 schools were invited to attend the summit.

← Strathmore welcomes Two Bit Bandits

October 26, 2018 Strathmore Times →

Copyright © 2019 Strathmore Times. All rights reserved.
Powered by WordPress.





THIS IS EXHIBIT " H.H. "
 referred to in the Affidavit of
 Sworn before me this 25th
 day of June A.D. 20 19
Matty Moore
 A Commissioner in and for the Province of Alberta

• 0:04 - 1:26 - [REDACTED]

Welcome to Strathmore High School we are so excited that you are here my name is [REDACTED] and I am a guidance counselor at Strathmore High School. I have the pleasure of being your MC for today, number of dignitaries that we first and foremost like to welcome, just hold your applause "till the end"

So on my right we have Clarence Wolfman(?) from Sik Sika Nation we have our deputy prime minister...sorry deputy premier and minister of health the honorable Sarah Hoffman. We have a member of our legislative assembly for chestemere and rocky view a deputy leader of the UCP Leala Ahere.

We have the mayor of the town of strathmore Pat Fule and somewhere in the crowd in mr Bob Soho up way over here, he is one of our town councilors and we have our two keynotes, Mr Greg Jon and Mr. Mike Morrison up and uh it is going to be a busy day. It is going to be an exciting day and we are very, very glad you are here.

So to bring greeting from Sik Sikah Nation now clap and welcome...Mr Clarence Wolfman

• 1:27 - 5:15 - Clarence Wolfman

In Blackfoot language we don't have a word for goodbye, and we don't shake hands. Its gestures we do have what I just said if you don't understand in German. What I just said was welcome my relatives, I do speak German and few other languages You know what my nephew here he calls (...???) family, family is very important family when we have families we take in it becomes like your really family. Its not just somebody...your not really my family...

Your relationship with each other each day and all these fine people sitting up here. When you greet each other your become family. There is a relationship you started. This country has become very diverse? Which country is ranked number five in the world as a very place you want to go?

And its even more evident with what's happening to the south of us with all the things that are happening but those things I was talking like that when you if you wish hope and pray for things if you don't sit down and make a plan. Your going to do the same thing tomorrow.

Wishing hoping and praying for things I like to take that to heart and whatever you learn whatever you in your conversation you are going to have today throughout the day sit down and reflect...(noise interference)...6 and ½ years old I could go home. I'm barely looking over the window sill 7 o'clock in the summer can't sleep sun is still high and I look out and I see my big brother watching I see my father, he's a WWII veteran he is my hero. Right then and there I turn to the people I sleep with in the corner of the dorm(?)...You know what I am going to be when I grow up...hush quite...I says when I grow up I am going to be a soldier like my father. And when I come home, I am going to be a leader of my people I became a leader for 20 years as an elected leader. I looked after chiefs teaching them phone call drafting. And today I became the spiritual grandfather of my people. Because I made that dream, I became a leader in both sectors and with that thats the message and I take the good thing from yesterday Put up with a good things of today for a better tomorrow. That's my personal model. That's what keeps me ticking so with that I will share. Just remain seated, in our traditions we always stay close to

mother earth. That's how prayers are said in our traditions.

• 5:15 - 6:27 -[Mr Clarence Wolfman Native Prayer]

• 6:28 - 7:10 - [REDACTED]

Clarence you're also a wonderful teacher, so would it be okay if you taught us how to say...
(?)

• 6:31 - 6:35

Let's practice turn to somebody and say poke.

• 6:37 - 6:42

You now know a traditional Blackfoot welcome and remind me what it means again...My relatives...what a cool thing for today

• 6:51 - 6:52

Thank you very much.

• 7:05 - 7:07

Now I would like to call to the podium our Deputy Premier and Member of the Legislative Assembly the Honourable Minister of Health, the Honourable Sarah Hoffman

• 7:20 - - Minister Sarah Hoffman

Thank you so much for the invitation to be here today and to join all of you on the traditional...speaks to a person looking for a seat... The traditional territory of Treaty 7 first nations and I want to recognize the Metis people of Alberta who also share a very deep connection with this land. I grew up in Treaty 8 territory in the north in a little village called Canuso, halfway between slave lake and high prairie anyone else here from Northern Alberta...speaks to someone in the crowd...Before that we lived in Castor a little bit east of Stettler in central Alberta. Anyone here from central Alberta...a few cheers...Ya representing.

Where are you guys from?...reply ...Morin

And we have folks from Southern Alberta I take it...let's hear from you.

• 8:27 - 8:29

In Treaty 8 territory under a lot of Cree elders who taught us to stand up for their prayers so it's my instinct to stand up so I appreciate learning something, many things new today from your greetings of welcome but also being.....closer to the earth that's an important take away and how all our nations have things that unite them and also have things that make them culturally unique and I think that's the things about Alberta, we have things that make us unique as Humans and make us unique as communities or parts of those communities and we also have things that bring us together. I want to recognize the other elected officials that are here today and thank them for taking the time to be here with these amazing youth as well.

My background is in education as I mentioned, I grew up in rural, Alberta. My dad was the principal at our school and my mom taught kindergarten. I spent a lot of time in the school And I think it was a place, I finished high school in 1997 so, were you born after '97? So like a million years ago. At that time the school that I went to was kindergarten to grade 12 school about 300 students and there were no out teachers or students...zero...They were definitely teachers and students who were part of the spectrum right or who were LGBTQ+ and definitely didn't feel that

it was a place where they were able to be free who they are to talk about who they love and who they were. And we're doing better now I think there are, I know there are students in the school who are out and I think some staff who felt a little more welcome to talk about who they are to be able to simple things like put a picture of your family in your classroom everyone should be able to do that right? To be able to talk about what they did on the weekend, who they spent time with and who they are looking forward to spending time with next weekend. I think those are some very basic things that...I know that when I was sitting in your seats definitely weren't the norm. And I hope that we continue to work to make it more inclusive and loving society and fortunately I am in a position today its because a teacher tapped me on the shoulder to go a student leadership conference when I was in middle school...

And I remember that very first leadership conference we all wore lanyards around our neck we did this thing where we had to exchange pieces of wool with somebody that we introduced ourselves to. And that first conference I had 3 pieces of wool on my lanyard. I only went over and talked to three people. And the last year I went to that leadership conference my name tag was just covered in wool.

• 11:09 - 11:29

And I think part of it is about creating spaces and providing opportunities for us coming...especially those of us coming from small towns or live on farms to be able to engage and feel like we have something in common with other people groups. So I want to really commend all the leaders who have brought this conference forward today and I know that it is going to continue to grow year after year.

• 11:30 - 11:53

Evident of how excited I think the community is, you've fundraised over \$40,000 to put on this conference that is amazing. And I think that is so important that that your voices are heard and that we act on what you tell us to do as a lot to fit as us being elected officials you are our bosses. You are members of public you might not be able to vote yet but you are definitely our bosses.

• 11:54 - 13:04

And when kids came to us and they said I'm worried about joining a GSA at my school because I am worried that someone will call my parents and tell them I went to the GSA meeting. We thought that is so wrong, that is the opposite point of why GSA's are supposed to be there, right? They are supposed to be there to ensure that you have a safe place to be and that you can support one another and support communities of care and nobody has the right, in my opinion, and our government's opinion, and fortunately we were in a position to write forward a bill to say absolutely not, will we tolerate...we actually made it illegal for your membership of a GSA to be disclosed before you make the decision to do that yourself its up to every single one of you and members of your community to decide when you talk about who you are to the people that you love.

And nobody else has the right to do that. So we brought forward a bill and I am very proud that I voted in support of that bill and I really recommend that you, as the bosses of all the elected officials, when you have a chance, ask the elected officials who work for you if they voted for you on that and if they didn't to explain why. Did they vote, did they not vote and if they voted against it, why they did that.

• 13:05 - 13:17

I think it's important that we follow the directions we see from are youth so that 20 years from now your talk about how you were at the very first conference and how much bigger it is. Then

when I was in high school 20 years ago I want to say that it's really amazing that we are invited many things like pride parades and flag raisings in Taber...right...these are some communities that have shown they are working to make sure they are making their communities loving and welcoming and that its important for all of us to make sure we move forward that we don't move backwards. Some people like to pretend that there was a better time and I think the better time is tomorrow. As the elder said we take the learnings from the past and we find ways to make tomorrow better than yesterday. So I'm proud to be a part of a government that was working with you to make that happen to mention that you fundraise \$40,000. You also wrote grants asking the province to support you and I am very proud today to bring a great big novelty cheque and a smaller real one to present to one of your student organizers on behalf of the government of Alberta for \$24,710.00.

• 14:44 - 15:08

And just to say thank you so much for your leadership for your dedication to making your school communities a welcoming loving spaces and that I look forward to continue to make sure tomorrow looks better than yesterday. We as a province have done a lot and we have a bunch more to do and I am excited to do it with all of you.

• 15:09 - - [REDACTED]

Thank you, Minister Hoffman.

Well are next inviting guest is no stranger to Strathmore High School. In fact last year at this time. He was down the hall teaching an English class. He did Run for the mayor of our town and he was very successful. So there's a lot of sad kids in our school as they werent going to get Mr. Fule for English and phys ed but we as a town have gained a wonderful mayor. So please welcome Mr. Pat Fule

• 15:42 - 17:13 - Mayor Pat Fule

Thank you, [REDACTED], and she is correct in that I did teach here for a long time. I was fortunate to teach in Strathmore High for over 34 year and it was very difficult decision when I finally decided to go for Mayor because I knew that I would be missing a huge part of my life and thats the students although when I came in this morning I was a little worried I saw that many of you had thunder sticks and I thought well that's great for high school students to have thunder sticks but hopefully you'll save those for later. You're always expected to be booed as a politician. So that's part of it. I would also like to bring greetings to you all and the organizers and the dignitaries who were here and recognize that we are on traditional Treaty 7 Sik Sika land and we respect the lands we are on and the people who are there before I'd like to welcome you and bring greetings from the town of Strathmore as well as my fellow counselors because this is an important event and it is the first GSA summit we've got. Who would have thought that a typically small Western kind of community like Strathmore could pull this off but we did and it's because of progressive minded people like yourselves and Gregory John was a former student of mine who has worked hard to make this event come to life. I'd also like to thank and recognize to the staff members from Strathmore high and Where've are involved in the GSA. And it's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] ... (applause)

• 17:14 - 17:35

...Grow in your own school and that's what that's a real accomplishment as well at this time. I just have a small gift for the former student. I'm very proud of you Greg to see how far you've come and how you go beyond to show care to all the parts of our society. So Gregory. Thank you for organizing this.

• 17:42 - 17:47

And I do have a gift for our Deputy Mayor Sarah Hoffman. So if you would come forward.

• 17:52 - 17:56

I knew at some point. I was going to screw up at [REDACTED]'s preview.

• 17:57 - 17:59

Its just like a council meeting think it is going to smoothly and it doesn't.

• 18:02 - 18:53

To all of you for visiting we are glad that you're in Strathmore and we appreciate that you have come to our town we hope that you have a great day and that you learn a lot and you support each other and you come away feeling very inspired from here. A former student of mine told me that he wasn't sure you wanted to come to today's event and he said I just I just want to blend in and I don't want to stick I just want to blend in and be normal I wished we did live in a time where every did feel that way and is always the case but it is events like this that are going to allow that happen for all of us in the future and you people the people who come here in the organizers. You've come so far in making an event that is going to inspire and give you strength so that that day will come we will support each other.

• 18:54 - 19:56

It takes brave people to do something different to start something and you all are trail blazers. You can make it so you will all be free to be who you are. Now I am an old guy and so is the principal, I can say that now because he's not my boss anymore. And I we're both fairly old and I'm a product of the 70's and 80's and I just wanted to leave this with you if you will allow me to paraphrase one of the 80s most successful youth musical artists who wrote the lyrics she wrote the lyrics of the song to support her own sister. And so my hope for you all is that someday you won't have to afraid to show your true colors because they are beautiful like a rainbow congratulations on this first GSA summit. Have a great day. Welcome to Strathmore, and I hope you have a wonderful time. Thank you to all...

• 20:04 - 20:10 - [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

What do you get when you put a bunch of students in a large room and have a microphone available? You get a message from the principal.

• 20:11 - 20:13

Please welcome Mr [REDACTED]

• 20:21 - 20:24 - Mr [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Good morning. My message isn't quite as long as I'm not a politician however I want to thank everybody for coming a big thank you to all the dignitaries who have come today. I know they have been thank a number of times as members of my staff I've gotten to see over the last few months the amount of work that has gone in to today with the changes that have happened and the diversity they had to overcome to get here today. I do want to give a big shout out to [REDACTED]

██████ and ██████ for all the work that they have done.

• 21:01 - 22:24

Was ██████ here over the last little bit if you came very evident that the event that we have today wouldn't have happened without the work and determination of Greg Jons so I also want to thank gregory and all his work in getting to here today. A special thank you, as I said there has been some adversity and I want to thank Mike Morrison for so graciously accepting a last minute plea for us to be our public speaker and bring a message today so thanks for coming so I have written some stuff down so I am probably going to slide away from it just a little bit just because of what what's been said today because when we were preparing for this it was a message about inspiration and hope and umm it has really become clear with everybody who has taken the mic before me today umm I particularly wrote down the words Mr. Wolfman when he was up speaking It is a events like today that if you take the positives from yesterday and what you take from today to make a better tomorrow and I actually believe that's why we want to make a better tomorrow everybody has talked about that infront of us and I truly believe that. On behalf of Strathmore High School I want to welcome everyone here today I hope you have a wonderful day and the day itself is just great and it brings us to a better tomorrow so thanks for coming

• 22:32 - 22:36 - ██████

Ok we will let the dignitaries take a more comfortable seat so their not stared at for the rest of the day. So if you folks wanna leave the podium and grab a seat out in the cheap seats...well their not cheap but thats what we will call them today. There great seats...k...

• 23:00 - 23:01

A couple of housekeeping items were presented...

• 23:02 - 24:09

Please make sure you're wearing your lanyard so that we know that you were guessing. Otherwise you might end up in a math class. Which would be a fate worse than death for me, who's the math geek? And please just stay on this side of the of the main office and just because we again don't want to lose you in the shuffle that is happening as our 700 and some odd students depart class. This is a non-smoking facility we do have a designated smoking area off of the school grounds And if you need to know where that is please come and see me. Wi-Fi access is terrible so save your data save your energy and right now turn your ringers and pingers off. Because we're going to get started on. Our first speaker is Gregory Jon

• 24:19 - 24:24

Greg as Mr Fules already pointed out Greg graduated from Strathmore High School in 2003. How many of you were born then. Oh, okay. Sorry. When was here he was known as a very cool kid. He was involved lots of the school. He was involved in badminton he was invloved in student activities, he was a kid you wanted in your class because he was always enthusiastic and fun and really willing to get involved with lots of discussions. Thats only what we saw there is a whole other story so please welcome Greg Jon

• 25:07 - 25:07 - Gregory Jon

We made it.

I want to show you what a Greg Jon looked like in 2001. I'm going to be speaking to him a bit

later. And and he's going to be looking at you You know it today I'm a little bit speechless I just, I look at a room full of friends a room full of family, I look at a group of people who have forever changed this Province. I don't think we look at the just being present as something that can have such a huge impact, but we've created a space that has never been done before in Canada. And I need to recognize that Alberta is is the Province that is leading the way and end is what is. The first of our province in Canada to have a rural GSA summit. Thank you so ready and it's just been such an incredible journey to get here. Our first GSA meeting was only in February of last year. We had a core group of students, and then and there was four five students that showed up here fearlessly every single week and I admire their strength. I admire your fearlessness to step into that room, which I wish I had an end some of my Keynote here certainly around feeling alone feeling isolated In This Very building September 4th, 2001. This school was brand-new. It was day one. There was no floor. The gym was a concrete path, but there was class. We didn't have internet. We didn't have TV. We barely had radio until.

• 27:38 - 27:40

But that holds a very hard memory for me to that was the only day I ever contemplated suicide. While everybody was celebrating a brand new building I was horrified and terrified because during the summer if it had come out that I was gay and there were two people that I did not want to know that knew and I looked at my options. My options were the Matthew Shepard Story that's what was in the media and for those who don't know who that is on October 6th 1998. He was tied to a fence post and killed for being gay that was a memory that I have that that's what I thought. You know, he he was in a rural town and I thought that's what I have waiting for me. So. My experience at Strathmore high school and now I was an academic, I was an athlete, I was involved in student leadership. Except I was only half present through my entire time at Strathmore High School. I was afraid of letting people know that I played piano because I thought something would think that was too gay that was a gay instrument. I tried sports I hated. Because was volleyball too gay was badminton to gay. Did I laugh too gay? Did I walk to gay? Did I sit too gay? And then the fear that I had around just watching every single thing that I did it that kind of stuff changes who you are and I I volunteered at Strathmore High School for the last 18 years and in with the badminton tournament here and every single year, I came back there was that anxiety there was 15 year old Greg showed up every single day to those events. And for the first time yesterday. I was able to I was able to not worry about all that fear.

• 30:31 - 30:35

I held my head up high with this t-shirt on. And said, this is my school. And I am proud to be from Strathmore High School. Yesterday was the first day That I didn't catch myself awkwardly looking at the floor or awkwardly looking at the walls. That's not make eye contact with students half my age. You know, I think that's really kind of trained and programmed into me. Yesterday was the first day I didn't have to worry about that and and 15 year old drag, you know was was resting easy. What's GSA stands for for me is a place of support. But I wish I had and one of the other teachers who I don't believe it's in the room, but Christine Miguel was I think she put it on your doorstep early last year as the new teacher and she wanted this to happen here and you know she's friends with my mom who is an educator and and she asked me if I would be interested to come in as a guest speaker for one week. After that first event that first day we had an hour conversation of just what it means to grow up and not feel like you fit in. For me, I did not have a very good twenties, you know, I was academic but when I went to University, I didn't know how to deal with failure. I didn't know how to ask for help so I actually got asked to leave the university for a year because I failed out of a lot of classes as soon as it got hard I turn away from it and pretended like it wasn't happening. It was it was compounded a little bit to as coming out. I'm speaking kind of mentorship and then somebody to look up to while that's somebody

that I found took advantage of.

• 33:19 - 33:22

I was sexually abused for over 10 years. I didn't know how to ask for help. You know, my family is incredible and I didn't know how to bring this up. I knew it was wrong. But you know, I was tricked into believing that this is what being gay means. This is why this must be what a gay relationship is and and to be frank kind of screwed me out for a little while. I didn't know how to deal with that emotionally because I had never had that ability to share with others and. I found ways of dealing with that. And in many forms of substances and drugs at. Well, I was killing myself in and it took until 28 years old for me to go to rehab and start my life over again. That was the first time that I learned what it means to communicate positively to deal with conflict to talk to others with respect like the fact that we have, you know, a different viewpoints not get angry and then not look to a substance to numb the pain in the heart. I was saddled with it then and I took 8 weeks myself. And since then, you know, I am a different person except I was 28. So when I had the opportunity to come here and and share my story with as many of you have done to your fellow students. I started to realize that by sharing my story. I was healing myself of my past. I'm proud of my past and It has led to so many amazing things that I wouldn't change it for a second. But in anything we always go to we've gone back several times to what Clarence. I took yesterday and I'm now looking for words on on how to heal out for myself. When I got out of rehab and had finally identified with the sexual abuse that have been put on me. I wish I was then I had the power to talk about it. So I went to the police. And that was a horrific experience. I was asked to recount details Three or four times over the course of probably 10 hours worth of phone calls and interviews. And they did nothing to help me. They didn't even let me know what the final decision from the crown prosecutor was. I had to follow up with them. And I didn't realize though but it by again sharing with my story. It becomes less of something that I hold alone. And somebody else is helping me carry them. That vulnerability that I learned in and certainly dealing with once again, you know that kind of rejection around being gay and and and having some some horrible things happen. It was just it was re-traumatizing until I realized it's nobody else's responsibility, but my all to find a way through them. You know, I I I did the turn away and and go into substances very well, and I didn't want to go back there. What I really wanted to do was find that healing around. This uh, Police incident. So I stepped in to the Police Service I met with the LGBT diversity officer. I met with the Indigenous Diversity officer. And I am on the Chiefs advisory council at the Calgary Police Service.

• 38:13 -40:00

I shared with them this story, but then it's like but how can I help you? This, this should never happen to anybody but it did how can I help so it doesn't happen to somebody else again and it's been an incredibly Transformative and healing process by stepping into something that that had a lot of fear and hurt around it. But by being involved with the Calgary police it's that experience with the Calgary police now is incredible because of that risk that I took. I think all of us are somewhat aware of Calgary Pride's decision to ask the Calgary police not to March the pride parade this last year. Well, I don't necessarily agree with that, but that's not my trauma that. Was being discussed on on the position that was made. So I created an event called unity in uniform and unity and uniformity by the the police to celebrate Pride with us on our own little, then on our terms and say thank you to the police for being there 365 days a year in the first year. We had 250 people and last just this past September 1st 300 -400 people cycles for that event. We also had every branch of the military there this year and and we have the deputy

police chief. And I would say two or three thousand uniformed police officers. And that's been very transformative for me around this as well. Just like GSA has been. I never wanted what happened to me happen to anyone in this room. But again, by having, what is it – 250 people here right now? Um. You are giving me the opportunity to heal more around this. You become a part of my story and I thank you for that. What I have learned certainly through the advocacy that I've chosen as a career through my own company is – listen to the positives. There's always going to be negatives. It is how we choose to listen to feedback. I was on the Danielle Smith show yesterday or the day before talking about this event – one of the questions was – how much negative press have we got? I actually don't know. But we have had zero negative comments and no negative feedback and that is pretty cool. (applause). But what we have had is parents saying "thank you" for what we are doing here. We've had an incredibly successful fundraising with 64K raised for this which blows my mind. With students traveling across the province. What I want to leave with you is some things over the next afternoon – talk to people you don't know. Connect with people that you don't know. Because when you leave here today I want you to have a network that spans this entire province. I want you to have people available to you 24 hours a day that understand what it feels like to be alone that understand what it sometimes like to not fit in. You know, I think everybody doesn't really fit in and that's the commonality we have. Until we turn it around and realize not fitting is actually fitting in. I really believe that when we connect with others that are from different provinces, different countries, that might have different values than us. That's ok. Certainly as you approach voting age, its ok to be Conservative, its ok to be Liberal, its ok to be NDP. Because you know what? Those labels that we put on people do not define who we are. I want you to look at the qualities that make you special. I want you to identify with – well I am a caring, loving person and look for other caring, loving people instead of looking for labels that serve no purpose but to divide us. I want especially in a world of social media, I implore you to listen to others for real. Don't come up with what you are about to say before you've listened to the other side of the story. Listening honors the relationship that you create with others. And if you don't understand, ask again. And what I will say to end this off here – never forget where you come from. I think how my life has brought me back to where I come from is not by mistake. I lived in Los Angeles for a few years and then I slowly moved into my parents' basement after I came back. Which – thank you. Also, gas was at \$1.30 a liter. Just never forget where you've come from. 15 years ago I wanted to get the heck out of here and never look back. Except I came back every single year (laughter). Be the change in the communities that you come from and be proud of where you come from whether it be Strathmore, Morin, Spruce Grove, Edmonton, Calgary. What is the commonality here? We are all Albertan. I think the change we are effecting here today is going to create a wave of change across this country. So thank you for being here and allowing me to share my story with you. I can't believe we've done this. Thank you, thank you, thank you. (applause).

47:25: Wow! Keep standing. While we transition for Mike. We're going to do some Yoga because you've been sitting for a long time. You are going to do warrior 1....(instructions about yoga position).

48:48: For the past 12 years, Mike Morrison has been writing Mike's Bloggity Blog visited by more than 1 million people per year. The blog is about all things Canadian by covering pop culture, travel, politics, and personal stories. His work through the blog has sent him all over the world, but he proudly calls Calgary home. For the past 5 years, Mike has been able to make the blog his full time work and he is passionate about teaching others, young writers and

entrepreneurs about making money doing what they love. Mike regularly uses his voice in social media to help advocate for the LGBTQ2+ rights, particularly with youth. He was instrumental in helping Alberta pass a new law that made it a legal requirement for all schools to have a GSA if one was requested. Please help me welcome Mike Morrison.

49:43: Thank you so much everyone. This has been, I don't know if you have seen it, but I've honestly cried four times today already. I cry a lot. I was sitting here thinking while a few years ago I was in Brooks and you can go digging for dinosaurs there and I pulled out a fossil of a tooth and the paleontologist said "You're the first human ever to see that" and it blew my mind. And today, we are the first Canadians to ever see this. (applause). So it means an honour. It really means a lot. It really means a lot to be here. Also today, today is National Coming Out Day. Did you guys know that? (applause and cheers). Just by coincidence I asked the organizers is this a giant coincidence that today is the 30th anniversary of Coming Out. We've sort of talked a lot about high school and if you told me I was going to stand in front of another high school and talk about being gay 30 years ago, you would've been crazy. So, congratulations everyone who has come out. Hopefully you are surrounded by love. Coming out is still really important. I actually came out later in life. I came out around 24/25 despite everyone in public school saying I was gay my whole life. Its weird. But I actually never went to sex ed because I was in a singing and dancing group that we were at the school for awhile. (That's a different presentation – it was like Glee). In New Brunswick. So I never went to Sex Ed, so I didn't get the important information that people get in Sex Ed. So people were saying I was gay, I was gay, I honestly had no idea what gay was. This was before the internet. This was in rural New Brunswick. So, I graduated university twice with 2 degrees and still didn't know that I was gay. So I didn't have this dark trauma a lot of students experience. I thought high school was awful for everyone. So I didn't take it personally. Ok, I am getting called gay. They are getting called this.. blah blah. Then I moved to Calgary and I met people, I thought being gay was Toronto Pride, leather pants, shirtless, all this stigma in movies like Philadelphia, like things like that. I thought it was that. I thought you had to dive into that to be gay and I thought, well, I'm not that. And I'm certainly never taking my shirt off in public. So, I guess I'm not anything. And then I moved here. Ironically, you know Alberta has this stigma about not being a very welcoming place and I moved here and I met people who were, for lack of a better word, normal people who were rock climbers and doctors and lawyers and teachers who were gay and I thought – oh – you can be normal and be gay? I'm totally gay. So happy National Coming Out day everyone. Today I'm going to tell you a little bit about what it means to be here – try not to cry too much – because 4 years ago, almost 4 years ago to the day, this is not something... what we are doing right now – it was not possible four years ago. It would have been against the law four years ago to do what we are doing today and so I really want to talk about. Umm I really want you guys to appreciate how far we have come in four years because it is really incredible. To me its just gone in a flash, but let's go back to high school for a second. I collect everything. Its annoying. So I have still have every copy of my high school newspaper from 18 years ago. I was going through them a few months ago – who knows why- and I found a letter to the editor. There's also two other things in there in case you're reading them, about Goth because this was around the time of the Columbine shooting, and our school band – Trenchcoats – and there was a lot of, um, because was a lot of negative attention in there put towards the Goth. It's interesting that its there but – again, that's a different presentation. Let's focus on this letter from a man named Thomas McBain(?) again – 18 years ago– I'll just read this to you. My name is Thom. I am in grade 10 last year. Many of you knew my name but for

those of you who didn't, many of you knew me by the name of "fag." Well "fag" is not my name, it's Thom. And this means a school based support group for gays, lesbians and bisexuals. 18 years ago we never said gays.... Anything... so the idea of a GSA... so this really struck me when I read this a few months ago..one is his bravery... how much it would've taken for him to write that letter. And he actually moved out ... so I am jumping a bit... so he actually...I wanted to use this letter in the presentation and so I used my (inaudible) internet sleuthing so I actually found Thomas Baines. He lives in Ottawa and I sent him this note and said "do you remember writing this letter?" and he said "No". And I said "I want to show this presentation" and he said "absolutely" After he left Fredericton high school he moved to Red Deer and started Red Deer's first GSA 18 years ago so for him and for me it really felt full circle. So really – it is a really poignant thing. For me when I read this letter I thought a lot about high school and I probably walked by him everyday. Maybe even had classes with him. I had no idea who he was. That he was gay. That he was being bullied and that I, too, was gay. And for me it was an important reminder to really make sure we are taking care of each other in the hallways. Make sure you keep your eyes peeled, your ears peeled and you are listening because everyone of us experiences this completely different and we were both gay in high school and our experiences were completely, completely different. While we brings us together today is the importance of GSAs. All too often, our experiences are very unique. LGBTQ people are painted with the same brush. All too often I hear, don't you guys have everything you need. You and I know that each and every one of us couldn't be more different. More unique. Really the only thing we have in common is that each and every one of us had to fight to be here today. One way or the other. Some of you know doubt come from very supportive homes. Other of you come from homes that took some time to come around to it like mine did. I'm happy to say they've come around and they like my boyfriend more then they like me. I'm going home tomorrow and they're like annoyed that Richard isn't coming with me. Students who want a GSA and need a GSA, sadly, the reality is students who want a GSA and who need a GSA, um, they might not be in this room today. Still um, their families won't let them, their schools won't allow a GSAs – its like the law- we'll talk about that - but that's the reality here in Alberta.

Alright. So a bit about me. I make a living on the internet and use my voice everyday to talk about things that are important to me. Sometimes that means TV shows, events in Calgary, travel stories that take me around the world. I also use my voice, hopefully, to create change. One of things that brought me here today. But I didn't go to school to be a writer or an activist, I didn't go to school to be a professional shit disturber. That's what I'm sometimes called in the media. Am I allowed to say "shit". Sorry, too late, sorry. I'm not around kids very often. I took a degree in Spanish from the University of New Brunswick. I'm actually the only person from New Brunswick that speaks Spanish. Growing up I didn't know what I wanted to be. And it's a question you get asked a lot, right? People say: do you have plans for when you will graduate. Adults ask you guys those questions because we actually don't know what else to say to you. It's like an elevator moment... like, hey, what do you want to do when you grow up? If we didn't ask you what you want to do when you grow up we'd probably be nervous and ask you questions about Logan Paul, like What band is he in? What (inaudible) me with that guy. Anyway, he's an idiot. So I never knew what I wanted to be when I grew up because, as it turns out, its because it never existed. You all grew up in this world with the internet so it might be hard for you to appreciate, but honestly, the world we live in was never possible when I was your age. I won't explain what life was like before the internet, or what ITQ is, um, (audible) The worst thing about being an adult is we are constantly explaining to you the way things were. But

letting you know you are living in the best timeline. You are changing this world and all of you who are here today are the ones who are going to keep changing it. Keep changing it for the better.

When I was younger I loved writing. My parents would find these little short stories all around the house. I had this crazy imagination and I think that you can tell. But Growing up, being paid for writing was not something that was possible. Writers – they lived in New York or Toronto, or Vancouver, They certainly didn't live in Fredericton, NB. So I stopped writing. Whether we like it or not, growing up forces us to drop and hide the things we love because it doesn't fit with what everyone else does. Conforming. Making peers conform with one another is the saddest thing to being a teenager, I believe. So I did that for 10 years or so. I tried to be a teacher. I was not good at it. I really wasn't. I tried to work in Oil and Gas. I was not good at that. ... I worked at banks I wasn't good at that. I moved to Calgary and I didn't know anyone and blogs just started to be a thing and so I sat in my basement apartment in downtown Calgary and started writing blogs. Just because I was so lonely and it really connected me and because it was writing.

Over the years when writing posts about Canadian idol – anyone remember Canadian Idol? Yeah. ... somehow it became my job. Now I get paid by companies who support me all because I used my voice to tell people the crazy thoughts that are racing through my head. What I learned about using the internet, even though I felt alone, there was a lot more people just like me. It's what I love about the internet. On the internet I can find people like me. I can find people who talk like me. Who love the same weird stuff that I do. I can find a place where I belong and where I've always dreamed for working in media. Let's be honest. People like me. Who look like me and sound like me don't work in traditional media. They all are tall and full heads of hair. I was bald in high school. Talk about trauma. (laughter).

So my life has really just been absolutely amazing because I've been able to do these incredible things. But the one thing I never did on the blog until 4 or 5 years ago was talk about being gay. The stereotypes of what I thought being gay was or how I had to act kept me in the closet longer than I should've been. But when I did come out I did so confidently and that, um, and that and that didn't mean I wanted to talk about it. So I came out later in life and I was happy with my friends. I was confident with my parents. But it still didn't mean I wanted to talk about it. I remember a few years ago, maybe 5 or 6, a local radio station, X99, an incredibly supportive radio station, asked me if I wanted to come on and regularly talked about gay issues. I remember I said I wanted to be known for being me, not being gay. I saw those as two different things. Which now that's its been a few years I realize how stupid that sounds. Being gay is who I am. Just like being white is who I am. Just like being short is who I am. Just like being bald is who I am. Ah, trauma still. But its part of who I am. I should've said yes but I didn't because I was scared. All of that changed four years ago when, um, because of GSAs, because of why we are here today. I never felt, like I said earlier that I needed a GSA because I honestly didn't know I was gay. But certain people thought in our school that we needed one. Um, so, um, um. So this was a crucial time for me. This was four years ago. This was with the previous PC government. And what they did, they introduced a bill, another, some other politicians were trying to introduce a bill to allow you guys to have GSAs. The PC government was in charge and so they created a law called Bill 10. Um. The PCs have merged with the Wildrose to make the UCP just to give you some context. Um, so they were getting, um, they were getting a lot of pressure from the media and the premier at the time, Premier Jim Prentice,

continued to call the issue divisive. I hate that word when it comes to this issue. There is nothing divisive. There's right and there's wrong, and having GSAs is right. (applause)

So they created a bill, Bill 10, the first draft and I'm not sure I know you were younger and I don't want to dismiss that but maybe you weren't following the news that much but The first Bill – a bill for GSAs – Bill 10 said you could have GSAs, but – if you wanted one in your school you would have to ask your teacher. Your teacher could say no. Then you could ask your principal. Your principal could say no. Then you could ask your superintendent. They could say no. You as 12, 13, 14 from wherever, would have to go all the way to the Minister of Education to ask for a GSA. The man at the time was named Gordon Dirks. Previously his job was to be the leader of a University that did not allow gay staff or gay students. So imagine. Grownups saying that's what you have to do to get a GSA. So obviously there was a lot of outrage. Thankfully, because Albertans are smarter than that. So the Bill was penned. Now Tuesday, the next day, December 2nd, the Bill was changed. Ah..your teachers would have to say yes to GSA but they did not have to offer it on school grounds. So. You could say you wanted a GSA and your teacher could say "great. Here's a bus. Go to your GSA". Again. (laughs). Isn't that crazy? This was four years ago. This wasn't 10 or 20. This was four years ago. The public outrage grew. It was really amazing seeing people talk about it. I'm from the East coast and we've had GSAs for a while now and we've these issues and I remember my friends were saying "What is going on there?". And I'm like "Albertans and Alberta". Um, so unfortunately that law- the one that would have you guys shipped off the grounds so that you could have a GSA actually passed 2 of the 3 readings. So The night before um it was passed. And this was the PC government, they had a majority, it was going to pass regardless. Um.. I had been talking about it all week. And really, not that people didn't know I was gay. But I was really using my social media to like talk about my personal life which is something I hadn't done necessarily. Um. And so I became really vocal. Um. I was worried about a lot of things, though. I get paid from companies to have a voice. Are those companies going to drop me. Are my friends going to drop me. Are my family going to drop me. None of that mattered. Making sure students had a gay straight alliance was the right thing to do. So I sec – I did all of it – and I never second guessed myself.

I organized, I accidently organized a rally. So I said this I said. No lookit. This was the time. It was 1 or 2 am. This was the day the law was going to pass. We have to do everything we can to stop it. Stop this bill. We don't think its going to stop. Its 1 or 2 am. I have no idea how to organize a protest. I'm not even sure if they are effective. I don't even know if that's the right use of effective. But should someone organize one, I'll be there. And someone wrote back and said– "you organize one". So at 1:50 I said. Ok. We'll do a mini-pride celebration at 12:30 and I'll see you all there. So the idea was, I wasn't calling it a protest or rally because I didn't think we'd be able to stop it. But also I was really focused on rural students. Because in bigger cities – Calgary and Edmonton – there's lots of resources for LGBTQ students. In rural towns. You might think you're the only one there. You might be the only one there. You might have a hard time finding people that support you. So I really wanted. If, if the media was going to cover this event and students were watching it from all over Alberta and all over Canada, I wanted to show them that, regardless of what that government at the time was saying, they were supported and they were loved. Luckily I wasn't alone. One thing I did was I Googled famous gay Canadians. (laughter). Hello! Canada actually has a list, so, amazing, if you ever need it. And I emailed or tweeted every single one of them. Um, and you know, we had Rick Mercer weigh in. Rights were never absolute Prentice told reporters. Nice ring to it, Jim. That should be on a license plate. Um So we had Rick Mercer and then we had Tegan and Sarah. Calgarians Tegan and

Sarah weighed in and they announced our rally for us. And They have been incredibly active even up until this day. Even though they are not from here and given honoring where you are from and respecting where you are from and Tegan and Sarah are proud members of our community and proud Albertans. And So we held a rally. People from every single party showed up. It was freezing. About a hundred to 150 people showed up. But here's some interesting things to give you a bit of a timeline. Of, Um. This was the time where Pride..there are different organizers now, but At the time, Pride didn't want to be political. So they didn't come. Um. We couldn't get Pride flags. Do you know where we got pride flags from? United Churches. (laughter). We are driving around getting Pride flags from all the United churches. Um. You know, um, it was really incredible. And, we had this. As luck would have it, Jim Prentice was inside having a press conference with Chris Christie. Um, I don't know if you know him but my tone is a hint. Um. And um. So we um. And the media. The press conference came out and the media, they were there waiting for the media and we had a big celebration that got lots of news. Um. And then, a few hours later. Um. I'm going to run out of time. I'll play the video. Oh Alright. Ok. I'll go over time. (Plays video).

109:40 – (Video clip – Jim Prentice) "I accept personal responsibility for Bill 10. I am most disturbed that our gay and lesbian youth are caught in the middle of this very divisive debate. (inaudible) At present there is no consensus in Alberta on either the constitutionality or the wisdom of the provincial government mandating GSAs, gay straight alliances, in schools. The issue was polarizing to begin with and has become ever more so in the last several days. Many Albertans have expressed the view that this should not be done in haste. Accordingly, I've met with my caucus on my return, I've heard the concerns that they've shared with me. I've instructed the government house leader to place the third reading of Bill 10 on hold pending further consultations with Albertans."

1:10:46 So, um. It was paused and honestly, none of us thought that would happen. And it was people, but all of it was done on Social Media. All of it was done on Twitter. Reaching out to our friends and family, getting them to support it, Facebook and things like that. Um, and so The Bill was put on hold for a few months. They did think. They did some research. They met with people and they actually came back to their full credit with one of the most progressive GSA laws in all of Canada. And, um, so ah that is what Bill 10 is and that is what allows you all to celebrate and have GSAs here and have conferences like this.

Now, currently, um the other recent law that was passed, that Minister Hoffman touched on was Bill 24, um which is, um, that you, students attending GSAs do not need their parents' permission. This is incredibly important. Because as we know some people come to GSAs to learn how to talk to their parents about being queer, about the questions they are having. Um They are not sex clubs as we know. Um. So. You know its very important and Minister Hoffman is nicer than I am. You know Every member of the government, um, the NDP, the Liberals, and Alberta Party voted in support of this law. The UCP voted unanimously against it and or walked out of the room and didn't vote. And so, um, its really important to understand the history of how we got here and who supported us every single time.

So while I am here - I'm honored to be here today, I really mean it - I'm going to challenge you guys to some things. So now what? What's next? You have your GSAs. You have protection in your GSAs. You have conferences celebrating GSAs. Each one of you has a voice and I want to challenge you guys to do, to take your voices, whether it be on Instagram, musically? is that a thing? I googled cool kid apps, what old fogies call Facebook. What I want you guys to go

out there. Because the thing about your age group, and this happens everytime someone is your age, when we were your age. Everyone doesn't think you can do anything. They call you lazy, they call you unmotivated. But I can't help watch the kids in Florida and all over the States and the March for our Lives and see what they did with tweets, with Instagram posts, They organized a march with hundreds of thousands of people. Millions of people all over North America. You know who did that? Were people your age. So I know you can do it. So I am going to challenge you to some things here today. Um. Alright. So here's the challenges we have coming up. Facing youth in Alberta and Canada.

So there's still 61 schools in Alberta that do not have GSAs because the schools are breaking the law. Will not. Will not allow them. So, um, and actually they tried to sue the government and that was thrown out and now there's a group called Parents for Choice which is trying to drum up interest to make sure the GSA, this law isn't enforced, because the NDP government has said these schools don't have GSAs by the end of the school year they will use all their funding. And private schools are funded 70% by the government despite their name. So, um, so we need to make sure, but Here's the challenge for you. Those kids in those schools, they're probably the ones who need GSAs more than anyone. If they are attending schools where they are not accepted and they are vocally not accepted in the media, those students need to know that its going to be ok. And just. Maybe they just have to get through school. Maybe they just have to find people online. But you all have to make sure your fellow students, your fellow Albertans who are your age, Know that they're supported. So that's your first challenge. The second challenge, um.

Here's another challenge. Did you know that men who have sex with men can't be allowed or not allowed to be donating blood? Did you guys know that? So, um, ironically, there's a blood donor clinic here this afternoon. I am going to have a chat with them. But this is really important and I'm not just picking on one government. Actually, Three years ago today the Liberal government, promised to remove, he called it discriminatory, promised to remove this ban and he has not removed it. So, you all need to reach out to your MPs, your federal government representatives and you need to demand that gay men are allowed donating blood. Because it does nothing but discrimination. (applause). So, there's the tweet from the Liberal party. So blood surrogates.ca is an amazing program from Egale. Um there's some parts I wasn't sure about blood showing so I just, so I just screen grabbed it, um so blood surrogates.ca is a really great program because it teaches you a lot about the blood ban but also encourages people who can't donate blood to go donate blood on their behalf. So I think it would be amazing if someone went to the blood clinic today and said this is for Mike and that would make me really happy. Ok, yes, so do that. So check that out for more information.

Um. Here's another one. Conversion Therapy. Do you guys know that conversion therapy is still legal in many provinces in Canada? So parents would send their kids to programs... um Electric shock therapy used to happen. Things like that. These are things that are still happening in Canada. Um, and, actually I want to tell you about Devon Hargraves from Why Queer L in Lethbridge Society for change and Jennifer Takashi from Lethbridge Public Interest research group actually put A petition forward to the federal government, the Liberal government this week to make sure that its banned federally. And that's incredibly important. The NDPs working they've said they've announced in the fall they'll be introducing this law to ban conversation therapy here in Canada ...and now, hopefully, there is a petition. So Go find this petition. And

go sign it. And get your parents to sign it. get your aunts and uncles to sign it. Um like over Christmas time be like hey let's pass around the ipad we're all going to sign this petition.

There is also this movie, I don't know if you've seen it. Trailers are pretty good called the Miseducation of Cameron Post. Has anyone seen this movie yet? Yeah, so I just saw it a few weeks ago it is about conversion therapy in the 90s. These high schoolers are sent to like conversion camp It is very jarring for me to watch because the people in the audience were laughing and I wasn't mad that they were laughing. I think they didn't know that this was still happening. So they were sort of like awkward and laughing like oh those crazy 90s but it was really upsetting for me because these are things that still happen. So, find that movie and watch it. Um, so that's the petition there. So find the petition And make sure you sign it Make sure we ban conversion therapy. Um. This is a study that came out this week. Did anyone see this? LGBTQ youth are three times as likely to attempt suicide more than heterosexual youth. Tans youth are 6x. This was a study of a hundred studies put together from around the world. Sorry - 35 studies from around the world. Um. We have to acknowledge that while things are better, its not better for everyone. We all have our bad days. We all have bad times. We all have dark times. You know. You turn on media and you see what is happening with Trump. You see what is happening with the sex curriculum in Ontario. That stuff is depressing and its ok to feel it. But We have to look out for each other. We have to make sure that we're doing. That we're taking care of each other and continuing the important work of GSAs.

Um and for our allies who are in the room if you have siblings if you have parents and things like that, I want to tell you this really quick story. I have no idea if I'm over time or not. Um this was Lethbridge last year. Outside Lethbridge, Taber Alberta, had their pride flagged burned. This year city council refused to raise the pride flag. So the government said you can raise it on our property. So it was raised there. But I wasn't there this year but I heard There are loud trucks going around, making it as loud as possible to distract from the event. Um. So Lethbridge last year. Medicine Hat, a few weeks ago, had their pride crosswalk splashed with paint. This is Lethbridge. They had tar smeared across their PRIDE crosswalk and we, me and my boyfriend, try to go to every PRIDE at least once just to say we were there and celebrate it. So we went to Lethbridge PRIDE. Lethbridge had painted it over, it was beautiful. As we were driving by it the night before pride I saw these folks sitting here and I was like pullover and he was like no and I was like I need to know why they are there. It's that shit disturber thing in me, um, so I went over and I was really angry and I said what are you doing here? And they said: We are protecting the crosswalk. So they sat there all night over night um I know everyone's experience is different but when its straight people doing it that means something really special to me. To me those are allies. Some of them were kind of cute (laughter) that helps. No. But this was really amazing and a very simple gesture. Just sitting there. A kind gesture. So allies: ask yourselves what you're going to do to um to continue um to support queer people here um. In Alberta and all around. I am going to show you this one video here, um I want to leave you with this message. (?name) is a youtuber. Do you know him? If I can make money on the internet, everyone can make money on the internet. If my friends and I can get together and organize rallies and organize different things then you all can do it. The biggest thing in our head is we always say we can't. I want to show you this video. Its about three minutes long. I'll just show you to teach you otherwise.

VIDEO:

<https://www.google.com/search?q=.+Hater.+Doubter.+7th+grade+vice+principal.+This+video+i>

s+for+you.+Keep+your+head+down+follow+the+rules.+This+is+terrible+advice.&rlz=1C1JZA
P_enCA834CA834&source=lnms&tbm=vid&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwimxbWcsYniAhVWop4KH
RxdAN0Q_AUIDygC&biw=1076&bih=717 helicopter sounds . To the haters. The doubters.

My seventh-grade vice-principal. To everyone who's ever told anyone with a dream: "they can't." This video's for you. Keep your head down. Follow the rules. Do as you're told. Play it safe. Wait your turn. Ask permission. Learn to compromise. This is terrible advice.

If I were to write an autobiography, a book about my life. One title that would work would be: "Do What You Can't." Cause that idea encapsulates everything I ever done

Like, when I wanted to move to New York City and my dad was like: "You can't, you don't have any money" Or when I first said I wanted to make movies and it was: "You can't, you didn't go to Film School" I want to have a TV show: "You can't Casey, you're not pretty enough"

And to go even further, like if I was to characterise this new generation of content creators and filmmakers. What we all do on YouTube and everywhere else, Is we Do What We Can't.

You can't be an action movie filmmaker BUT You get your parkour friends to dress up like video game characters, jump off of buildings and you can "Right Devon?" "Yes"

You can't have a talk show BUT You have a webcam and you can. Next thing you know you're interviewing the president.

You can't fly around New York City on a Magic Carpet BUT You get your electric skateboard, Some PVC Pipe, A great outfit, Give Jesse a call, And you can.

You don't need gear, You don't need trucks or a crane You don't need some big expensive camera rig that never works.

When you're a Creator you don't need someone in your ear telling you: What you can and can't do, What you can and can't say.

They call us: Gamers, Influencers, Internet Famous, (What the fuck does that mean) But we know something they don't... You can start a blog, or a makeup channel, Or travel around the world with a gigantic piano playing it in beautiful places for interested people .

When you're Creator, All you need is your phone, An internet connection, And a good idea.

A stories you want to share, Something you need to say, And then the rest is history.

If you do it right you get to quit the day job, Make friends from places you've never been. Meetups, Collaboration. A life moving so fast and so full, you won't even have time to process it.

So to my fellow creators I say: Keep creating, Keep doing the work. And never forget, you don't have to listen to anyone. Because in this new world, no one knows anything.

The haters, The doubters, are all drinking champagne on the top deck of the Titanic and we are the fucking iceberg. Do What You Can't. (applause)

1:24:44

I love that. I love that so much. Especially the message. I forgot about the swear words. Sorry teachers. (laughter) But to me it's this idea what he said about, as long as I have an internet connection and a camera, you can do everything. And that really speaks to me about people who live in rural communities. You do not need to live in Vancouver. You do not need to live in downtown Toronto or Ottawa to make a living, to make a difference. To make a change. You all have that now. So please do that.

Two big examples as we're wrapping up. I just want to show you a quick things I did this year, and again, not because I did them but because they were so easy to do. Earlier this year I wanted everyone to see the movie Love Simon. Have you guys seen that movie yet? Oh my God it is so good. If you don't know it's the first mainstream teen romantic comedy to feature a gay character. Movies are expensive, things like that. So I wanted to do what all the big celebrities are doing when prescreening, like Black Panther, stuff like that? But I'm not a millionaire or a celebrity. So I had to crowd fund it. I put it out there and said "hey, I booked this theatre, its \$1500 dollars, please help me. Um we raised \$3000, including \$500 from the director of the movie. We had students come, we had adults come, we had people come and it was incredible. And we even had this student, um, a youth come who wasn't allowed to be in there. Her parents refused her to see that movie and so her friends came to us and we had to go to the Cineplex, Landmark Cinemas, get a movie ticket for a

different movie. Give it to her so she could show her parents. And so if we think its not happening in Calgary, homophobia, it absolutely is.

Another thing this year, Camp Firefly. You guys know about camp firefly? Hillary is right here in the middle. Hilliary knows everything about camp Firefly. Please find her over the next few hours. Camp Firefly is a summer camp for queer kids. Just outside of Calgary. And I want it for me birthday. I'm 36 years old, I don't need anything. I want to send two kids to camp firefly. Which is \$300 each. And my friends, online, in a few hours, um We sent, what's 22 divided by three – seven? Seven, yeah, sevenish, yeah a half, yeah, we sent, you know, a bunch of kids to camp firefly. All because I did a few clicks on Go Fund Me and put it out there.

So You guys can really do it. So I want to ask you guys what you're going to do? You're going to create change in your schools, your community and your home. You're going to speak up and you're going to vote. And if you can't vote, you're going to have conversations with every single one of the people in your house. Your friends. As many as you can and you're going to tell them that you need support. And you need their help in voting (another voice – or volunteer) so please vote. Or volunteer. Absolutely. Great point, yes. Please volunteer. Meet candidates. Its all the same..And lastly have fun. I'm going to wrap up right now. I was at Pride this year. I was with (?) and I was like sobbing by myself. And people were like "what's going on?" And I was like "I forget to have fun". I just forget to be gay and have fun. I just get so worked up about making sure that we have everything that I forget to have fun. so please have fun. Please. This is my boyfriend, Richard Thank you. I'm really happy to be here. Thank you. (applause).

Host: Thank you so much. Ok. Pull out your phone. First person to get a selfie with Sarah Hoffman gets to go first. Go. Next group. gets a selfie with Greg or Mike. Go. Get a picture with someone wearing one of these T-Shirts.. go. Get a picture of your teacher sponsor making a crazy face – go. A picture of three of you with your pink feather sticks. Go. Bring me something from Starbucks. Go. Yes. First table get a picture with those three people right there. Oh. That's a bald head. Ok. Your table can go. A picture with Hillary. Go. Picture with the CBC guy. Go.