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***Myth #1: Bill C-389 provides an opportunity for pedophiles to hang out in bathrooms waiting for young girls***

This is completely false! Pedophilia is a heinous crime in all circumstances without exception! Pedophilia is punishable under the *Criminal Code* of Canada under section 151:

151. Every person who, for a sexual purpose, touches, directly or indirectly, with a part of the body or with an object, any part of the body of a person under the age of 16 years (a) is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years [...].

In no way whatsoever will this bill permit any form of sexual exploitation, including pedophilia. I also find it offensive to characterize all transgendered individuals as “pedophiles” as some have done.

***Myth #2: This bill exposes our children to perverts in public showers and changing rooms***

This is completely false! As indicated above, in no way whatsoever will this bill permit any form of sexual exploitation.

***Myth #3: This bill will override other criminal laws***

This is completely false! Part 5 of the *Criminal Code* of Canada is clear on what constitutes a Sexual Offence and nothing in this bill supersedes or overrides these provisions, regardless if one is transgendered or not.

***Myth #4: Teaching of “gender expression” in schools will become mandatory***

This is completely false! There is not a single provision in this bill that would require the teaching of gender expression in schools.

***Myth #5: This bill promotes sexual confusion among vulnerable teens***

This is completely false! According to the American Psychological Association, sexual orientation “refers to an enduring pattern of emotional, romantic, and/or sexual attractions to men, women, or both sexes” (*For a Better Understanding of Sexual Orientation & Homosexuality*, Washington D.C., United States, 2010).

This bill will NOT promote “sexual confusion.”

***Myth #6: This bill is being advanced for a tiny group of sexual activists***

This is completely false! Transgendered individuals face an unacceptable amount of discrimination in their everyday lives and are likely to become victims of violence. Although transgendered individuals constitute a small minority of the Canadian population, all Canadians have an equal right to not be subjected to discrimination. This bill is being advanced in the name of equal rights.

***Myth #7: This bill makes any complaint about transgendered individuals a hate crime***

This is completely false! All complaints against transgendered individuals will NOT be considered hate crimes. The *Canadian Human Rights Act* defines a hate message as “any matter that is likely to expose a person or persons to hatred or contempt by reason of the fact that that person or those persons are identifiable on the basis of a prohibited ground of discrimination.”

Only messages related to transgendered individuals that fall within the above definition would be considered hate messages. This is currently the case for messages related to one’s race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, disability or conviction for an offence for which a pardon has been granted.

***Myth #8: Bill C-389 aims to allow cross-dressing males to use women’s bathrooms***

In fact, this bill aims to prohibit discrimination, which is defined by the Yogyakarta principles as, “any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on sexual orientation or gender identity which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing equality before the law or equal protection of the law, or the enjoyment of exercise on an equal basis, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.” These principles were developed by the International Commission of Jurists and the International Service of Human Rights.

This bill accomplishes this by amending the *Canadian Human Rights Act* to include gender identity and gender expression as prohibited grounds of discrimination.