

CAFA Statement on Alberta Government's 4th Invocation of NWC
December 11, 2025

CAFA condemns the Alberta Government's fourth use of Notwithstanding Clause to ban legal challenges to discriminatory laws

The Alberta Government has now opted to invoke the Notwithstanding Clause of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms not once, not twice, but *four times* this year.

Its purpose: to prevent any legal challenges to four different, and patently undemocratic laws:

- To force 50,000 Alberta teachers to accept a contract that they had already rejected twice before.
- To pressure teachers and school counsellors to not grant the use of preferred pronouns to students and inform on them to their parents.
- To interfere in doctor-patient confidentiality by forcing doctors to deny gender-based care to young people and cease offering any treatment already in progress.
- To demand that girls as young as 12 produce intimate documentation proving their sex at birth or risk being barred from participating in competitive sports.

Despite the Alberta Government's strident claims that invoking the Notwithstanding Clause to pass these egregious laws is simply to protect children and families – it isn't.

In fact, it's about systematically crushing the only recourse available to Albertans who oppose government edicts, since invoking the Notwithstanding Clause makes it illegal to initiate a court challenge of these laws for years to come.

It's about trampling the rights of any group whose views the government happens to disagree with, including Alberta's most vulnerable.

CAFA calls upon its members, and all Albertans who cherish democracy, to stand up against the Alberta government. Write to your MLA. Ask them why they voted overnight to override fellow Albertans' rights and freedoms and how this makes schools, sports or campuses any safer.