



Ian Bushfield &lt;exdir@bchumanist.ca&gt;

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## Concern regarding Chestfeeding Cafe partnership

1 message

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Ian Bushfield <exdir@bchumanist.ca>  
To: Dermot.Kelly@fraserhealth.ca

27 August 2025 at 13:56

Dear Dermot Kelly, CEO, Fraser Health

We are profoundly concerned about Fraser Health's [partnership with Hope for Women to host a Breastfeeding and Chestfeeding Café in Abbotsford](#). While we strongly support the goal of providing supportive spaces for new parents, this partnership is deeply troubling as it compromises the principles of equality, human rights, and public trust.

Crisis pregnancy centres, such as Hope for Women, are not licensed medical clinics and are known for promoting anti-choice positions that are often in opposition to evidence-based, comprehensive reproductive healthcare. Furthermore, Hope for Women's self-described policy of being a "women only space" is presumptively exclusionary to trans women, a stance that is in direct conflict with your use of inclusive terminology like "Chestfeeding" and your duty to serve all members of the public.

A public body like Fraser Health has a constitutional duty to guarantee the right to equality and freedom from discrimination. By partnering with an organization that operates a "women only space" and excludes trans women, you are aligning a public health initiative with a discriminatory policy that is in direct contravention of the principles underlying the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. This action creates a barrier for trans and gender-diverse parents and fundamentally undermines the inclusive language of your "Chestfeeding" program.

Furthermore, this partnership appears to be in violation of the Human Rights Code, which prohibits discrimination based on gender identity or expression in the provision of services. As a public service provider, Fraser Health has a duty to ensure that all its programs are accessible and welcoming to every member of the community. Hope for Women's exclusionary policy not only fails to meet this standard but actively discriminates against a vulnerable population. This decision signals to trans and non-binary parents that they are not welcome or safe within a Fraser Health-associated program, which is a serious breach of your human rights obligations.

We believe that public health programs should be free from any association with organizations that promote discrimination or undermine Canadian's reproductive freedoms. We urge Fraser Health to terminate this partnership and ensure that all future health initiatives are hosted in genuinely inclusive and affirming spaces that uphold your constitutional and human rights duties. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this critical matter further and work with you to ensure all Breastfeeding and Chestfeeding Cafés operate in a manner that is truly supportive of every parent in the community.

Sincerely

Ian Bushfield  
Executive Director  
Pronouns: He/him



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