

To the City of Brampton, and its elected officials who represent its residents,

Your decision to convert all our Recreation centers to have a single, universal, all-inclusive change room has put my family at risk. In April of 2023, I and my then 9-year-old daughter attended Earnscliffe Recreation Centre. As soon as we entered the changing room, we were met by a man who dropped his shorts to be fully naked. Seeing this, we walked out of the changing room, and I asked the front desk why a man was in the women's changing room. The [REDACTED] [REDACTED], was ignorant, to say the least. I was met with a very hostile and negative attitude stating that " the changing room is now all-inclusive". I let [REDACTED] know that I just walked into the changeroom with my daughter to see a naked man and [REDACTED] let me know that the gentleman had as much right to be in the changeroom as anyone else and that all change rooms in Brampton would soon be all-inclusive.

Upon learning this, I asked [REDACTED] why and [REDACTED] could not give me any answer except "its policy". [REDACTED] demeanor was very rude and matter-of-fact. When I proceeded to ask [REDACTED] if [REDACTED] had kids [REDACTED], [REDACTED] became irate and told me to "get over it".

I also had another "lovely" experience with Earnscliffe in May of 2023 when my daughter's school had the Swim to Safety program. The children were exposed to grown adults who were in the changeroom. Another parent volunteer stood by the door so that the children could have just 5 minutes to change and [REDACTED] relayed to us that we are not allowed to block anyone from the changerooms even though there were children in there. Not only did [REDACTED] let us know not to do it again but that we would be removed in the future. [REDACTED] feels the rights of adults trump the safety of children.

I now fear for my family's safety, as these criminal actions appear to be acceptable by you, our elected officials, under the political guise of inclusivity. I have not returned to any recreation center with my daughter and my now 1-year-old son as I do not feel safe. This has impacted my decision and my family members about sending our kids to camp, participating in public swimming, and just attending the recreation centers in Brampton as a whole. Such a significant radical change should have garnered at least a consultation, or poll from its residents. If inclusivity is the goal, have three change rooms. One for male, female, and all-inclusive so that people at least have the option to choose.

I formally request a reversal of this decision to bring safety back to our recreation facilities. Are we waiting for something bad to happen before realizing this is a bad idea or is prevention not better than cure? I would also like to know whose decision this was and why it is only being implemented in Brampton. Thank you.

Kind regards,

Trishelle Dotson