

Happening: Nearly a year after the sex-ed flip-flop, social conservatives divided on Ontario PCs



[10.08.2017](#) [Jessica Smith Cross](#) from [QUEEN'S PARK BRIEFING](#)

It's been [nearly a year](#) since Ontario Progressive Conservative Leader **Patrick Brown** came out in favour of the revised sex-ed curriculum, creating a split in his party.

Anti-sex-ed activist **Queenie Yu** marked the anniversary of her role in the sex-ed drama with a protest this week at PC MPP **Lorne Coe's** office alongside social conservative groups Parents As First Educators (PAFE) and Campaign Life Coalition.

She became an independent candidate and founder of the Stop the New Sex-Ed Agenda Party early last August, setting the stage for the PC's flip-flop on sex-ed during the Scarborough-Rouge River byelection. PAFE had said it negotiated with Brown's office on the working of a letter, in Brown's name, that was distributed to voters in the riding promising to scrap the curriculum. Yu went public with emails showing his office was involved in the letter, despite Brown's suggestion that it was the work of a local campaign.

Yu has been protesting Ontario's revised sex-ed curriculum alongside parents from Durham Region since then, targeting local politicians from all three major parties, including Coe on Tuesday.

"Practically everybody asked me who they should vote for in the 2018 provincial election," said Yu. "So I offered my suggestions and ideas."

Yu said she personally believes the PC party needs to change, and suggests people join up with a movement called [Take Back Our PC Party](#).

She knows some social conservatives who have turned away from the party to support the Ontario Alliance — a soon-to-be registered party that was borne out of discontent with Brown's leadership. That includes Ontario Alliance spokeswoman **Elizabeth de Viel Castel**, who ran for Yu's anti-sex-ed party in the Ottawa-Vanier by-election last fall, while some are interested in the Trillium Party, now home to former PC MPP **Jack MacLaren**.

Yu said the diversity of voices is a good thing, and she wishes the two upstart parties the best of luck — but she tells people to join the PCs and make change from the inside.

"I tell them that they should stay in the PC party, fight back, and fix it," she said. "The PC party doesn't belong to Patrick Brown."

Correction: This story has been updated to reflect that PAFE said it negotiated with Brown's office over the sex-ed letter scandal.