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## OSINT Report on Blaine Higgs' Bigoted Career

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Sat, Jun 29 at 1:29 PM

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### ### OSINT Report on Blaine Higgs' Bigoted Career

Moncton, NB, Canada

**\*\*Prepared for: Blaine Higgs, Susan Holt, All New-Brunswickers\*\***

**\*\*From: Marie Seshat Landry**

#### #### Executive Summary

Blaine Higgs, the Premier of New Brunswick, has a history of making controversial and divisive statements that have been perceived as bigoted and discriminatory. This report compiles instances of his rhetoric and policy decisions that have negatively impacted various communities in New Brunswick, including LGBTQ+ individuals, immigrants, Indigenous peoples, and the general public.

#### #### LGBTQ+ Community

##### 1. **\*\*Policy 713 Changes\*\***:

- **\*\*Background\*\***: Policy 713 was designed to protect LGBTQ+ students by allowing them to use their chosen names and pronouns without parental consent.
- **\*\*Changes\*\***: Higgs mandated that students under 16 must obtain parental consent to change their names or pronouns at school. This change has been widely criticized as discriminatory and harmful to LGBTQ+ youth.
- **\*\*Statement\*\***: Higgs described gender dysphoria as becoming "trendy" and stood by the policy changes despite significant backlash from LGBTQ+ advocates and political opponents[4].

##### 2. **\*\*Gender-Affirming Care\*\***:

- **\*\*Misrepresentation\*\***: Higgs falsely claimed that "60 percent" of children are prescribed hormones or puberty blockers at their "first appointment," a statement that was debunked by the study's author. This misrepresentation has fueled concerns about his stance on transgender healthcare[4].

#### #### Education System

##### 1. **\*\*Public Schools\*\***:

- **Statement**: Higgs expressed reservations about sending his children to New Brunswick public schools, citing issues such as curriculum deviations, lack of standards, and challenges with discipline. This statement was criticized by educators and opposition leaders as undermining the public education system[1].

## 2. **Sex Education**:

- **Incident**: Higgs banned a Quebec-based sex education group from presenting in New Brunswick schools, deeming their material "clearly inappropriate." This decision was criticized by the organization, which argued that their presentations were being misrepresented[2].

## #### Healthcare and Abortion

### 1. **Abortion Services**:

- **Policy**: Higgs refused provincial government funding for private abortion clinics that perform out-of-hospital operations, aligning with his strong personal opinions on abortion. This decision has been seen as limiting access to essential healthcare services for women[3].

## #### Systemic Racism

### 1. **Systemic Racism Commission**:

- **Incident**: Higgs faced criticism for allegedly interfering with the work of the systemic racism commissioner, Manju Varma. Chiefs from nine Mi'kmaw communities accused him of trying to shelve the commission's work, although Higgs denied these allegations[6].

### 2. **Indigenous Land Claims**:

- **Statement**: Higgs has been accused of fearmongering and having a "deeply racist attitude" towards First Nations. He misrepresented the law concerning Aboriginal title claims, causing divisions and spreading misinformation about the impact on property owners[6].

## #### Anti-French and Acadian Rhetoric

### 1. **French Immersion**:

- **Statement**: Higgs has not ruled out reviving controversial plans to overhaul French immersion and reduce the powers of district education councils if re-elected. This stance has been a point of contention, especially given New Brunswick's bilingual status[3].

## #### Immigration and Housing Crisis

### 1. **Blaming Immigrants**:

- **Statement**: Higgs attributed the housing crisis in New Brunswick to immigrants, a comment that has been criticized as dangerous and xenophobic. Housing and immigration advocates argue that such statements fuel racism and ignore the real causes of the housing crisis, such as weak provincial rental market regulations[5].

#### Homelessness and Drug Rehabilitation 1. **\*\*Compassionate Intervention Act\*\***: - **\*\*Proposal\*\***: Higgs proposed legislation that would allow judges to order treatment for homeless individuals with severe substance abuse disorders, potentially against their will. He suggested that some homeless people "just don't want to come off the street," framing the legislation as a means to "save people from themselves"[21]. - **\*\*Criticism\*\***: This proposal was criticized for its paternalistic approach and for potentially infringing on the rights of homeless individuals[21].

#### #### Conclusion

Blaine Higgs' career has been marked by a series of controversial statements and policy decisions that have been perceived as bigoted and discriminatory. His actions have negatively impacted various communities in New Brunswick, including LGBTQ+ individuals, immigrants, Indigenous peoples, and the general public.

**\*\*Prepared by: Marie Seshat Landry\*\***

**\*\*Date: June 29, 2024\*\***

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