

# Faith FAMILY FREEDOM



## JOSH ALEXANDER: TEEN ARRESTED FOR SAYING THERE ARE ONLY TWO GENDERS

by Rebecca Terrell

Canadian high-schooler Josh Alexander has never been a rebellious teen. But he's been suspended from school several times and arrested twice, simply because he defends Christian principles and believes that "God created man in His own image ... male and female He created them."

Unfortunately, Biblical authority espoused in the Book of Genesis doesn't carry much weight in these days of gender dysphoria, not even in the halls of Saint Joseph Catholic School in Renfrew, Ontario. When Josh defended female classmates against the school's so-called transgender bathroom policy late last year, school officials first suspended him and then placed onerous conditions on his return. Finally, on February 6, they called the cops. Officers with the Ontario Provincial Police arrested Josh on a charge of trespassing at his own school.

They suspended him for the rest of his junior year, and he has no idea what next year holds. In the meantime, he has become a celebrity in conservative and Christian circles, appearing in countless interviews including a short spot on Fox News' Tucker Carlson Tonight (prior to Carlson's ousting). But he was able to fill in ample details during a recent appearance on David Freiheit's *Viva Frei* podcast.

In the current culture, "just being a Christian and upholding your values means you have to be rebellious," he told Freiheit.

### A Patriot Is Born

It's a role to which Josh has become accustomed, having launched into activism during seventh grade when his public school played a disrespectful version of the Canadian national anthem. He won that first campaign for a respectful rendering, but admits it was not a particularly controversial topic.

That would change over the course of the next two years. When he was 14, Covid lockdowns and mandates began to

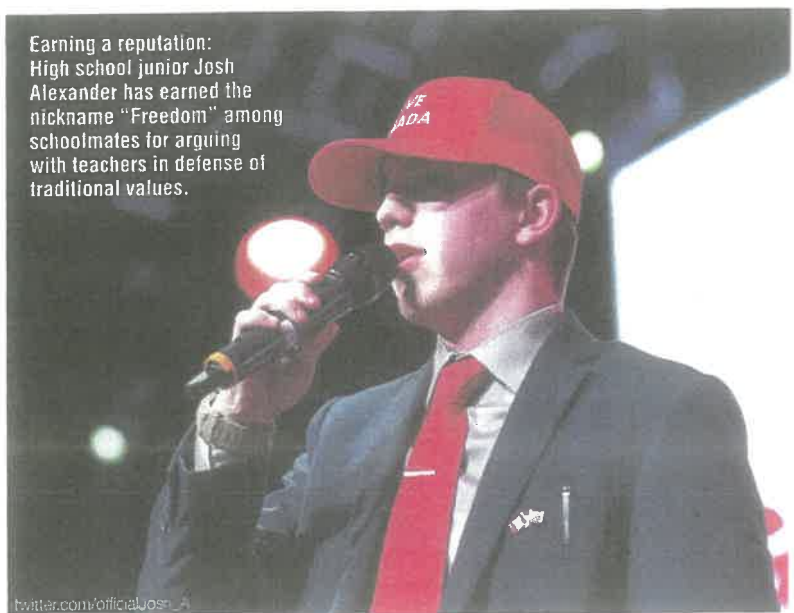
cripple his country and his education. The end of his eighth-grade year he spent online; in ninth grade students had to wear masks and socially distance — rules he thought were "crazy."

About the same time, the Canadian residential-school tragedy began making headlines. This refers to a system of boarding schools, established by the government in the late 19th century to assimilate native Canadian children into the broader culture. The schools are now synonymous with abuse, neglect, and starvation.

In 2021, excavators discovered remains believed to be those of 215 children at a former residential facility in British Columbia. Schools across the country responded by lowering their Canadian flags to half-staff and announced the banners would remain so for more than half a year — one day for each child-victim.

That was too much for Josh. Though he acknowledged lowering the flags for a short time to be an appropriate sign of respect, "this was a violation of the flag code," he told Freiheit. With "crazy" Covid strictures already demoralizing the country, he

Earning a reputation: High school junior Josh Alexander has earned the nickname "Freedom" among schoolmates for arguing with teachers in defense of traditional values.



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could not remain silent. “We didn’t lower [the flags] for each individual soldier who has died for our country.” He reasoned that keeping them lowered daily cheapens the value of the gesture.

So, Josh and a few of his friends decided to raise the flag at their school each day, and they continued doing so, though the administration kept lowering it and threatening suspensions. “This went on for months,” he remembers. “And I told them I’d keep doing it unless they gave me a forum to address my concerns.”

A board meeting ensued, and Josh challenged the unprecedented policy. “The flags went up all across the board the next day!” he exults.

But that was not the end of his adventures. In January 2022, the Freedom Convoy began its trek from British Columbia’s Pacific Coast to the nation’s capital of Ottawa. Its cries for medical freedom struck a patriotic note with Josh, who organized student protests in conjunction with the convoy.

Ontario is no stranger to this type of dem-

onstrations. In 2019, Chatelaine.com reported, “More than 100,000 students participated in a province-wide walkout,” protesting Premier Doug Ford’s proposed education funding cuts. Last year, Toronto’s CityNews tallied “more than 50 schools in Ontario [that] planned to take part” in walkouts protesting the end of mask mandates. Josh says there have been other demonstrations for causes such as “BLM” and “gay rights.”

But he was organizing protests against Covid restrictions, and he was gaining traction. His social-media posts spread like wildfire; students from British Columbia to Nova Scotia caught the fever. However, the backlash was harsh. “I spent hours in the office,” he recalls. “I was suspended a number of times.” His public-school principal even called the Ontario Provincial Police, but they told him that Canada’s Charter of Rights and Freedoms allows Josh to hold peaceable assemblies.

### New Beginning

With the start of his junior year in the fall of 2022, Josh decided to “get a fresh start”

at St. Joseph’s. The honeymoon was nonetheless short-lived, as he quickly learned that many teachers were pushing “woke” ideologies in their Catholic classrooms. Within a short time, he earned the nickname “Freedom” among schoolmates for arguing with teachers in defense of traditional values.

One example involved a spontaneous debate in math class, when a teacher defended male breast feeding. “I said that male breast feeding was pedophilia,” he recalls. “That didn’t go over very well.”

A transgender student jumped up, shouting and insisting that a person can be whatever gender he chooses. Josh remained seated and quietly affirmed that male and female are the only choices and that “you’re born one or the other.”

The teacher also lost his temper and began yelling. He asked Josh to explain the pedophilia comment. “For one, you’re shouting about children’s sexuality while you’re in math class,” he responded. “And secondly you’re endorsing — and it got pretty awkward in the class when I said it but it needed to be said — I said you’re now endorsing a man forcing a baby to suck his nipples,” Josh recalled on Freiheit’s show.

With that, the conversation ended rather awkwardly, and nothing else was said about it for the time being. But it would come up again, several weeks later and only two days prior to a protest he had planned in defense of his female classmates’ right to bathroom privacy.

### Principal Despises Principles

Josh’s pushback did not begin with an organized protest. At first he simply brought the matter to school administrators’ attention. However, the response was incredible. Instead of defending female students, the principal told Josh that “trans” students are females, too. When Josh pointed out the anatomical differences, the principal responded, “That’s your opinion.”

The latter went on to claim that we no longer live in a world of absolutes, and that he was not going to pursue an in-



twitter.com/officialjosh\_a

“If the world hates you...”: Authorities have twice arrested 17-year-old Josh Alexander, though he has broken no law in his defense of Biblical principles.



**Freedom convoy:** Truckers trekked across Canada in early 2022, rallying freedom-lovers from British Columbia to Nova Scotia to protest Covid lockdowns and mandates.

AP Images

dividual student's personal crusade. So Josh persuaded one of the girls to come forward. When the principal ignored her appeal, too, Josh decided to hold a protest.

Just two days before the planned event, school officials suspended him, not (they said) for the protest, but because of the male breast-feeding incident. He was out for 20 days for bullying the transgender student who had leapt from his desk and shouted at Josh that day.

The suspension lasted until just before Christmas break, after which the school placed conditions on Josh's return. First, he would not be allowed to attend math or religion class, but would remain in an isolated room to complete assignments. He was also banned from speaking to two students he had supposedly harassed: the transgender student and another individual whom Josh says he did not even know.

Josh refused the terms, and his attorney with the Liberty Coalition of Canada informed the school that he would be returning and attending all classes. The

school took that as a threat, and alleged that Josh's presence would be detrimental to the physical and mental well-being of certain students and staff. The administration issued an exclusion order — a non-disciplinary suspension based not on a punishable offense but on their labeling him a threat.

Regardless, Josh reported to school the next day and completed all classes despite harassment from school officials. But when he arrived home, he received a message that the school had issued him a trespassing notice through the end of the semester, as well as another five-day suspension. It also meant that he would lose credits for the semester.

Worse, once the new semester began this year, Josh found out that the administration's malice remained unsatisfied. The school still said he was a threat and issued another exclusion order, this time until the end of the year. When he showed up for class, he ended up in the principal's office. Within minutes, Ontario provincial police

officers arrived and told Josh that he was trespassing and would have to leave.

"I explained to them that I didn't have a trespassing notice. I only had this unlawful exclusion order," Josh remembers. "And I said, 'If you choose to arrest me, I'm not going to resist, but I'm also not going to leave the building upon a request. This is unlawful. It's discriminatory. I'm here to go to class. Should you arrest me for attending class, that's on you.'"

They did not put handcuffs on him, but they put him in their cruiser and gave him a trespassing charge. "They ended up handing me off to my brother," Josh said. "I didn't get booked." The police didn't even take him to their station but dropped him off on the side of the road. "It was a joke of an arrest," he said.

But two days later, Josh was back in a police cruiser. He had organized a protest outside a local arts center that was hosting a drag queen story hour. Though he had coordinated plans with a police liaison, counterprotesters showed up and attacked Josh and his small group of friends, who were quoting scripture outside the facility.

Instead of arresting the assailants, police detained Josh and his brother — slapping them with "failure to leave premises" charges, which have since been dropped. "They held me in the back of the cruiser for two hours," he relates. "Then they drove me off and dumped me on the side of the road."

Police never contacted his parents, but Josh says they confiscated \$600 in camera equipment that was never returned. In fact, police now deny taking it, though video footage contradicts that claim.

Now, Josh stays busy operating his "Save Canada" group. Supporters can sign petitions backing their work at Campaign-LifeCoalition.com and at his legal fund, LibertyCoalitionCanada.com.

"It's not that I'm rebellious. I just have traditional views, and I'm not going to compromise, especially when it affects young people. They're being indoctrinated," he avows. "I speak out against these things because it's the right thing to do." ■