

150-1

**From:** Fran Forsberg <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 4, 2020 10:53 AM  
**To:** Web E-mail - City Clerks  
**Subject:** Fwd: Copy of letter is attached  
**Attachments:** Conversion therapy letter.pdf



Greetings; I am requesting that the following document be distributed to all Saskatoon city councilors. A copy to the mayor would be appreciated as well. This is a topic that is being dealt with in cities across Canada. Your attention in this matter is greatly appreciated. Kiyam Dr. Fran Forsberg

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Grosvenor Park United Church <[gpuc@sasktel.net](mailto:gpuc@sasktel.net)>  
**Date:** Mon, Feb 3, 2020 at 11:07 AM  
**Subject:** Copy of letter is attached  
**To:** Fran Forsberg <[REDACTED]>

A copy for your files..

Linda

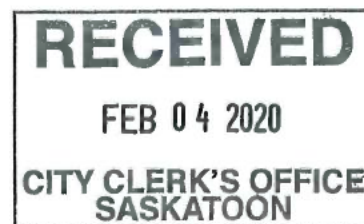
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Kiyam,  
Fran Forsberg



GROSVENOR PARK  
UNITED CHURCH



February 2, 2020

We, as a Christian community of faith, respectfully request that the City of Saskatoon pass a bylaw banning the practice of Conversion therapy within the City of Saskatoon.

Conversion therapy refers to any proposed treatment having the objective of changing a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. The practice of conversion therapy is abhorrent, and its consequences are devastating. This practice is premised upon the notion that sexual and gender minorities suffer from an illness that must be corrected. In a June 2019 report to the House of Commons on the health of LGBTQ2S communities in Canada it was revealed that 1/3 of men who have undergone conversion therapy have attempted suicide.

There is no federal legislation banning conversion therapy in Canada. Although the Government of Canada intends to implement legislation banning the practice, the wheels of parliament turn slowly and when this ban will actually happen, remains to be seen. In the meantime, the practice remains legal in several jurisdictions across Canada. It is therefore critical for this legislation to meet its intended objective of protecting vulnerable members of our community.

Historically, the Government of Canada has deferred this issue to the provinces and territories, declaring that the practice falls under the umbrella of healthcare, which is a matter off provincial and territorial jurisdiction. At present, several jurisdictions in Canada have banned the practice, including City of Edmonton, City of Vancouver, and St. Albert in Alberta. British Columbia has tabled legislation. In addition, conversion therapy is opposed by more than forty-nine professional associations around the world, including the Canadian Medical Association, Canadian Psychological Association, Canadian Pediatric Association, and the American Association of Physicians and Surgeons.

As Canadian citizens, we are proud of our country's diversity and inclusion. We believe that it is the right of all Canadians to safely exist and express their sexual orientation and gender identity. Subsequently, we unequivocally denounce conversion therapy. Furthermore, we implore all levels of government to ensure that LGBTQ and two-spirit people are not subjected to this misguided practice. We strongly encourage you to take immediate action to discourage and end conversion therapy within your jurisdiction.

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We ask the City of Saskatoon to:

- a. Enact legislation banning conversion therapy in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.
- b. Advocate at the provincial and federal levels for the banning of conversion therapy and for the inclusion of a ban on the practice in the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Criminal Code.

We encourage you to bring attention to the inequities and discriminatory treatment of LGBTQ2S persons in health and long-term care, sports and recreation, housing, education, employment, and justice.

We strongly believe that everyone should be treated with human dignity and respect and urge you to reflect these values in your legislation regarding conversion therapy.

Troy Chmil, Co-Chair of Council

Sarah Tut, Co-chair of Council