

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Email - Communication - Florence Paquette - Banning Conversion Therapy - CK 100-26 - Emailed for Address  
**Date:** Monday, April 20, 2020 7:09:31 AM

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Dear City Counsel,

Today, you meet to discuss banning Conversion Therapy in our city. But, I ask myself, do you understand what you are undertaking? I know many people don't understand it---the term I mean. And that's what makes it really hard to make such a decision when we don't really understand what it entails and the effects it may have.

That is one aspect of this undertaking, but the other is whether it would criminalize someone seeking counselling regarding their sexuality. Criminalize them and the person they speak to? This creeps far into an Orwellian type scenario where even our speech is monitored.

The other part of this is that it becomes unclear what a person can talk about. I don't agree with shaming a person for their sexual orientation or their gender confusion but nor do I agree that they can never question it, nor the acts that it would entail. Nor find someone to counsel them in working out who they are, in this part of themselves. Conversion Therapy appears to be a completely blanket statement to disallow any counselling or even conversation. If that's the case, we can't do this to people!

For the sake of this letter, I will speak to gender dysphoria in regards to counselling. Currently, a person has two options. One is to accept and embrace the gender they were born with, or two, go through hormone injections, and basically body mutilation to give the appearance of changing their gender. A gender is never really changed. Yes, many claim a sense of euphoria when they find themselves with the body they desired, but many also find themselves at complete odds with (lack of a better word) a fake non-sexually functioning body. And since I don't have enough space here to talk about all of the disfunction people experience after surgery and hormonal treatments, I refer you to a very good book, entitled, [When Harry became Sally](#).

Full of compassion, it also pleads for sanity, in regards to gender dysphoria, especially where children are concerned. Adults, who are far better equipped to make such life-altering decisions, decide, after compassionate counselling, to make that huge decision to alter their body. Some are happy with it, some regret it, but at least they made the decision as an adult.

Children, teens, on the other hand are not in a position to make such life-changing decisions. Adolescence is a time for questioning and discovering who we are, as it should be, but it is not a time, given all of the confusion and lack of life experience, to make a decision that will have you on hormone therapy for the rest of life, unable to go through puberty, impact your body as such and never have children.

I quote from the book named above: "Zucker is a psychologist who ran the centre for

Addiction and Mental Health (CAMPH) in Toronto for 3 decades and directed its Gender Identity Clinic (GIC). He is perhaps the most frequently cited name in research on gender identity and the editor of the journal *Archives of Sexual Behaviour*. Zucker has been at the forefront of developing treatments for people with gender dysphoria and he headed the group that wrote the entry on gender dysphoria for the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, the official handbook of the American Psychiatric Association. Yet he was abruptly fired from the Toronto clinic one morning in December 2015.... Never mind that he had recommended transition therapies for scores of patients over the years and had never tried to "detransition" a patient. He was targeted for his belief that *children represent a special kind of gender dysphoria, and that their long-term well-being may not be served by automatically encouraging them to transition. (page 22)*. In reality, Zucker was not doing "reparative therapy" or "conversion therapy", but his clinic took a cautious approach to treating children. The clinicians viewed it as preferable for a child to become comfortable with his or her natal gender" instead of beginning a process of social transition, a process that tends to become self-reinforcing because "children naturally respond to the messages they get from parents and peers and society," Singal explains. (page 23) End of quote.

The book goes on to say that children in this case would often desist from the gender dysphoria. And who can really argue with accepting our gender as it is. It is no small feat to change our biology. Nature, after all is best left to its design. It would seem, therefore, that we are more concerned with taking down a perceived enemy, (conversion therapy) than really helping our children. In fact, as I stated at the beginning of this letter, we are confused about what Conversion therapy is, and now we see by the example above, that we call it that, even when it isn't. One woman even thought it was talking people into becoming Gay or Lesbian.

So today, how can you even ban something that is so misunderstood. Bring some clarity to the issue first, make sure our children are being served properly, and don't create a system where institutions, or misunderstandings undermine the role of parents. Because when we create a ban such as this, we give authority to such while taking away, first of all a place to work things out, and second as we saw in Vancouver (where such a ban exists) a parent's loss of ability to protect his daughter and a ban even on his speech to call her as such. Children more than ever require the protection of a parent, not an added deal to their confusion.

I realize that I tried to cover a lot of angles in this letter. It is no small issue to cover and talk about, but talk about it we should, not ban the conversation.

Thank you,

Florence Paquette



For one thing, is Conversion Therapy a therapy which would endeavour to  
On Thu, 16 Apr 2020 18:02:31 +0000, City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>  
wrote: