



Feb 25, 2020

To: Mayor Charlie Clark & City Councillors,

Thank you for serving the citizens of Saskatoon.

I feel compelled to write - concerning a proposal brought to you - re reparative or conversion therapy.

I think a by law like this would undermine Freedom of Expression and of Religion. I sought the advice of a trusted lawyer, so I am sharing some of this with you.

" As governmental entities, municipalities are subject to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms under sec. 32. A city banning conversion therapy would offend the Charter in the following ways.

- Section 7 of the Charter protects an individual's right to make personal choices from state interference. Sexual behavioural choices go to the very core of individual dignity and therefore should be protected from state interference. Individuals with unwanted same-sex attractions have the right to seek conversion therapy. Banning access to this therapy is an affront to sexual autonomy. A ban on any type of counselling that promotes a traditional view of marriage and sexuality is also overly broad and therefore contrary to the principles of natural justice.

- Section 2(b) protects freedom of expression and the underlying freedoms of the pursuit of truth, participation in the community, individual self-

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fulfillment and human flourishing. A ban on conversion restricts the content and form of expression promoting traditional sexual values. The bylaw could potentially restrict a spiritual advisor, such as a priest or pastor, from counselling a parishioner regarding their unwanted same-sex attractions.

- Jurisdictional issues: Some municipalities that have passed bylaws banning conversion therapy have implemented fines as high as \$10,000. These bylaws are prohibitions backed with a penalty, which puts them under a criminal head of power. As such, the bylaws are not valid because in passing them, the municipalities have exceeded their jurisdiction under the constitutional division of powers.

I urge you not to pass this conversion therapy ban.

Sincerely
 Mary Rindeau
 Saskatoon S7N [REDACTED]
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