

SSUC Saskatoon
c/o [REDACTED] Nordstrum Court
Saskatoon, SK
S7K [REDACTED]

March 16, 2020

Saskatoon City Council
222 3rd Ave N
Saskatoon, SK
S7K 0J5

Dear Mayor Charlie Clark and Members of City Council

We, as a spiritual community, respectfully request that the City of Saskatoon pass a bylaw banning the practice of Conversion therapy within the City of Saskatoon. Although the federal government has put forth a bill banning the practice, there is no guarantee that it will be passed and, if it is indeed passed, the wheels of parliament seem to turn slowly. It would be appreciated if the City of Saskatoon demonstrated compassion and courage in taking a stand against this cruel practice and protect vulnerable members of our community.

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.

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.

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.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter,

Trisha Little
Administrative personnel and member