

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Email - Communication - Florence Paquette - Banning Conversion Therapy - CK 100-26  
**Date:** Sunday, April 26, 2020 7:36:53 PM  
**Attachments:** [letter\\_re\\_conversion\\_therapy.docx](#)

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Submitted on Sunday, April 26, 2020 - 19:36

Submitted by anonymous user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

Date Sunday, April 26, 2020

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name Florence

Last Name Paquette

Email [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED] Cavers St

City Saskatoon

Province Saskatchewan

Postal Code S7K [REDACTED]

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable)

Subject Banning Conversion Therapy, changing definition as we see fit to shut people up.

Meeting (if known) Conversion Therapy (CK 100-26)

Comments

I have attached a letter in order to ask City Council to bring some sanity to this issue which essentially proposes to make criminals out of people who would answer questions about sexuality, based upon scientific and religious truths. I would be very happy to join other Saskatonians in a joint effort to have discussions to this end so we can understand one another, rather than banning speech and thus our freedom.

Attachments

letter\_re\_conversion\_therapy.docx

<[https://www.saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/webform/letter\\_re\\_conversion\\_therapy.docx](https://www.saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/webform/letter_re_conversion_therapy.docx)>

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

[REDACTED]

My favorite Professor at University used to explain History this way. You have the thesis, anti-thesis and synthesis where things can work together in a civil manner. Here in Saskatoon, I hope we find the synthesis, and NOT engage in a ban on Conversion Therapy because this issue, as stated below is rife with many problems that Council must look into.

- 1) The by-law would state that no business can perform Conversion Therapy. Was this wording used so that the group requesting this ban, could have jurisdiction, in a Municipal arena? Because, it is really unprecedented that Municipalities would get involved in creating laws of this nature.
- 2) Do such businesses even exist in Saskatoon? How pressing is this issue to demand a ban?
- 3) Why do we have someone who doesn't even live here submitting letters to create a bylaw in our city?
- 4) Do we have a clear understanding or definition of Conversion therapy? Is it used for people who have same sex attraction or is it used for people who have gender dysphoria? What does it look like, what is involved? Do the members of council who have voted yes to banning it, have a definition to go by? A quick search on Google will reveal that it is constantly evolving and an article in the Calgary edition of thestar.com, Dec 8, 2019, reveals that by-law changes in cities are only the beginning. Those who propose the ban don't even have a clear definition and are changing it as they go along. And revealed by this quote in the same article:

“Gajdics said he thinks Journey Canada and its events should have been prohibited under the ban, because he considers what they do conversion therapy.

Journey Canada's communications manager and Calgary program co-ordinator Graeme Lauber said the organization does not perform conversion therapy (he defined conversion therapy as attempts to change a person's sexual orientation).

- 5) If that's not what it is, what are we banning? How easy will it be to charge someone under this ban?
- 6) At what point is a person breaking the law? When helping a child explore the many questions that pop up during adolescence for example? When helping a child accept the body they were born with? We're all dissatisfied with that at one time or another, are we not?
- 7) At what point are we willing to deny Science in order to fit an agenda?
- 8) I cite from *When Harry became Sally*, page 790. “a standard embryology text used in prominent medical schools, Langman's Medical embryology , for example , concisely explains how the sex of a new organism is determined at fertilization: “An X-carrying sperm produces a female (XX) embryo, and a Y-carrying sperm produces a male (XY) embryo. Hence, the chromosomal sex of the embryo is determined at fertilization.<sup>1</sup> A new human organism of a particular sex is created at that moment.”

- 9) We want to prevent suicide for those who are homosexual but are we also aware of the risk of suicide among those who transition to another gender? Cooper, the youngest male to transition in the UK, suffered such torment living as a woman that she has tried to commit suicide twice. Hers, is but one example among others. Yet, is her suicide attempt somehow less important than others'?
- 10) Do we recognize the role parents play in their children's lives in guiding them through the complex years of puberty? When parents choose a therapeutic approach to explore the reasons for the gender dysphoria there's a great likelihood that the child will come to identify with their body as opposed to being on hormone treatment for the rest of their life, reconstructing their body through numerous surgeries, foregoing puberty, not growing their full height, nor developing proper bone density, and becoming infertile. If a child came to a parent with another problem, a caring parent would seek counselling, why not in this area?

Now that those questions have been asked and I hope answered, I will proceed with my point about synthesis.

The thesis: it used to be that homosexuality was a criminal act. Further, homosexuals could be discriminated against and weren't accepted unless they hid, changed or somehow, pretended to be straight. Mostly, they were good and honest people who deserved to be treated with respect and dignity. Yet, they are criminalized.

The anti-thesis : Homosexuality is not only accepted , but every major city has a massive celebration and parade every year to celebrate their pride. We find a divide among those who see the gift of same-sex attraction, as a call to chastity and those who fully embrace the sexual nature of their attractions. Transsexuals finally find support from society but soon there is tension. Some are happy to transition, others de-transition, regretting their choice. Tension grows. Counselling, however, to understand oneself and the why behind the dysphoria is frowned upon. Some women's rights are eroded. For example, a woman needing the safety of Sexual assault center now has to contend with a male there simply because he says he's female. She feels unsafe in the one place that has offered her safety. Some good, honest people try to point this out but they are shamed and ridiculed. Eventually cities bring in by-laws that prohibit them from expressing their views. Will they be criminalized

Synthesis: ( and my sincere hope) The City Council of Saskatoon, however, are an enlightened group and they decide to bring the two groups together who submitted letters, in an effort to create understanding and especially to make sure that we are making the right decisions for our children. Since children are our future, we set our differences aside and begin to find common ground in our love and understanding ( each from our own perspective) of what it means to be a child of God and what it looks like to help our children navigate the teen years of discovery and exploration. I would gladly participate in such a group provided that it was based on research, honesty, and respect for differing points of view. That looks much better than banning something that keeps evolving, to me.

Florence Paquette