

Walter, Penny

Subject: FW: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council
Attachments: outsaskatoon_letter_of_support_for_bylaw_no.9747_community_support_submitted.pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 7:47 AM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council

Submitted on Monday, February 22, 2021 - 07:46

Submitted values are:

Date Monday, February 22, 2021
To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
First Name Amanda
Last Name Guthrie
Phone Number
Email
Address 10th Street East
City Saskatoon
Province Saskatchewan
Postal Code
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable) OUTSaskatoon
Subject Bylaw No.9747 - Conversion Therapy Ban
Meeting (if known) City Council Meeting
Comments
I am requesting to speak alongside Jack Saddleback in support of Bylaw No. 9747. We are both Co-Interim Executive Director's of OUTSaskatoon.

Contact information for both of us:

Thank you,

Amanda

Attachments

[outsaskatoon letter of support for bylaw no.9747 community support submitted.pdf](#)



February 22, 2021

As Saskatoon and area's 2SLGBTQ (Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer) community centre, as leaders within Saskatoon, and as 2SLGBTQ people ourselves, we write to you today and request your support of Bylaw No. 9747, The Prohibited Businesses Bylaw, which bans the use of conversion therapy.

At OUTSaskatoon, we envision a Saskatoon in which Two Spirit, Transgender, and Queer people are affirmed, celebrated, and are able to live full, free, and open lives. If we are to achieve this vision, discriminatory practices, including conversion therapy, must be publicly acknowledged, named, confronted, and stopped. The practice of conversion therapy serves to undermine a person's authentic identity and change who they are, in favour of heterosexual and cisgender norms. Practices that serve to eliminate, punish, and erase 2SLGBTQ identities have no place within a community that recognizes the benefits of and champions diversity and inclusion. If we are to say that Saskatoon is a welcoming place for all, then we must understand that conversion therapy has no place in our community.

Diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions have always existed and always will. The Mayor and City Council have made significant strides over the past four and a half years to acknowledge this and to support Saskatoon's growing and vibrant 2SLGBTQ community - for this we are grateful. Now we ask you to take the next step and continue supporting the community through banning a practice that has a long history of harming our community and will only continue to do so unless stopped.

Through banning conversion therapy, the Mayor, City Council, and the City of Saskatoon will send a clear message that 2SLGBTQ people are valued, respected, and deserving of support and protection. It will also send a message to those who perpetuate discrimination, harm, and erasure of our identities that their practices are harmful and are no longer allowable.

Finally, banning conversion therapy will not impact the ability for individuals to seek support or resources when they are struggling. The bylaw as it is written simply ensures that if an individual is seeking support, they will not experience coercive, abusive, and non-consensual services that seek to change their identity by individuals who favour heterosexual and cisgender identities.

At OUTSaskatoon we believe all people deserve equitable treatment, to be valued and respected as they are, and to find affirming support when they are struggling. We strongly urge

**BUILDING A
BRAVER FUTURE**



 213 Ave C S
Saskatoon, SK S7M 1N3

 306.665.1224
1.800.358.1833

 outsaskatoon.ca

the Mayor and each Councillor to vote in favour of Bylaw No. 9747; doing so would assure Saskatoon and more specifically, 2SLGBTQ residents, that the Mayor and City Council believe in these values and goals as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Guthrie'.

Amanda Guthrie
Co-Interim Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jack Saddleback'.

Jack Saddleback
Co-Interim Executive Director

**BUILDING A
BRAVER FUTURE**

In the interest of gathering community support in a safe way, we provided community members the opportunity to submit their anonymous support for Bylaw No. 9747. For many within our community submitting a letter of support through the City's website, which would then become public record, would compromise their safety.

The following are responses we received from people who answered yes to having undergone any form of conversion therapy, or who have friends or family who have undergone any form of conversion therapy:

1. I grew up in a church which condemned homosexuality and it made me feel terrible about myself. I still am not out today and am stuck in a loveless marriage still afraid to be who I am. - Anonymous
2. I was continually told for years by a youth pastor that being gay was punishable by hell and being trans was an abomination. That never should have happened and there should have been laws in place to stop people from teaching these messages to children or anyone else, for that matter. There should have been laws to protect me and others from leaders who told us that. - Anonymous
3. I grew up with someone who's parents placed them in a conversion camp against their will. This was not my experience to recount, however as a friend of this individual I witnessed first-hand the pain and trauma it caused. To this day the family does not think they did anything wrong, allowing this type of abuse to continue sends a message that it is ok, or is a matter of "personal belief" however that is simply not the case as it contributes to a culture of violence, judgement and discrimination toward members of the LGBTQ+ community. - Anonymous
4. I had a very close friend go to counselling sessions that we're attempts to convert his sexuality. He attempted suicide multiple times due to mental illnesses that were exacerbated by his self hatred that centered around his sexuality. - Anonymous
5. My family held an intervention for me when I introduced them to my girlfriend, and explained to me that I was going to hell, and Jesus didn't approve. - Anonymous
6. I tried to end my life 2 years ago because I didn't feel free to be myself. - Anonymous
7. I have been heavily involved in multiple churches in the past and there were incidents where a child's identity surrounding sexuality was actively repressed. Where a child was slowly coerced into asking for forgiveness for their "sinful" thoughts. This same detrimental attitude is prevalent in conversion therapy. - Anonymous



213 Ave C S
Saskatoon, SK S7M 1N3
306.665.1224
1.800.358.1833
outsaskatoon.ca

8. In order to find community in my first year of University I joined Campus for Christ, now Power To Change, and at the time was still wrestling with my sexual orientation as I had grown up in a Christian household and in a small city where there was no representation of queer people. When members of my bible study group found out that I was possibly interested in other women they held a prayer circle and prayed upon me to change. It was horrifying; being made to feel like I was second-class, disgusting, an abomination. I had already struggled with depression and suicidal thoughts in high school, but to experience that at 19 years old severely impacted all aspects of my life and resulted in severe depression and a suicide attempt. It impacts me to this day. Whether a person is a minor or an adult, it has the same impact. Adults are no less vulnerable. Please vote in favour of this ban. With the federal government implementing Bill C-6, all levels of government should implement legislation or bylaws to send the clear message that these actions can no longer be tolerated.
- Anonymous

The following are messages of support for Bylaw No. 9747, answering the question:

Why do you support the City of Saskatoon implementing a ban on conversion therapy?

- | |
|---|
| 1. I believe conversion therapy is wrong and that all people should feel free to be who they are and not be made to change for the comfort of others and their outdated views. |
| 2. I believe conversion therapy is wrong and that all people should feel free to be who they are and not be made to change for the comfort of others and their outdated views. |
| 3. It is wrong and a violation of human rights. Everyone should have the right to choose. |
| 4. No one should ever feel that they need to change something about themselves that can't be changed. By banning conversion therapy, the city tells the LGBTQIA+ community that they are accepted for who they are. |
| 5. Because it's wrong, demeaning, belittling, and humiliating on so many levels. |
| 6. A cruel & necessary practice that has no place here. |

**BUILDING A
BRAVER FUTURE**

7. Because it is 2021 and humankind should be so much better than this by now. I am a heterosexual mom who wants a much more loving and accepting world for my kids than shit like this.
8. Conversion therapy is a violation of human rights. There are no “if, and or buts” about it. The fact that conversion therapy is still in practice to this day is unacceptable. If there are individuals struggling with their sexuality or whatever it may be, better and healthier options should be prioritized and made accessible and known to the public.
9. Let people love who they want to love, let people be who they want to be, conversion therapy shouldn't be a thing! You can't convert someone from who they really are. I feel if anything if said persons family was against lgbtq+ they would put there kids in conversion therapy and that's not right or fair! Let people be themselves without having to be afraid. There is no harm in loving who you want to love or being who you want to be. End of the we are all human we are all people show love and support and kindness.
10. Conversion therapy is awful, and needs to be banned due to the trauma it causes lgbtq+ people.
11. This draconian and abusive practice has gone on for far too long.
12. Intentionally and unavoidable Harm to LGBT2S people. Unethical practice that misinforms and takes advantage of people.
13. Because it is inhumane
14. I believe that everyone has a right to live the life they should live. No one should be forced to change what they want or who they are by any means and as such I support the City of Saskatoon implementing a ban on conversion therapy. I have the ability to decide who I want to be and who I want to love and so should everyone else.
15. I support the city banning conversion therapy because it is wrong. They are basically doing everything wrong to try to “change them back to how they have to be” . No one should go through that at all
16. Everyone should be allowed to be themselves, regardless of who they love.
17. Because conversion therapy has no place existing in 2021. It's detrimental to the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of people. Love is valid, no matter what.

18. I support the Ban on conversion therapy in Saskatoon because it is an inhumane and unethical process that harms individuals on the quest to be themselves. This kind of therapy is deeply rooted in an oppressive system that has no place in a contemporary society.

19. As a member of the LGBTQ community, I believe conversion therapy is horrible and traumatic and it should not exist in 2021.

20. Conversion therapy is a disregard for human rights, and I believe that who I am does not need to be fixed.

21. I support this ban because no one deserves to go through the trauma that conversion therapy results in. This isn't even real "therapy", it is just cruel and wrong. Anyone with compassion should know that this ban is the right thing to do for the people of Saskatoon.

22. Conversion therapy is an inhuman practice based in pseudoscience and religious fanaticism. Not only is it extremely detrimental to the people that are forced to go through it, there is plenty of evidence that it does not change one's orientation. It is a disgusting violation of human rights and should've been banned a long time ago.

23. it is inhumane and completely unnecessary, there is nothing wrong with being LGBTQ2S hence why conversion therapy is unneeded

24. <https://www.google.ca/amp/s/www.macleans.ca/opinion/i-experienced-conversion-therapy-and-its-time-to-ban-it-across-canada/amp/>

25. All our community members need to be supported, respected and accepted, despite race, religion, pronouns, sexual preference and/or gender identification.

26. Because its wrong to have conversion therapy... it is 2021...

27. It's the 21st century; it's time we let people be who they were meant to be.

28. Studies have disproven the desired outcome of conversion therapy and has proven that it leads to mental health problems. It's an outdated form of social reform. It's also no ones business but the individual in question as to whom they love or date

29. Let people be who they want to be. We should all be allowed control of our own body and mind.

30. because conversion therapy is awful, traumatic and dehumanizing to lgbtq2s+ youth

31. Because it's so wrong

32. Conversion therapy is cruel and has traumatized so many people, a ban is absolutely necessary

33. Conversion therapy is harmful to LGBTQ+ people, and it can lead to traumatic experiences that can last a lifetime. LGBTQ+ youth are VALID, and banning conversion therapy could save countless lives

34. Conversion therapy is wrong. People should be free to be who they are!

35. It's an outdated and barbaric method to treat a perceived illness that does not exist. Being LGBT is not an illness, it's being human. Conversion therapy has a documented history of resulting in mental trauma. Conversation therapy should have been left in the 20th century alongside psychiatric hydrotherapy and the ice pick lobotomy.

36. Because conversion therapy is mentally and emotionally straining on individuals, and doesn't deserve a place anywhere, let alone in our city and province.

37. All people are a gift and need to be supported and celebrated in their uniqueness.

38. Conversion therapy is sick! A person has as much choice in their sexual orientation as they do in deciding the weather everyday. You can't control it. LOVE IS LOVE.

39. It's barbaric and statistically/scientifically proven to cause emotional trauma while being ineffective in "converting" people.

40. Conversion therapy has been shown to be a severely harmful and unethical practice, with no credible research indicating that that it can succeed at changing a person's sexual orientation, gender identity or, gender expression. Conversion therapy is a deceptive and dangerous practice and creates extreme trauma for its victims. These practices imply that being apart of the LGBTQ2 community is a "sin" and something that needs to be fixed or "cured". Banning conversion therapy is essential for allowing a safe space for LGBTQ2 population in Saskatoon and ensuring that people's human rights are not violated.

41. In 2021 we as a society should be well beyond this sort of regressive, archaic, harmful practice. Equality for ALL and for a government to be unsupportive of that would ultimately be un-savvy, in poor taste, shameful, and un-modern.

42. Supports a history of violence against the queer community.

43. Because it is unethical and cruel

44. Conversion therapy is outdated and should be considered a violation of human rights.

45. Conversion therapy is outdated and should be considered a violation of human rights.

46. Archaic practice that causes significant damage.

I support a ban on allowing conversion therapy, as this ban allows us to all stand united in who we are and who we are truly meant to be. Without fear of conversion therapy, we can create a more welcoming, diverse community in which we all will thrive.

47. It is a disgusting and old practice that should have never happened, I'm shocked and disgusted it is not banned already.

48. I believe that conversion therapy should be banned because it is inhumane and unnecessary. Sexuality is a private matter and does not cause anyone harm.

49. Conversion therapy has detrimental effects on a person's mental health, condemning them for their sexuality which they had no control of; It can seclude them from seeking mental health support and can lead to chronic depression and suicide.
50. Because I want to protect any of my loved ones and friends from ever having to go through that traumatic experience.
51. People should be allowed to love whoever they want and never be forced to change.
52. It's not a real thing you can't change a person's sexuality and you should not want to either.
53. Because it is an outdated practice that is based upon the belief that being LGBTQ2S+ is a choice and not a part of who you are. It is a scary, manipulative and inappropriate practice and it has no place in our city.
54. Because it is ridiculous that it is still a thing in 2021. People are who they are and we should support them not try to change them.
55. It is harmful beyond words. It doesn't "work" and just increases the suicide rate of already struggling people.
56. Conversion therapy is cruel and serves no purpose but to punish a person for an essential part of themselves that cannot be changed. Its continued use is based in religious fundamentalism; it has no place in a just society that purports to protect children.
57. Conversion therapy tells a person that there is something inherently wrong with them that is unnatural and needs to be fixed. There is nothing wrong with our LGBTQ2 community.
58. It's a wrong and inhuman practice
59. No one should have the right to decide who a person loves. Love is love and I believe it's a hate crime.
60. It's a discredited practice that can be extremely harmful and dangerous for an individual. There is no place for that here.
61. I support the ban of conversion therapy as someone's sexuality should be their choice, not an influence from others.

62. Everyone has a right to be true to themselves and be who they were born to be. Conversion therapy is wrong and it treats people like they are less than human

63. Yes

64. Conversion "therapy" is an archaic practice that has no place in our city.

65. I do not believe a person's free will should be taken away from them. People have the right to an opinion but should not have the right to force their will into someone else.

66. Conversion therapy is inhuman, treating someone as lesser and needing to be "corrected" based on who they choose to love or how they want be identified not lining up with conventional heterosexual norms is wrong.

67. Conversion therapy is wrong and harmful for members of the LGBTQ+ community. There is no data showing it works other than tearing families apart or higher rates of self-harm amongst members of the LGBTQ+ community. Government should have no power or say over implementing religious practices. The only time they should have a say is when it is harmful to citizens. It is horrible that the city has not ban this practice before now.

68. Because it is outdated and wrong at that. There should be no reason for conversation therapy to still be allowed when it is wrong.

69. I support the ban on conversion therapy because people are allowed to love who they want, be with who they want, and I fully support the LGBTQ+ community. Conversion therapy never should've been introduced in the first place, and I honestly didn't know it was still legal anywhere in Canada. This is a horrendous practise, and I hope it is banned.

70. Because conversion therapy is ridiculous and awful.

71. you cannot change who you love, all conversion therapy does is cause unnecessary harm

72. Because love is love

73. Conversion therapy is extra trauma that those that are LGBTQ+ don't need in their lives; stresses already come from a myriad of other places and it's inhumane and disgusting to subject someone to conversion therapy.

74. Because it's always been wrong.

75. Because love is love. Who are we to say what is right and what is wrong. Being in love is one of the best things there is and to stop that is so not okay.

76. It's a medieval barbaric practice that has no place in this society.

77. because im gay and i deserve to have my right to be myself and free.

78. Being gay, trans or any part of the sliding scale is a basic human right and doesn't need any sort of treatment. This kind of "therapy" is archaic and should have been banned at the same time that lobotomy was no longer a valid form of treatment for any mental health issue.

79. Because it is fundamentally wrong, everyone should be allowed to live how they choose and love who they love without being forced to endure the psychological abuse of conversion therapy

80. I support the City of Saskatoon implementing a ban on conversion therapy out of support for the 2SLGBTQ+ community. Conversion therapy is horrible and harmful, and it is shocking that it has not already been banned.

81. This is an outdated approach to helping. Who has the right to tell anyone who they can be with in a relationship, same sex or not. Update this "therapy" and get with the times. This isn't a head cold you can "cure" lol

82. Yes

83. Everyone has a right to feel safe and comfortable in their own sexuality. I can't believe that people are still letting this happen or ever let it happen. Love who you want to love, as long as you're not hurting anyone everyone else can mind their own.

84. It is outdated, barbaric and tone deaf. We now know better. DO better.

85. People should be allowed to be who they are. Conversion therapy is incredibly harmful mentally, emotionally, and often physically and it has no place in Canada.



 213 Ave C S
Saskatoon, SK S7M 1N3

 306.665.1224
1.800.358.1833

 outsaskatoon.ca

86. It is unethical and inhumane. For decades, conversion therapy has been used as a means of asserting power over others and shaming already marginalized people. I would be embarrassed to call Saskatoon home if it continued to permit conversion therapy.

87. no one deserves to have to feel like they cannot be themselves and be forced to change for other people. The fact that we are even having this discussion in 2021 is shameful and disgusting. We can do better. We need to do better.

88. Conversion therapy is extremely harmful to people in the LGBTQ+ community, specifically youth. It shows complete lack of tolerance towards members of the community and should have no place in modern society.

89. Because there is nothing wrong with being LBGTQ and to suggest that is something you that needs to be cured is offensive. Acceptance is what is needed!

90. Conversion therapy is an extremely harmful, hateful, and ignorant practice that has no place existing anywhere.

91. Yes

92. Everyone has the right to express their preferred sexual orientation and it's ineffective and harmful to a human body.

93. I support the City of Saskatoon implementing a ban on conversion therapy because it is a necessary step towards mending relationships with LGBTQIA+ people.

94. Conversion therapy is wrong is so many ways, takes rights and freedom away from Canadians

95. There is no reason to allow conversion therapy to happen - for one, it doesn't work and is only mentally/emotionally suppressive and harmful to those who go through it both the short and long term. Second, it's unnecessary! Who one chooses to love and be attracted to is no one's business but their own. An outdated and terrible practice that needs to end. Love is love!

96. It is an outdated practice that harms more people than it "helps". It's disgusting that in 2021 this is even a conversation. Obviously vote yes to banning conversion therapy.

**BUILDING A
BRAVER FUTURE**

97. Conversion therapy harms lgbtq youth and helps with nothing.

98. it's disgusting

99. Conversion therapy is harmful, hurtful, and simply outdated. It should've been banned years ago.

100. Because that's inhumane and evil and should have been banned years ago

101. It's an outdated, archaic way of thinking turned into action that does not belong in modern society.

102. There is absolutely no reason why these kinds of facilities/"services" should be allowed to exist. The expression and existence of individuality, sexuality, gender identity, and sexual orientation are no one else's business, concern, or right to comment on. We have a responsibility—and city council had a responsibility—to keep ALL residents safe. That includes conversion therapy.

103. It is wrong and outdated. It is a sick practice that should not be used anymore.

104. Everyone deserves the right to have the freedom to be themselves, and love who they love.

105. Absolutely not

106. Because I believe people don't need to be ashamed of what makes them happy as long as they don't cause harm to others.

107. Conversion therapy promotes a harmful, abusive and false belief that gender identity, orientation and expression are illnesses that can be treated. It should be banned.

108. Part of being an inclusive and supportive community requires that we trust our community members to know themselves. Forcing change against an identity or person is the antithesis of community. Stronger communities need diversity.

109. Conversion therapy does incredible damage to young people and prevents them from developing healthy mindsets and relationships. It is not a therapy that is given by medical professionals for a real issue but a tactic used by adults whose agenda to punish and control children. Loving women has been a blessing in my life and I would not trade it for anything. No one deserves to be forced through conversion therapy.
110. Because it's not 1950! & Someone's Sexuality is no ones Business but their own!
111. Diversity is resilience. 2SLGBTQIA+ people are valuable and necessary for our greater societal health.
112. Because this is a horrific, barbaric practice that is forced upon someone, always unwillingly. Everyone should be allowed to be how they are and not forced to conform to someone else's beliefs or way of life. The practice is associated with increased negative mental health outcomes and greater rates of attempted suicide.
113. I'm disgusted that this even needs to be a discussion. Do better Saskatoon.
114. Because it's fucking mentally abusive. I can't believe this still happens.
115. There's nothing wrong with gay people, they don't need to be converted into anything/anyone
116. It's unethical and a complete infringement on human rights
117. Conversion therapy doesn't work, it just causes more pain and suffering.
118. Because no one should be made to feel like they are not ok the way they were born, or the way they feel is wrong.
119. People need to feel safe to be themselves in their own city. We need to show LGBTQIA2S+ people that they are loved and valued.
120. It is an absolutely damaging practice that should never exist. Queer individuals deserve acceptance and love exactly as they are.



213 Ave C S
Saskatoon, SK S7M 1N3
306.665.1224
1.800.358.1833
outsaskatoon.ca

121. Conversion therapy is an abusive and inappropriate practice which directly harms youth. No city that celebrates Pride and inclusivity can allow it to continue.

122. Conversion therapy is inhumane. It is wrong to brainwash people into thinking that their queerness is a sin. Banning conversion therapy will also bring a positive message of acceptance towards LGBTQ+ members of the city and the world around us.

123. People shouldn't dictate how others live their lives

124. Conversion therapy is a very harmful treatment to fix something that doesn't need to be fixed, it's a solution to a problem someone else has

125. There's no such things as "conversion".

126. Conversion "therapy" is inhumane. Period.

127. Conversion Therapy is wrong.

128. Banning conversion therapy is a step in building a society that prioritizes harm reduction and promotes further acceptance of the beautiful LGBTQ+ community here in Saskatoon. Conversion therapy is an act based purely in hate and discrimination and I hope City Council supports the ban of this torturous practice.

129. Yes

130. I am a member of the LGBTQ+ community, as are a number of my friends. We are perfect the way we are - we are not broken, and we do not need to be "fixed". Conversion therapy does not provide any good to the people it is supposedly helping, and it teaches LGBTQ+ people that we should be ashamed of who we are. We deserve to be treated the same as any heterosexual or cisgendered person, and conversion therapy provides a basis for us to be considered as lesser than. Conversion therapy has no place in Saskatoon or anywhere else in the world.

131. Conversion Therapy is psychological abuse. It serves only to harm gay and lesbian people.

132. Yes

133. It's archaic, ineffective and inhumane.

**BUILDING A
BRAVER FUTURE**

134. I'm shocked that conversion therapy still exists. In our advanced, modern society, we must change policies and bylaws to ensure the acceptance of individuality and protect the rights and safety of people who identify as LBGTQ2.

135. Everyone has the right to live and love the way they feel most themselves. Government has no place in dictating how people choose to love one another. To use such archaic methods is to say you do not care about the community or human rights. Ban conversion therapy and take the right steps towards inclusion.

136. Because conversion therapy has proven to lead to higher levels of anxiety, depression, drug use, homelessness, and suicide. It is detrimental to mental health of those forced to go through it and causes wedges in families that cannot always be repaired. By supporting the ban, you set an example for those who think they are for the greater good, when they are very much not.

137. Because this is ridiculous

138. It's ineffective and abusive

139. It is cruel and unacceptable for people to be forced into trying to change something about themselves that is harmless.

140. There is no positive health outcomes for individuals subjected to conversion therapy. In fact the opposite effect tends to be true. No one should be subjected to this archaic version of "therapy".

141. There is ample evidence from peer-reviewed studies to conclude that conversion therapy is ineffective and/or harmful because it leads to depression, suicide, anxiety, social isolation and decreased capacity for intimacy (Beckstead and Morrow 2004; Borowich 2008; Dehlin et al. 2014; Fjelstrom 2013; Flentje, Heck and Cochran 2013; Haldeman 2001; Jones, Botsko and Gorman 2003; Marcus 2011; Schroeder and Shidlo 2002; Shidlo and Schroeder 2002; Smith, Bartlett and King 2004; Weiss et al. 2010)

142. Because it is completely wrong and there's honestly no reason for it. We don't have conversion therapy for people who are straight to be apart of the LGBTQIA2+ community, so why have it be the other way around? The trauma that is placed on that person afterwards is horrible and nobody should ever live with that. The fact that conversion therapy is even an option right now is disgusting. Why change people? Why not let others be who they are? I think banning conversion therapy is a good thing for everyone.

143. Conversion therapy is outdated, not evidence based and a tool to often inflict emotional and physical trauma. It should be banned. Period. Our community is a place for all people to thrive and feel a sense of community and connection. Conversion therapy has no place here.

144. Conversion therapy is an inhuman practice that I can't believe is still being used. It is known that conversion therapy can lead to depression, drug use, homelessness and suicide. It is a violation of a person's basic human rights. The thought that a person is told that they are wrong for who they love and that they need to be "corrected" is heart breaking and disgusting. I think it is very important that the City of Saskatoon shows its support for its LGBTQ community in moving forward with implementing the ban on conversion therapy.

145. Yes

146. Everyone deserves to feel safe to be themselves without feeling like they need to change. Conversion therapy is damaging.

147. It is not necessary and is very harmful. People are born who they are. What we need is more services to support and educate people so they can feel safe and comfortable in their own skin, and in our communities.

148. Everyone deserves to love. Conversion therapy is not only ineffective, but traumatizing.

149. It is wrong to try to make someone be something they are not.

150. Because every single person should have the right to live as they are in an open and accepting community. The City of Saskatoon needs to take a stand to show that conversion therapy should not have a place in any community and show that Saskatoon is an ally of the LGBTQ community.

151. Conversion therapy is harmful, doesn't work and most importantly, implies that being gay is something that is wrong and needs to be fixed which is absolutely untrue.

152. Because everyone should feel accepted, supported and loved for who they are

153. Conversion therapy is the antithesis of acceptance, inclusion, and diversity. It is harmful and perpetuates outdated and incorrect beliefs that sexuality is a choice and not something that is unique and intrinsic to each person, and its existence gives license to those who would harm and oppress the queer community, further invalidating diverse identities. Beyond this, conversion therapy has been shown to quite simply not work, because sexuality is not something we will, it's something we are. Banning conversion therapy sends a powerful message of acceptance and can work to reduce the harm and violence that many young queer and questioning experience as a result of conversion therapy and those that oppress through it.

154. It does not work. And it is a form of abuse

155. Because it's against human rights and we know better in this day and age!

156. We're all human. We have 2 legs and a heart beat. Doesn't matter who you love. We are all equal. If you don't support 2 people loving each other that's just very unfortunate. They're not the ones doing anything wrong, it's you for not supporting them and seeing how beautiful the love between two humans is. Same sex and all.

157. I support a ban on conversion therapy because it is barbaric and discriminatory.

158. Because conversion therapy is wrong and harmful to people. We need to support all people in whoever they are and not try and force them into fitting into ideas that make a certain group "comfortable". There is no reason for conversion therapy to exist and anyone who uses religion as the reason for it is misinformed and needs find Jesus.

159. It is wrong and goes against human rights.

160. Because I believe in human rights

161. To protect the rights of those who may be impacted by conversion therapy. Conversion therapy should be considered a form of modern torture. Conversion therapy doesn't work, perpetuates stigma and is inhumane.

162. People should be free to be who they are. Anyone who is not heterosexual does not have a "disease" or "illness" that needs to be treated or converted away from. All people deserve to be treated fairly and justly regardless of who they love or how they identify.

163. It is in the city of Saskatoon's best interest to protect all of it's citizens, including 2SLGBTQ+. I am an person who identifies under the asexual spectrum (ace-spec for short). I have only told 6 people, that I know personally and vetted to know that they would be safe to tell. I have not come out publicly due to fear of judgment, ridicule, and most of all conversion therapy. This bylaw and ban may not specifically cover Asexual individuals in it's language, but I know that there's people who identify as Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans or Queer who are just as terrified as I am of conversion therapy. It is impossible to contribute to the best of your abilities to your community if you are living in of fear of it, if you know that there are laws in place to hurt you. I may still not feel safe to publicly say that I am ace-spec, but passing this bylaw and ban will help many, many people feel safer in the city they live in, knowing that the city council has passed a ban that will help protect them from harm.

164. It's inhumane and manipulative.

165. Conversion therapy is unethical, abusive, and traumatizing.

166. Conversion therapy is inhumane

167. I don't believe that this is ethical in any way. It feels like a method used to punish. I believe every person has a right to love, be with and be who they are without question. I have a trans son and many friends within the LGBTQ2 family and I believe in their rights to be their authentic selves and love who they want without judgement or persecution

168. Conversion therapy has no place in 2021

169. Conversion therapy is barbaric and goes against an individuals human rights

170. Conversion theory is harmful to the LGBTQ+ community and people should be allowed to be who they are without fear of discrimination

171. Conversion therapy is a form of torture and an action that demonstrates homophobia and transphobia. There is no need to change or "convert" a queer person as there is nothing wrong in being queer. As a community we need to support LGBTQ2S+ individuals, and not banning conversion therapy demonstrates that we aren't 100% welcoming and supportive. We need to ban conversion therapy because of its abusive history and it's homophobic implications.

- | | |
|------|---|
| 172. | Member of lgtbqia, don't want anyone to go through that. |
| 173. | It is wrong to impose other people's choices on to someone else |
| 174. | Because these are HUMAN BEINGS and they are loveable exactly the way they are. Nobody should have to conform to someone else's ideals and this practice is insensitive and outdated. It needs to be banned. |
| 175. | It is preposterous that this even still exists |
| 176. | Because people should be able to love whoever they want to love without fear of being put through something as traumatic and horrendous as conversion therapy |
| 177. | Because it is highly immoral to enforce 'therapy' for something that is not wrong in any way. |
| 178. | Because there is nothing wrong with being gay. Love is love and no one should be forced to change who they are |
| 179. | Conversion therapy suggests that members of the LGBTQ2 community require correction from an affliction. Conversion therapy is not offered to heterosexual and cis individuals, so why is it offered to LGBTQ2 individuals? |
| 180. | Conversion therapy is clearly a form of homophobia. Allowing parents to force their children to be submitted to radical religious brainwashing is disgusting, and only perpetuates the discrimination the LGBTQ community is trying to end. |
| 181. | Because it's wrong! |
| 182. | Because it is a barbaric and discriminatory practice that implies there is something bad or wrong with people who are born a certain way when there absolutely is not. |
| 183. | I believe that conversion therapy should have been removed from our society long ago. By implementing a ban, the city can demonstrate their readiness to commit to being a better ally to the community. |

184. It is wrong and outdated and is lasting and harmful ideal throughout one's life.

185. Someone's sexuality is not a choice and to think that it can be "fixed" by inflicting trauma on them is inhumane

186. Someone's sexuality is not a choice and to think that it can be "fixed" by inflicting trauma on them is inhumane

187. Conversion therapy is cruel and queer people don't need to change.

188. I am part of the lgbtq+ community and I have family members who are part of the community as well who had to go through conversion therapy in young adulthood and it affected them in negative ways. Conversion therapy is very harmful to a persons mental well being.

189. Conversion therapy is cruel and unusual. LGBT people's identities aren't something that can or should be 'changed' and forcing young LGBT people to go through traumatic therapies to 'cure' them or to turn them heterosexual or cisgendered causes nothing but pain.

190. The LGBTQ community is not comprised of those who are 'sick', misguided or need to be 'healed'. The youth in this community face enough barriers and challenges without allowing for horrific practices like conversion therapy to stop them from finding joy in their own identity and self. I am so proud to live in a city where Council is taking on this issue directly and standing up to the inherent bigotry and hate intertwined with the notion of conversion therapy.

191. Conversion therapy is inhumane to queer people, and violates their human rights. No one should have the right to decide their child is wrong for being queer, and a ban on conversion therapy is necessary in order to protect young queer folks and set a precedence of acceptance so that queer youth feel safe and protected while living here.

192. Conversion therapy is dangerous and harmful to 2SLGBTQ+ folx. As a citizen of Saskatoon I strongly supporting the banning of conversion therapy.

193. I fully support the LGBTQIA+ community, and conversion therapy is not ethical, nor is it morally right.

194. It is an archaic practice that does nothing but greatly harm those who are forced to go through conversion therapy.

195. If LGBTQ+ people are to experience full cultural equality in our community that is equal to those that identify as heterosexual, then practices like conversion therapy should be banned as they imply that LGBTQ+ identity is inherently wrong and needs to be corrected. The City of Saskatoon's ban on conversion therapy challenges heteronormative ideas that have led to countless years of discrimination against LGBTQ+ people across the world, and seeks to create long-term inclusive culture in our city for individuals and families across spectrums of sexual orientation and identity.

196. Conversion therapy is harmful, inappropriate, and abusive.

197. It has no place in this city.

198. No one should be forcefully changed for who they are. Being LGBTQ+ is not a choice and no one should be punished or forced to be someone they are not. Conversion therapy is abuse and needs to be ended. Everyone deserves to feel loved and appreciated for who they are, and conversion therapy does the exact opposite of that.

199. It's a harmful therapy, and the fact it's still allowed condones hate and discrimination.

200. Inhumane

201. Conversion therapy is nothing more than psychological and physical torture with absolutely no place in a moral society. It completely strips away the humanity of its victims. There is no justifiable reason to not ban conversation therapy and any organization, politician, or person who supports it supports an inherently evil act. Saskatoon can be a leader in supporting a just society and it's LGBTQ+ community by banning this therapy.

202. I disagree completely with any form of conversion therapy and want to be an ally for the LGBTQ+ community.

203. It's inhumane and infringes upon Canadian rights and freedoms

204. Because conversion therapy is cruel and every person is allowed to love who ever they damn well please

205. Attempting to "fix" people that are not, and have never been, broken is dehumanizing. Conversion therapy only does harm, and kills, rather than saves lives. Treating LBGTQIA+ people like actual humans with actual respect is basic human decency. Our lives are on the line, and our rights and lives are ultimately being decided based on the fact that our identities and our existence is "wrong" or "broken".

206. It's in humane

207. Everyone deserves the right to be who they are and should never be forced to change or told they need to change. Being gay is NOT something that needs to be fixed.

208. This is a barbaric practice that hurts people.

209. Homophobic

210. Because its an inhumane way to deal with homosexuality

211. It is an archaic and extremist way of exercising intolerance to anything other than a heteronormative/colonialist way of life.

212. Gay conversion therapy is terrible and should never have been a legal practice to begin with.

213. Conversation therapy is inhuman and archaic.

214. Because it is an inhumane act forcing people to undergo abuse. All conversion therapy does is force people to hide their true identity.

215. It's in humane and homophobic

216. You are who you are. We should support people on being who they are, instead of trying to change them.

217. It subjects people of different sexual preference to an unethical and cruel procedure.

218. I don't believe that sexual orientation is a choice. No one should be able to force someone else to undergo the mental abuse in trying to "convert" them. As long as people aren't hurting themselves, or anyone else, their behaviour is up to them. You can't convert someone's sexual orientation, and why would you want to? They are perfect as they are.

219. Conversion therapy fails to recognize the natural fluidity of gender and sexual orientation that has existed in nature since its existence. I believe people are free to choose who they love and who they are as a person. Conversion therapy goes against this entirely.

220. Because homosexuality isn't something that needs "correction"

221. Because it's humane

222. All people should be celebrated

223. Conversation therapy is harmful. Many jurisdictions already have bans.

224. Because conversion therapy is a torturous practice that does not work, nor make any logical sense. It is torture masked by religious bodies.

225. Because it is not needed and no one should be forced to change who they truly are.

226. It is wrong

227. Because conversion therapy works to erase a part of people's (those who are members of the LGBTQ2S+ community) identity and causes negative lasting impacts on the lives of members of the LGBTQ2S+ community. It sends a clear message that being a member of that community is wrong and that is a very hurtful, disrespectful, and incorrect message. Allowing for this (conversion therapy) to continue not only hurts the members of the community who experience conversion therapy but it also allows for discrimination against the community to continue (as conversion therapy normalizes this form of discrimination).

228. It's an outdated and ridiculous practice that should've been banned years ago

229. Conversation therapy is a cruel practice. No one should be forced to change who they are.

230. It's terrible

- | |
|--|
| 231. Conversion therapy is a horrific practice that has no place in our city. This ban would send a strong message to all LGBTQ+ residents that Saskatoon is a safe and welcoming place for us. |
| 232. It's hurtful and offensive to the LBGTQ+ community. |
| 233. Because it's cruel and mentally damaging and should not be legal. |
| 234. I can't support a practice that has been proven to cause psychological damage and emotional harm to those who are forced through these programs. If a practice cannot be justified by science and can ONLY be justified through religious doctrine, it should not be implemented by a secular government. |
| 235. It is an archaic practice that demonizes LGBTQ folks with known and proven significant negative mental health effects on participants |
| 236. Because conversion therapy is harmful and does not belong in our society |
| 237. People should be able to get help if they see it needed |
| 238. It is an inhumane practice that does not honour the individual in each of us. My spouse is transgender and they are happier than ever before. Please ban this therapy. |
| 239. Because it's been shown to be so harmful to the people - particularly youth. It does so much damage to their self worth and esteem. |
| 240. It is an outdated and terrible form of "treatment". It doesn't help anyone and should be banned forever. |
| 241. It is a dangerous pseudoscience that does more harm than anything. |
| 242. Because it hurts minors |
| 243. It's inhumane to torture a person out of changing a fundamental part of who they are. There is no true reason for conversion therapy outside of religion and it is against the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to force a religious agenda. |

244. Because it's the right thing to do

245. Conversion therapy is something I wouldn't wish on my worst enemies. No one should be able to dictate other peoples identities. To put it lightly, conversion therapy should be seen as absolutely unacceptable and is practically a form of torture.

246. I cannot believe this is still in place in today's society. It should be abolished all together, it's a basic human rights issue. It's disgusting, an infringement on a minors rights and an indecent practise.

247. Allowing conversion therapy means we are allowing the narrative that anything other than heterosexuality is wrong/bad or an "illness". The medical community is supposed to "do no harm" yet trying to tell someone their sexuality is wrong and CONVERT them is creating harm. Please protect LGBTQ+ individuals (who are already at increased risk of mental illness due to stigma/discrimination) and ban conversion therapy!

248. It is inhumane and traumatizing, creating oppression and lack of support for LGBTQ+ communities in the city and provincially.

249. Because it's wrong. I believe it is psychologically damaging. Lgbtq2s people are not hurting anyone and deserve to live in peace.

250. Conversion is barbaric and will not only try to erase who a person is, but if successful lead them to live a life of self hated and shame.

251. Everyone matters

252. Because it's an outdated barbaric form of "treatment".

253. People love who they love. You can't change that.

254. Conversion therapy is harmful and discriminatory to our communities.

255. It is a disgusting, de-humanizing law that should never have been made to begin with. Being a part of the LGBTQ2S+ community is not something one should be “converted” out of. There’s no “conversion therapy” for straight people, why does that put straight people above everyone else?
256. Because it’s a disgusting thing and it needs to come to an end.
257. Should not be a thing today
258. Because it has been proven to be harmful to members of the LBGTQ2 community
259. It hurts people.
260. Because it is a terrible thing for the mental health of our LGBTQIA+ community and it implies that being a queer person is wrong and needs to fixed. I don’t agree with that.
261. Conversation therapy is inhumane
262. Conversion therapy is archaic, discriminatory, degrading and humiliating. There is no scientific evidence that sexual orientation can be changed.
263. Conversion therapy is disgusting. It’s based on simple minded religious views and we are not a place where church and law are combined and that’s exactly what this implements. You would have to be a fool to believe brainwashing is therapy. The girls, gays, they’s, non binary baes, ally’s and the works are here and are NOT going anywhere.
264. Everyone should have the right to be truly who they want to be and not forced to do something they never consented to
265. No should be forced to something without consent.
266. Everyone should have the right to be truly who they want to be and not forced to do something they never consented to
267. It’s in humane especially if it’s being forced upon people
268. It’s abuse and it doesn’t work. No need to change someone’s sexual preferences.

269. Because it is barbaric and we live in 2021. This is not something that should have ever been a thing.

270. Because conversion therapy is a tactic used to erase lgbt+ and causes more trauma and self hatred in our community. It is a form of oppression and should not be legal to perform

271. It's harmful and dangerous to impressionable minds

272. Everyone has the right to be who they are and shouldn't be judged for it, or converted to who society says they should be. There is no conversion therapy for heterosexuals so why should there be for gay, lesbian, trans , bisexuals?The need for trying to conform everyone to meet societies standards is proposterous!

273. Conversion therapy has NO place anywhere on this earth. This should have been banned YEARS ago.

274. I support the City of Saskatoon implementing a ban on convention therapy because it has been proven time and time again that it doesn't do what they claim. It is an inhumane practice that traumatized and oppressed people of the lgbtq+ community leaving a negative impact for the rest of their lives that shouldn't have been a thing in the first place. People shouldn't be punished, humiliated and treated so poorly for things that are natural and out of their control.

275. Conversion therapy is forceful and inconsiderate of others lives. The same concept is similar to residential schools and FN. It goes against people's freedom and supports the idea that it's ok to enforce ones beliefs onto others. We need to stop worrying about trying to make everyone "think" or "be" a certain way and celebrate who we are and the diversity that comes with that.

276. Conversion therapy is disgusting

277. Because it's inhumane and cruel.

278. Conversion therapy at its core is inhumane and directly harmful to those subjected to it. Such a practice has no place in our city and should not be allowed to continue. There's no reliable evidence proving it is effective at anything other than causing pain and lasting trauma. Saskatoon's 2SLGBTQIA+ community does not want or need to be converted and should be able to exist without fear of being sent for conversion therapy. For the mental health and peace of mind of all of us, please pass this bylaw and ban conversion therapy.

279. All right f us deserve to exist as our true selves

280. Conversion therapy has absolutely no place in the 21st century, and it has no place in this country, let alone our city. Its very foundations are flawed, and inhumane. It's time for it to go.

281. It's outdated and unnecessary in today's open society

282. I am part of the lgbtq+ community. I do not agree with conversion therapy as it is very harmful to any individuals. There is no reason for this kind of therapy to exist as there is nothing wrong with any individual in regards to their sexuality. Trying to change somebody and their sexuality is not productive or okay.

283. The practice of conversion therapy is extremely harmful, inhumane, and should have no place anywhere. People should not have to worry about their identity, be ridiculed, or told that they need to be 'fixed'. Far too many Canadians have been victimized by conversion therapy and we need to put an end to it, now. Conversion therapy infringes on basic human rights, and people of the LGBTQ+ community need to see that we are actively working to make necessary changes.

284. Yes

285. Everyone deserves to love who they love & live the life that makes them happiest.

286. Because it's the right thing to do

287. Because it is a horrible practice that should have never been created

288. because this is outdated and should not move on in my community.

289. I support the city of Saskatoon implementing a ban on conversion therapy because I am a supporter of the LGBTQ+ community. I believe that conversion therapy is a horrible and cruel thing that needs to be banned

290. It's inhumane that this "therapy" is not banned yet.

291. it is wrong and inhumane. all people should be celebrated and accepted as they are!

292. It's an inhumane practice that isn't even successful most of the time (ever?). It isn't a loving or Christ-like thing to try and do to people.

293. i am queer, most of my family and friends are queer. conversion therapy has always been a way to abuse, manipulate and brainwash people who choose to be themselves. i grew up christian and was forced to go to church every sunday and holidays and even bible camps every summer. i understand the cult-like community that most religions have. religious folk say they're just listening to what god said; while abusing, shaming and trying to control other's/their bodies. if you were a true christian you would know that the way christianity is displayed and taught now, would be the exact opposite of what god wants. being gay isnt a sin, being gay has nothing to with anyone else. being queer is a privilege and should be celebrated. if you believe in conversion therapy, you hate queer people and want to make them suffer, so you can be "comfortable". it is absolutely cruel and is not based on facts or truth. conversion therapy does nothing but make you absolutely hate yourself. if you were to vote against this bi-law, you are saying you don't care about others simply because you "disagree" with something that can simply not be disagreed with. being gay is just who some of us are and there is absolutely nothing wrong with it. choose to care about others.

294. Because, it's terrible to think people can't accept people for who they are

295. Conversion therapy should never have been a thing and should never be a thing again. It is a horrible practice that puts people through intense levels of harm for no reason because no one can choose what gender they love, it just happens and that will never change.

296. Because it's a terrible thing no one should go through for simply being themselves

297. I support this ban because conversion therapy is dangerous to the mental health and wellbeing of LGBTQ folks. Conversion therapy is shown to not actually "convert" rather it just confuses people even more about their sexuality and gender identity. There is also NO scientific evidence that this dangerous practice actually "works." And even if it did, it's still incredibly harmful. Ban conversion therapy now!!

298. People deserve to be themselves and not be forced to change.

299. Conversion therapy is despicable. It doesn't work and it only serves to uphold the homophobic notion that heterosexuality is somehow intrinsically better than homosexuality, which is nonsense. Banning conversion therapy would serve to lessen the burden of gay people living with homophobic family, and set a powerful example to the citizens of Saskatoon that homosexuality cannot be eradicated and should instead be celebrated.

300. I believe that Saskatoon is a community of inclusivity and love. Conversion therapy not only harms individuals and families, but also our community.

301. Trying to change something that is one, completely natural, and two, part of someone's identity that should be supported, is wrong.

302. Conversion therapy is abuse and unnecessary.

303. Because conversion therapy is cruel and inhumane, people should be able to love whoever they want.

304. Conversion therapy shouldn't have been a thing in the first place. Being in the LGBTQ community is hard enough let alone the trauma inflicted by conversion therapy.

305. Implementing a ban supports mental health.

306. Celebrates diversity

307. Because this form of therapy is harmful for those forced to attend it. I

308. Everyone deserves to be who they are.

309. Conversion therapy is an extremely messed up practice that needs to be ended immediately. It strips away a person's humanity by trying to actively change the very core of their being, and is one of the most disgusting forms of homophobia that there is.

310. Conversion therapy has a long history of being dangerous and incredibly traumatic and should not have a place in this city any longer. It is important that the City of Saskatoon stands with their LGBTQ2S+ residents and makes an effort to ban such a cruel and bigoted practice.

311. It is an outdated, homophobic, oppressive practice.

312. Conversion therapy is a barbaric, hateful practice that has no place in our just and empathetic city. Saskatoon needs to ban conversion therapy to support the dignity, right to life, and true self expression of some of it's most vulnerable people.

313. Conversion therapy is an abusive and toxic way of forcing minors that are part of the lgbtq community to turn into something they are not. We are told that we live in a land that is free, so therefore conversion therapy is not giving people who are part of the lgbtq community a chance to act and experience their freedom which is part of their rights. Saskatoon needs to do better and protect everyone

314. Conversion therapy is a cruel, baseless practice that harms the LGBTQ+ community, and no person should be subjected to it.

315. I believe in people being treated fairly for who they are and not being forced to change.

316. Because this is a violation of human rights and a disgusting way to treat a human being.

317. Everyone has the right to love who they wish. This is a violation of basic human rights.

318. Because people in the LGBTQIA+ community cannot be converted. They are who they are. They do not need therapy. There is nothing wrong with them. There is no reasonable need for anyone to be forced against their will to change or be different from who they are. Conversion therapy is a lie. It causes trauma and holds people back from being their true selves. It's wrong.

319. I fully support the LGBTQIA+ community, and conversion therapy is not ethical, nor is it morally right.

320. It is 2021 and this goes against everything Canada stands for. I am honestly surprised this is still legal in Canada.

321. Conversion therapy is a disgusting and traumatic experience to subject any person to. Further, its existence perpetuates the idea that there is something wrong with being 2SLGBTQIA+, which is also deeply harmful to that community. It is long past time to officially ban these practices.

322. Conversion therapy holds no place in Saskatoon or anywhere else in Canada. If we want to show and sort of support or acceptance for LGBTQ+ people, we need to ban something as horrible and harmful as conversion therapy. It is not acceptable for me or any other LGBTQ+ person to be in danger of being forced to be someone other than ourselves.

323. Homosexuality is not an illness nor does it need to be treated like one.

324. I support the ban on conversion therapy because all sexual orientations and genders must have the right to be protected, free, and legitimized by their governments. Everyone deserves to feel safe and free to be themselves.

325. Everyone should be accepted for who they are!

326. It is abuse and wrong.

327. There is no reliable evidence that sexual orientation can be changed and medical institutions warn that conversion therapy practices are ineffective and potentially harmful.

328. Because no one should have to go through an experience like that. It is against peoples individual freedoms and is completely inhumane.
329. Conversion therapy is not therapy. It is psychologically traumatic, abusive, oppressive, and backwards. Queer identities should be welcomed and accepted, and fear of queerness is not going to help accomplish this.
330. Conversion therapy goes against human rights. Lgbtq+ people are not broken, and deserve to be treated as who they are: human beings. Being a bisexual woman myself, it breaks my heart knowing that this is something that has to be fought for. I am not a monstrosity that needs to be converted into something I'm not. Neither does my fellow queer folk. We are people who deserve rights, justice, and to be heard. We deserve to breathe, laugh, run, sleep, eat, and most importantly: love and be loved. We shouldn't feel afraid to hide ourselves because there's a risk of being assaulted, or worse killed. Please listen to me when I say: put an end to this nonsense and ban conversion therapy for good. You will save so many lives by doing it.
331. It is immoral and unjust to force change upon someone due to your own beliefs, especially for something as uncontrollable as one's own sexuality or gender identity.
332. As a gay man myself, I know how hard it can be to come out even in a supportive community. Being gay is not a choice. If it were, why would I choose to make things harder on myself? Conversion therapy is a medieval concept and the City of Saskatoon needs to make the move to ban it.
333. Conversion "therapy" is morally wrong and unethical. There is no reliable evidence that it does anything but traumatize the individual partaking in the process.
334. It is extremely detrimental to people's mental health and completely useless, it will not change how people feel inside and who they truly are.
335. Because everyone has the right to be who they are without fear of judgement or "conversion" threats.

336. It is cruel and should be criminal to subject somebody to conversion therapy

337. Because it's an infringement on our human rights

338. Because people deserve to be who they are

339. I think it's a very harmful practice and no longer has a place, nor do I believe it ever should have. If the city of saskatoon subscribes to an inclusive and healthy community then banning conversion therapy needs to be a priority. I know people who have been traumatized by these practices and it's actually something I'm ashamed isn't banned already.

340. I support putting a ban on conversion therapy because it is an unethical, inhumane act. It is a torturous act that should not be supported by anyone. Being queer is not a choice, and no amount of "therapy" will change that. LGBTQ2S+ people should be able to live their lives in peace and safety. No person deserves to experience this heinous act. Queer people must be safe and protected. Conversion therapy is a threat to queer people. In no way shape or form should conversion therapy happen or exist.

341. I believe it is wrong and disgusting to change who someone is attracted to or change one's identification.

342. because it is insanely wrong that in 2021 people can not be who they are

343. Having a sexual orientation other than heterosexuality is not a lifestyle choice nor a mental illness. Every human being has the right to live freely and without fear of repercussions for their gender identity, gender expression, sexuality, etc. I honestly was appalled to find out that conversation therapy had not already been banned here, especially since we know of how much distress it has caused so many people.

344. I am apart of the lgbtq+ community and it's border line torture

345. Conversion Therapy is not only abuse towards humans, but is against anything that basic human rights should entail. It is horrific to even think that banning conversion therapy is up for debate, banning it should be the only option.

346. No one deserves to be treated as if they have an illness for their love. Conversion therapy is a trauma creator, and is nourished by hate, and it has no place in Saskatoon.

347. I believe this is a huge leap together towards banning conversion therapy completely in our province! Conversion therapy as we all know is very dangerous, and in my opinion Inhumane.

348. Conversion therapy is awful, and I can't believe is still a thing in our present time

349. Conversation therapy is disgusting and against basic human rights. No human being should have to go to therapy based on who they are attracted to.

350. It is clear that conversion 'therapy,' for lack of a better term used to describe the horrific acts, is a clear violation of the Human Rights everyone has. I have been proud to live in Saskatoon because of the supportive communities the City of Saskatoon and its people have built. I and the community would be heartbroken if this was thrown away by one single vote. Do the right thing council.

351. As a member of the LGBTQ+ community I have seen what the effects of conversion therapy are and do not believe anyone should ever have to live through it.

352. Because it is wrong. Because it causes trauma. Because it inflicts harm, stigmatizes any way of being other than heterosexual, cod gendered-ness abs because it contributed to harmful misinformation, stereotyping, and is a form of violence.

353. My friends family was religious and had strong view against being gay or trans

354. I, Sammy Siermachesky, am in full support of the City of Saskatoon implementing a ban on any conversion therapy. I support this ban because as a queer and trans person, I can understand that conversion therapy against our community does not belong in any way shape or form. This state of erasing us from our identities and community is no longer acceptable in 2021, and nor was it ever in the past. It is important for Saskatoon to acknowledge that if we want to truly do our best as a supportive, diverse, and welcoming community, we need recognize how hurtful conversion therapy amongst other things is damaging to our community. Thank you for listening.

355. As a queer person born, raised, & living in Saskatoon, I will do my part to make my city a safe, tolerant community.

356. It's completely unethical and harmful to the LGBTQ+ community. As an ally it makes me very sick.

357. It infringes on the rights, mental health, and freedom of Saskatoon citizens. It's an outdated and barbaric practice that punishes people simply for loving who they love. It also reinforces dangerous heteronormative beliefs and practices.

358. It's wrong people can live life how they want and there should not be a proper way to do things

359. because people no matter the race or sexuality deserve the right to live there lives without fear of being forced to become something they aren't.

360. Why should the city be able to dictate what you do with your body

361. We should be accepting LGBTQIA+ persons and supporting them as they are rather than forcing change

362. I strongly support the City of Saskatoon implementing a ban on conversion therapy because conversion therapy causes deep damage to the souls of people who just want to have their normal free life. Conversion therapy regards sexual orientation as a choice, in contrast with the findings of hundreds of scientific studies. Banning this brutal approach will guarantee that young people and adults can receive the support they deserve if anyone tries to prevent them from having a free, happy and healthy life.

363. Because conversion therapy is inherently wrong. Sexuality is not a choice and can't be prayed away, nothing is wrong with it

364. It is harmful and rooted in religious beliefs that are no longer relevant in our society.

365. Conversion therapy has never and will never be effective. It causes deep emotional scars for the individual and is a removal of rights. Banning conversion therapy is one step in the right direction we need to take to allow those in the LGBTQ+ community to feel that their rights are taken seriously and a start for reparations needed to help those previously victim to this horrible practice.

366. people should have the ability to choose whoever they love no matter what. conversion therapy is wrong and has no place in the great city of saskatoon

367. i'm bi and i live here

368. Because everyone has the right to choose their own identity, it is wrong for others to try and change it for them. I believe people should be free to express their identity.

369. I'm trans and gay, and my catholic mother tried to send me to conversion therapy when I came out to her as a kid. She accidentally sent me to an LGBT therapist though, so it worked in my favour. I couldn't imagine the trauma I would have endured if she succeeded.

370. In this day and age, people should be able to live their lives as they choose. We are no longer in the dark ages where electric shock therapy or any type of conversion therapy or any other should be allowed.

371. I believe it sends the message that someone's sexuality needs "fixing" because it is "wrong" or "bad". I believe that is harmful. And like any therapy, the role should be to support someone's therapeutic goals and healing, not to impose a belief system or try to change them or their sexual orientation.

372. Because queer people are not broken, and do not need fixing. Efforts that tell someone that their identity is not valid, is not okay. It's harmful, inappropriate, and outright dangerous. In addition to the wildly inappropriate idea that queer people need to "treated", there is an abundance of evidence that shows these practices to be unethical, inhumane, and detrimental to one's mental health.

Efforts need to be made to fix the society that believe practices like conversion therapy are justified. Love is love, and my love does not need fixing.

373. It's a cruel and draconian punishment that serves no purpose beyond torture. There is nothing wrong with queerness, and conversion therapy only traumatizes. There is a plethora of peer-reviewed literature that validates this.

374. I support this ban because conversion therapy is an archaic idea which ONLY harms people and has no benefit whatsoever.

375. Conversion therapy is an attempt to "fix" people for not being cis heterosexuals but there is nothing about these people that need to be fixed and it is appalling that in 2021 we are still fighting to acknowledge that. Love is love and as a bisexual woman I am proud to have a girlfriend who I love and would be devastated if anyone tried to take that away from me.

376. Everyone in the city deserves to live their life as free and happily as the rest of us. Sexual orientation should not determine that. As well, no one has the right to determine whether or not the people that you love in this world is appropriate. Conversion therapy is both dangerous and harmful to those who may already be dealing with struggles because of the way society perceives them. Banning conversion therapy is one more step we can take towards supporting others who may be different from us, but equally deserving of a happy and love-filled life.

377. Because conversion therapy is a terrible and damaging procedure that traumatizes human beings who are being treated not as such. I already thought it was banned because I thought it was common sense to not tolerate this act of hate towards others and an innocent community but I was wrong. I voice my full support for the city to vote to ban conversion therapy.

378. Because you can't force someone to be someone they are not. It is absolutely disgusting.

379. It's horrible! You can't force someone to be any other sexual orientation than what they are,

380. Because we're all human beings. That's so inhumane. "debates" about homophobia is disgusting. Are we really going to talk about if that should be banned or not?

381. Because it is inhumane. It is not anyone's right to tell another person how to live their life. This is now religion controlling how a person feels. These forms of therapies have cause greater harm than good. Young adults need support and be love. If these types of therapies would stop we would see a decrease in youth suicide - guaranteed!

382. This needs to stop now! Let's lift up each other and stop judging!

383. I support this bylaw and a ban on conversion therapy because conversion therapy is forcing individuals to be who they aren't, which only does harm and danger to individuals.

384. Conversion therapy has been used abusively by homophobic parents. Banning conversion therapy is banning a form of child abuse.

385. Because it is torture. No person should be put thru that simply because someone else doesn't like who that person chooses to be or love.

386. Because conversion therapy is wrong and no one should be subjected to it.

387. Because the LGBTQ+ Community does not need to be changed or "fixed" . They are valid

388. It's inhumane and wrong. Children and young adults may be pressured into this "therapy" that only breeds hate. Self-hate, hate of others and a strong internalized and probably even externalized homophobia. We've come so far in life. We don't need conversion therapy holding us back

389. I support the ban because the detrimental effects on youth who are subjected to conversion therapy, especially considering the fact that their brains are still in development, is clear and documented. We're also learning more about how trauma manifests in children's brains and experiencing the denial of one's own existence (such as in conversion therapy) stands to do a significant amount of harm to the child.

There's also no clear evidence that it works and no need for it to work. People should be free to be who they are, not denigrated for their sexuality based on the interpretation of a religious text.

390. Because it is a traumatic and literal torture in order for someone to stop loving who they want to, this should already be a bylaw. there is no reason not to make this a law, it will also save a lot of LGBTQ suicides.

391. Because it's wrong and disgusting and barbaric. And if we as a society want to grow we need to realize these things are not okay.

392. Conversion therapy is literally causing kids to commit suicide.

393. Because conversion therapy is a disgusting practice, and it's wrong to do that to people.

394. Because conversion therapy is wrong and incredibly harmful and I believe it shouldn't exist at all so that people of the LGBTQ community don't need to live in fear of this trauma being inflicted upon them.

395. Conversion therapy is a harmful practice that interferes with an individuals rights to freedom of expression. The practice of conversion therapy directly goes against the ethics of medical and mental health professionals and so has no place in Saskatoon as a "therapy".

396. Conversion therapy is an antiquated form of torture that violates an individual's autonomy, and does not work to achieve its bigoted so-called purpose.

397. Because it's 2021 and i'm disgusted
398. that this still exists.

399. I believe conversion therapy has no place in our community and if unbothered, would only do harm to many in Saskatoon.

400. people should have the ability to choose whoever they love no matter what. conversion therapy is wrong and has no place in the great city of saskatoon

401. Conversion therapy is traumatizing, insulting, and a disgraceful part of our society. Banning this disgusting practice is necessary in taking a stance against homophobia and moving the lgbtq+ rights movement forward.

402. Because it's complete ludacris to "convert" someone's sexual orientation. These places are used by even family/ parents to send their kids to because they don't accept them! I know someone personally who's parents are threatening to send them there.

403. I want queer people to be confident and proud to live life as their true selves. Conversion therapy is unnecessary and hateful, we have no need for it.

404. Because conversion therapy is a human rights violation, based in homophobia, hate and miseducation, it's a sick practice and it does not even "work".

405. Everyone deserves to be who they are.

406. It is ethically wrong and disgusting

407. Conversion therapy is built off fear and homophobia, transphobia, etc. It is deeply traumatizing as people are born knowing who they are and it is not something to be converted. This practice has always and will always be torturous and unethical.

408. Conversion therapy is a cruel and unjust process that not only has zero evidence of actually working but also increases the likelihood of suicide in the already marginalized LGBTQI+ community. Not supporting the ban means supporting queer people committing suicide by attempting to force conformity and self-loathing unto them.

409. Conversion Therapy is a human rights issue. It has major potential to encourage self harm and suicide because of the messages preached. All people should be able to be who they are without fear of persecution. Conversion Therapy also can have a greater negative affect on young people. They may be forced into this by their family or community and do not have a choice. This means that they are not mentally or emotionally equipped to ask for help if they are contemplating self harm after experiencing trauma that Conversion Therapy inflicts.

410. I don't believe it works and I don't believe it is fair to try and "convert" someone from something that cannot be changed. It is especially unfair when a guardian figure forces that upon a person who is unwilling.

411. It is an outdated and barbaric practice that should be banned in this day and age.

412. Conversion therapy is malicious, dehumanizing, and archaic. The world is a better, more beautiful place because of our differences, and we should celebrate those differences, not suppress them. Enforcing conformity has only ever resulted in disaster.

413. People should be accepted and supported to love who they love. Also, conversion therapy has been shown to increase depression and suicide.

414. I support the ban on conversion therapy because it's a unethical practice. It oppresses and dehumanizes the LGBTQ+ community. We should be encouraging and empowering diversity, not trying to oppress and discriminate against a community because of their gender, identity, sexuality or any other reason. Everyone is human and deserves equality and the basic human rights. It is shameful to be a Saskatoon resident when conversion therapy is still a legal practice.

415. it is wrong and gross

416. It is dehumanizing, it doesn't work (not that it should), all members of the LGBTQ+ community are valid and welcome and should never have to hide who they are in fear of being placed in conversion therapy.

417. conversion therapy is harmful

418. I support the ban on conversion therapy because it is so incredibly wrong. I think it is horrible to try and force someone to change their sexuality just because others do not “agree” with it or “like” it. The fact that this is even up for debate is astounding. Let people be who they are! Love is love.

419. Because there is nothing wrong with loving someone of the same sex. Religious people suck.

420. It is extremely harmful to LGBTQ+ individuals and perpetuates further feelings of shame/wrongfulness surrounding queer identities

421. Torturing someone to try and destroy a part of them that doesn't need to be destroyed is wrong.

422. It will allow for a safer environment for the ones who have not had the chance to come out to their friends and family without the fear of being judged or the fear that their friends or family will try to convince them otherwise.

423. I believe people should be allowed to be who they are and be proud of who they are not ashamed and forced to change.

424. There is no right or wrong sexual orientation. People deserve to be their true selves and should not be coerced into trying to change who they are.

425. Sexual identity is not a choice. Conversion therapy is ignorant and goes against the basic rights of human beings.

426. because lgbtq+ people should be aloud to be themselves and conversion therapy is harmful and homophobic.

427. It's cruel to try and change something about someone they have no choice over

428. Conversion therapy is wrong and goes against the rights and freedoms of people. We live in Canada, which is supposed to be a free country. Conversion therapy does not support choice for people.

429. It's archaic, ineffective, and promotes disgusting values

430. Conversion therapy is extremely traumatic and useless - sexual orientation is not a choice and the ideology that you can change someone's sexuality is idiotic. Queer people deserve to feel safe and accepted at all times, and conversion therapy just enforces heteronormativity and the idea that any sexuality other than straight is not acceptable. People should be able to love who they want to love.

431. I think the question should be: "Why would there be conversion therapy in the first place?" This practice is inhumane and abusive. It is based on religious ideals which have no place in secular society. And within the context of religion or outside of it, this practice is an infringement on a person's human rights.
If any conversion needs to take place, it's in the minds of religious people who suspend logic in order to believe ideas which have no basis in reality or in science.

432. It is unethical

433. Conversion Therapy has no place in Saskatoon and in 2021. This archaic practice is not based on science but instead rooted in prejudice, homophobia, harmful religious beliefs.

434. I'm not part of the 2SLGBTQ+ community, but I have listened to their voices and I'm trying to build genuine allyship with them, which is why I'm filling out this form. Conversion therapy is something that tries to strip away the 2SLGBTQ+ community's voices and who they are. It's an attempt to "convert" people so that they fit into the social norm of being straight in terms of sexuality. I can't even believe that this is happening in 2021. This is something that could have equal consequences as the 60's scoop. Building allyship with each other as a city means embracing and respecting everyone's identities as unique human beings, not using people's unique identities as an excuse for prejudice and oppression just because they are too "different". Saskatoon is better than this.

435. I wanna support our LGBTQ+ community and by supporting the ban it will help them be their own without the fear of being judge

436. My mom is gay!

437. Conversion therapy is a distructive attack on a person's human rights.

438. Because it is an incredibly damaging practice.

439. Because it is an incredibly damaging practice.

440. I believe it's an extremely harsh and unfair practice that harms many people permanently. I want to live in a city that is on the right side of history. We cannot be pro LGBTQ and not ban conversion therapy.

441. Gay conversion therapy is an outdated, insulting and discriminatory practice. Feeling the need to belittle those based on sexual preferences is not something that anyone should be proud of, and frankly, sexuality is not anyone's business, and is not something that can be erased.

442. It seems wrong to force people to change who they are.

443. I support the ban on conversion therapy. It is inhumane and does not serve to better the community and its people.

444. it is 2021, time for people to be accepted for who they are.

445. Conversion therapy is a bogus, harmful practice & serves no good to society. It simply perpetuates myths & mistruths & causes harm to people. Good riddance.

446. Conversion therapy is cruel and inhumane. It does nothing except torture those who are subjected to it.

447. It is a way to erase people's identities and it is very harmful.

448. Conversion therapy is psychologically harmful. It is not wrong to be queer; it doesn't need changing, queerness needs support. Conversion and calling it therapy is the opposite of that.

449. Conversion therapy reinforces ideas that a person is inherently wrong and unworthy, and needs to be “fixed” in order to be accepted and loved by God and other people. Often these feelings are planted by family and faith communities, which is especially devastating. Conversion therapy can be deeply harmful to a person throughout their entire lifetime, causing serious mental health issues, the inability to be in a loving relationship, shame, and self hatred. The City of Saskatoon has an opportunity to continue to promote positive progress and change by banning conversion therapy and showing support for the LGBTQA2+ community.

450. Because everyone should be able to live how they want to live

451. Conversation therapy has been repeatedly shown to be unsafe, unhelpful, and extremely inhumane in some cases especially with youth. It is an outdated, cruel practice. We as a society are better than this. People deserve to be treated with respect.

452. Because everyone deserves to live and express themselves the way they choose to.

453. They have better places to spend money. Like idk you can't change the way a person is literally born??? Maybe make beneficial therapy more accessible for lgbtq2s+ youths that will help them be comfortable with who they are!!!

454. It's wrong to try to force someone to change who they fundamentally are. Its harmful to their psyche and just not right.

455. Because it's cruel to not let people be who they were born to be.

456. Because it is harmful to members of the LGBTQ+, and is a setback in LGBTQ normality.

457. Conversion therapy is unethical, abusive, and implies that there is something wrong with people of the LGTBQ+ community.

458. I support the ban because it's abuse.

459. Because your sexual orientation is no error and cannot be “corrected”

460. Conversion therapy destroys the health and mental well-being of those subjected to it. It is a form of physical and mental torture, which has no place anywhere in the world!

461. Conversion therapy is an incredibly cruel, blatantly bigoted and abusive practice that leaves long-lasting negative impacts on its victims mental health and well-being.

462. No one should ever have to go through the psychological trauma that conversion therapy can put you through. We live in a day and age where it's time to accept that some men will love another man and some women will love another women and it's OKAY! Stop trying to change people to something they are not.

463. It is a barbaric practice that strips people of a large part of their identity, often leading to various mental health issues and leaving the victims traumatized.

464. Conversion therapy should not exist. There's nothing in the world that will change the way someone loves because what they experience is fundamental human characteristic. Love is love

465. It's a harmful act of oppression.

466. Conversion Therapy can cause suicidal tendencies and PTSD, if the city of saskatoon cares about mental illness and the LGBTQ+ community they would ban it.

467. I support this bylaw and a ban on conversion therapy because the treatment done causes a lifetime of harm to individuals. To attempt to strip an individual of their true sexual identity to become someone they are not is unethical and beyond disrespectful. No one should ever have to suffer through this, and I find it farcical that this has not been banned much earlier.

468. People deserve to be supported as themselves

469. because i believe people should love who they love and we have no reason to tell people who they should love

470. nobody should tell people who they should love

471. I support this bylaw and a ban on conversion therapy because I believe in loving and respecting people for who they are. We must respect each individual's identity and their dignity. I believe this prohibition will serve as an important message in letting the citizens of Saskatoon know that the community they live in strives to be inclusive and supportive of all of its people (in addition to being a necessary law to prohibit such abhorrent and harmful practices).

472. Because its 2021 and religion/religious oppressive ideologies no longer have space in our society as long as they continue to harm people.

473. queer people aren't broken so there is nothing to be fixed.

474. No one should ever be told that they can not be gay because "the bible said so". It is not fair to people that are part of the LGBTQ+ community not being able to be themselves because others feel uncomfortable.

475. Because it is disgusting. People should be able to live their lives in the way they choose and love who they want to love.

476. It's based on archaic concepts and frankly I'm astounded anything as barbaric as conversion therapy still even exists.

477. Conversation therapy is telling people there is something wrong with them, when there isn't. Just knowing there is conversion therapy creates an extra hurdle for the LGBTQ community on their journey to self love and public acceptance.

478. It is a practice that goes against human rights

479. It is wrong

480. Because conversion therapy seems both unethical and immoral.

481. Being apart of LGBTQ+ community is not a choice. Humans cannot decide who we are attracted to mentally or physically. We are born how we are, and banning conversion therapy will create a more safe environment for people who are LGBTQ+. It is disgusting that these conversion therapy centres still exist and to the city of Saskatoon, you should be disgusted and embarrassed that people have to sign petitions for this to end.

482. It's an abusive tactic that preys on vulnerable, marginalized people— usually minors. This kind of outdated practice should not be allowed in our community.

483. As an educator I have seen first hand the need for children to be loved and accepted for who they are, no matter their sexual preferences or identity.

484. It's wrong.

485. Because it is immoral to force people to change who they, which science proves, puts them at great risk.

486. Being apart of LGBTQ+ community is not a choice. Humans cannot decide who we are attracted to mentally or physically. We are born how we are, and banning conversion therapy will create a more safe environment for people who are LGBTQ+. It is disgusting that these conversion therapy centres still exist and to the city of Saskatoon, you should be disgusted and embarrassed that people have to sign petitions for this to end.

487. Many reasons, starting with it causes a lot of mental illness for people involved, and mainly there is nothing wrong with being a part of the LGBTQI+ community!

488. Because it's not right that an ideology be allowed room in a public place. Conversion therapy kills children.

489. Because it's a violation of human rights.

490. Conversion therapy only causes harm. There are no benefits that stem from this "therapy". It is unbelievable that people still cannot be embraced for who they are. The movement for a progressive city is hindered while conversion therapy still exists as a harmful waste of energy.

491. I have friends who are LGBTQ+ and I do not believe it is right. It goes against human rights and it should be stopped.

492. Because it is psychological and physical torture

493. Conversion therapy is wrong. It should never have existed in the first place. Period.

494. Because it is an outdated, uneducated approach to sexuality and everyone should be free to be who they are.

495. Because conversion therapy is inherently wrong

496. Because I support basic human rights.

497. As a young queer lady I have watched my community been mistreated for too long. We're discriminated against, attacked physically and verbally, banned from businesses and countries, and fear for our lives everyday. I didn't choose to be this way... it's just the way I am. We as a community just want to be free to be ourselves, love who we want to love, and be who we want to be

498. I'm honestly surprised it's legal. How is torture and brainwashing legal in 2021?

499. It's inhuman, religion should not control sexuality

500. I'm queer myself , so I can fully empathize and understand the harm in Conversion Therapy.

501. It is a barbaric and extremely harmful practice that has no place in civilized society.

502. Conversion therapy is wrong. People can not change who they are. Conversion therapy does nothing except scar the individuals experiencing it.

503. Conversion therapy is a violation of human rights. It has no place in modern Canada.

504. Conversion therapy has no place in our society.

505. Equal rights means that people have the right to live how they live without outside influences attempting to "convert" them to the perceived norm through what is essentially torture

506. Conversion therapy is a reprehensible and outdated form of punishment.

507. Conversion Therapy is wrong and cruel and very anti-LGBTQ2+. It's a shame that it is still allowed to happen in our city, and it's time for it to end.

508. Because it is an outdated, terrible practice that is literally a form of human rights violation.

509.	Conversion therapy is torture and unjustifiable in a society that values quality of life for all.
510.	The availability of conversion therapy in our community harms vulnerable peoples ability to feel safe in Saskatoon.
511.	Because conversion therapy is a harmful practice that stems from a place of fear and hate
512.	It's cruel and harmful. Conversion therapy implies that there is something wrong with the way a person loves or identifies themselves. There's nothing wrong; there's nothing to fix. Saskatoon is an inclusive and diverse city. Conversion therapy does not reflect such values. Please, do not allow it in our city.
513.	So that no one has to feel the way I felt. And to help put an end to the stigma around the lgbtq2ia+ community
514.	I support this bylaw and a ban on conversion therapy because Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Rights are Human Rights. We all must take steps to ensure we are supporting our fellow 2SLGBTQ community members. Dismantling practices that harm this community is one way to do this and one way we can collectively drive connection, love, and acceptance in our society. I strongly urge you to vote in favour of Bylaw No. 9747 and in favour of supporting Saskatoon's 2SLGBTQ community.
515.	So that no more of my friends are shamed for being themselves
516.	Conversion therapy is akin to torture and does so much harm and damage to the psyche of queer people subjected to it.
517.	It is inhumane and senseless.
518.	Because it is abusive and wrong.
519.	I support 2SLGBTQ (Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer) people and Saskatoon's 2SLGBTQ community. The people of Saskatoon deserve to be safe from the harm of conversion therapy.
520.	It is archaic and has no place in Saskatoon, or the world.
521.	Because it's wrong

522. It is harmful. It targets a vulnerable community. It does not acknowledge people for *who they are.*

523. There's no place for any sort of homophobia or transphobia in the city of Saskatoon. Conversion therapy is inherently dangerous, and there is absolutely no place for it in Saskatoon

524. Conversion therapy is an in humane and unethical practice that centres around a false belief that being LGBT+ is a choice. It is a homophobic, transphobic, and all around ignorant, dangerous practice that invalidates the identity of everyone in the LGBT+ community.

525. Because it's sad it isn't banned already.

526. Conversion therapy is traumatic and it makes people feel unable to live freely. it's also archaic and pushes heteronormativity and people don't deserve to be treated as aliens because of their identity.

527. It is a horrible experience to try to fix a non-existent problem. It will create lasting trauma for affected individuals and will not allow them to live a happy life as their true self.

528. It's 2021!! I can't believe this outrageous 'therapy' still is in existence. It has no place in our society today and is completely barbaric. Saskatoon is an inclusive city and we should aim to make it more so by supporting this ban of 'therapy'.

529. Conversion therapy has proven to be more harmful than anything. There is nothing to prove that it works, and allowing it to continue in the City of Saskatoon shows the LGTBQ2 community that you aren't really there for them, and that Saskatoon is not a safe space for them.

530. People should be respected as individuals. sexuality preference is a personal decision. Allowing conversion therapy encourages discrimination against LGBTQ2S.

531. Because trying to change people's sexuality is wrong.

532. I believe everyone has a right to live however they identify and love whoever they choose to love without any prejudice, judgement or punishment. It is time to put an end to the viewing LGBTQ as an illness and start embracing all Queer people. Saskatoon city council, as an identified Queer person, I am asking you all to do the moral and ethic task of standing in support of Saskatoon's queer community by ending conversion therapy.

533. It is traumatizing and harmful to those who go through it. As well, being gay or part of LGBTQ2+ is not abnormal and should not be something sometime needs to be "treated" for.

534. Its completely unethical and goes against basic human rights.

535. I believe conversion therapy supports a harmful system of insisting that queer individuals can and should change their gender identity and/or sexual orientation, and perpetuates abuses caused by such a system that relies on convincing LGBTQ2AI individuals (and especially their parents) that their orientation is inherently "wrong," or "sinful." As long as this option exists, there will remain organizations and individuals who feel justified in denouncing LGBTQ2AI people's identities and rights and coercing them into harmful, non-credible methods of conversion "therapy."

536. Conversion therapy is outdated and not scientifically proven to benefit the patient in any way, rather, it has been the cause of more unnecessary pain and trauma for those who have had to undergo such treatment. Conversion therapy exists because of homophobia and bigotry and has no place in Canada in 2021.

537. It's appalling that it's still even allowed.

538. It is just plain wrong. People should be supported for who they are.

539. I don't support city councils implementation on convention therapy.

540. I support the ban of conversion therapy because it's abuse. No one should be punished and forced to be someone they are not or for loving someone. I would not want another child or adult to go through this. It's disgusting and so incredibly harmful.

541. It is humanely wrong, it goes against all human rights.

542. Conversion therapy is so wrong. It never should've existed in the first place.

543. Conversion therapy is wrong and cruel

544. Because the practice is barbaric! You cannot change someone's sexual orientation or gender identity, and this practice can lead to great harm- depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts

545. Because every person deserves to feel loved and supported for who they are.

546. Because of what my daughters friends are going through

547. Conversion therapy is emotionally scarring for so many people. Ways of changing sexual orientation include psychological manipulation and electro therapy, both are extremely harmful to victims of conversion therapy for the rest of their lives. Conversion therapy often results in self hatred, PTSD, depression, suicidal tendencies and anxiety, and it isn't even effective. A test done by an APA task force in 2009 discovered that there was very little evidence to prove that sexuality could be changed. Participants in conversion therapy haven't noticed any significant attraction to people of the opposite sex, and instead still felt attraction to people of the same sex. Instead, results showed negative effects of conversion therapy. This 'therapy' should be banned everywhere, and should never be a practice ever again. Why should we still implement a therapy that has been proven to do more harm than good? Our community will be much safer for everyone, including the LGBTQ community.

548. Conversion therapy violates human rights and is akin to torture.

549. Conversion therapy is harmful. Many people have suffered and attempted suicide because of it. It has proven to be ineffective and dangerous.
<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/get-involved/trevor-advocacy/50-bills-50-states/about-conversion-therapy/>

550. Because conversion therapy is harmful to individuals who identify as LGBTQ2S+. It is an abusive and harmful practice and is NOT effective in any way. It causes multiple devastating impacts on its victims such as anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts and many psychological issues.

551. Conversion therapy is inhumane.

552. I support a ban on conversion therapy because it conversion therapy goes against basic human dignity and the concept of loving our neighbours. Saskatoon should be a community that respects every person and their right to work out their own future and autonomy without fear or shame or intimidation. Conversion Therapy is harmful and should not be allowed in our city.

553. Its absurd its not banned yet. Anyone can love who they want to love. You can't take that away from them

554. Because this is a demeaning and deeply disturbing practice.

555. Conversion therapy is not a valid use of therapy and the tactic is an abusive use of power over people who are just trying to live their life to the fullest extent, it is homophobic and traumatic for LGBTQ+ communities

556. Because this is a pseudoscientific practice with no reliable evidence that sexual can be changed. Additionally, people should have the right to be who they are, to determine their own expression of gender, and who they choose to love.

557. I support banning conversion therapy because it is dangerous and only works to harm queer people. Enough is enough.

558. There is nothing to correct - people should be able to be themselves and feel safe to do so

559. Conversion therapy is wrong. All members of LGBTQ+ should be able to make their decisions about their sexuality on their own.

560. Conversion therapy does not have any scientific evidence to support its efficacy. In fact, conversion therapy may contribute to negative outcomes such as depression and anxiety. The use of conversion therapy has been opposed by many professional psychological and mental health associations as an unethical practice, including the Canadian Psychological Association, the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association, and the Canadian Association of Social Workers. Any so-called professional that utilizes any form of conversion therapy is violating the most basic ethical principal of do no harm.

As a counsellor that works with children and youth, young people already deal with enough stress and pressure in their lives without having a person who is in a position of trust and power telling them that their perfectly normal and healthy development is wrong.

I strongly urge you to vote in favour of Bylaw No. 9747 and in favour of supporting Saskatoon's 2SLGBTQ community.

561. It is our responsibility as a society to address conversion therapy as a menace to 2SLGBTQ+ youth lives and wellbeing.

562. Because it is the right thing to do

563. Being gay does NOT need to be treated. It's not a disorder. We don't do conversion therapy on people who have different political views than us. People should be free to love whoever they want.

564. Although I myself am not a member of the LGBT+ community, I have many good friends and several members of my family who are, including my biological father. I am a former resident of Saskatoon and will soon be moving back. From a young age I was made aware of the heartbreaking stories of family friends who had been sent to conversion therapy, one of whom was forced to do so in Saskatoon in the 1990s. Conversion therapy, in it's simplest description is an act of child abuse with no basis in medical science. Despite the belief that young people now are met with nothing but support, as a 19-year-old, several personal friends have had experiences of coming out only to have family members, parents and religious figures suggest conversion therapy, or "rethinking their decision". While banning conversion therapy may not change the attitudes of people who are homophobic and transphobic, it does ensure that youth are not forcibly brainwashed into hating themselves for something that is entirely normal, harmless, and ultimately unchangeable to an individual.

565. It leads to depression, suicidal thoughts and an increase in society. It is an inhuman practise and should be banned.

566. This forcing someone into someone else beliefs and not allowing a person their rights

567. I think people should be able to be who they are no matter the circumstance.

568. It is harmful and archaic. People have been hurt in indescribable ways through conversion therapy. This would be a step in the right direction to push against currently legalized oppression.

569. i am against cruelty

570. Conversion therapy is a discriminatory practice that causes actual harm to LGBTQIA2+ folks. Please ban this practice to protect valuable and worthy community members here in Saskatoon.

571. It is sooooo wrong and damaging. I am a mama to 2 queer kiddos and it breaks my heart to know that there are people still trying to "fix" these beautiful humans and tell them they should not be who they are.

572. Conversion therapy is outdated and extremely problematic. It's based on the idea that being 2SLGBTQ is abnormal or a mental illness. We know that this is not true. Conversion therapy doesn't work and has serious and harmful effects on the health of 2SLGBTQ people.

573. It is a dangerous practice which is detrimental to those who are forced into this therapy to "cure" something that does not need to be cured at all. This type of therapy is purely based on uneducated, non-scientific, and religiously motivated tactics that are extremely harmful.

574. Conversion therapy needs to be put to an end across the world

575. Conversion Therapy has been founded numerous times to be unsafe with little to no change on a persons sexual orientation. It has led to many people ending their life from the pain that they experienced in Conversion Therapy. I want the people in my little gay community to feel safe, I want lgbt children, who are the majority of patients that attend conversion therapy, not adults like people think, to grow up in a city that protects them from the horrors that some of their queer ancestors went through. Change starts small and that means with the City of Saskatoon.

576. There is ZERO science behind the use of conversion therapy. It is doing more harm than good and can often lead to depression and feelings of hopelessness.

577. Conversion therapy has no place in Saskatoon. I envision a community where everyone can be safe to live their lives openly and love who they want to love

578. Conversion therapy has no place in Saskatoon. I envision a community where everyone can be safe to live their lives openly and love who they want to love

579. I support the ban on conversion therapy because it is deeply and humanely wrong to try to forcibly change a person's fundamental identity. No person has the right to put someone through such a painful experience that will cause lifelong trauma just because of their sexual orientation. Frankly, I'm shocked that conversion therapy has not already been banned in Saskatoon; the discrimination of a person based on who they love is atrocious.

580. Telling someone that their identity is wrong is deeply traumatizing. All people deserve to live their true identity and self without shame or question.

581. Because being a part of the LGBTQ+ is not a choice; plain and simple. It is not "lifestyle." Those who still believe that conversion therapy is necessary or effective obviously don't understand that. Conversion therapy is useless and LGBTQ+ people should absolutely be welcomed in all parts of society.

582. Because why is conversion therapy still a thing in 2021?! It is straight torture.

583. I believe that this should not exist in our city.

584.	It is archaic.
585.	Because it's a useless and cruel practice that no one should be subjected to.
586.	No one should be forced to be someone they're not, or to feel ashamed about who they are.
587.	Conversion therapy is inhumane, cruel, and a violation of human rights
588.	To protect the most vulnerable
589.	It is a scientifically/medically unfounded practice. It causes deep pain and trauma at a time when people need to be offered compassion and acceptance. If Saskatoon allows these practices to happen, it can no longer confidently declare that Saskatoon Shines.
590.	Nobody should be questioned let alone converted about their sexual orientation as long as all parties are consenting. Allowing conversion therapy to happen in our city is harmful and can damage people deeply
591.	<p>Conversion therapy infringes on Section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. No governmental body has the right to suppress one's sexual orientation or identification.</p> <p>Conversion therapy is abhorrent and extremely harmful to the human psyche and spirit. It has been proven to lead to mental illness, self harm and suicide.</p> <p>Allowing conversion therapy acts as a catalyst for other discriminatory acts in daily life (such as verbal and physical assault) and other harmful conversion practices.</p>
592.	It needs to be banned because loving someone is not a mental illness and should never be treated as one. You should never have to go to therapy for liking the same gender or changing your gender.
593.	Who are we to say who someone should love? Or how someone chooses to identify? It's affecting no one negatively and it's none of our business
594.	Conversion therapy is inhumane and a violation of human rights. Queer people deserve to be treated as humans, not as if their identity is something to be fixed.

595. I support the banning of conversion therapy because being apart of the LGBTQ+ community is not something that is bad and needs to be changed. Personal and religious views should be kept separate from politics and therefore there is no valid reason as to why attempting to force a CIS identity on someone is correct.
596. Because this practice only further promotes the idea that there is something wrong with them that needs to be “fixed”. Instead we should be embracing diversity and accept people for who they are.
597. Belonging to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community is not an illness or disorder. Therefore, there is no place for therapy to “treat” it in Saskatoon, or anywhere else.
598. Because conversion therapy is cruel, inhumane and a violation of human rights.
599. Because it is inhumane
600. Because conversion therapy is barbaric.
601. I want to support LGBTQ youth and keep them safe from this harmful practise.
602. Conversion therapy doesn’t work and is extremely harmful and traumatizing. There’s nothing to cure or correct when someone’s homosexual, it’s perfectly normal. I thought there was a ban already and am terrified that there isn’t.
603. It is a horribly outdated, evil, harmful practice that has no place in our city.
604. Because love is love and no one should have to change who they are
605. Because love is love and no one should have to change who they are
606. It's about time, conversion therapy is and always has been immoral and unethical, plus it's 2021!

607. Conversion therapy is a technique used to mentally torture individuals and shame them for their own sexuality. This therapy is not so much a therapy but an abuse of power and the act of systematically enforcing Christian ideals onto unwilling youth.
608. conversion therapy is a barbaric practice that targets the already most vulnerable members of the community
609. It's harmful
610. No one should ever have to go to therapy for their sexual orientation or gender identity. It only causes emotional harm and trauma to the individual and makes them feel invalidated for their feelings.
611. conversion therapy can't change sexuality it only teaches people they should be ashamed of it
612. Because conversion therapy is cruel, dehumanizing and a hate crime! There is nothing wrong with the people targeted by conversion therapy. Conversion therapy is rooted in Catholicism and our city is not run by a church!
613. It is an individual's right to choose and accept their gender and sexuality. These structures do nothing more than promote hate, heteronormativity, and homophobia. Not to mention, there is no success in these practices other than to instil trauma in those forced into them.
614. It is an individual's right to choose and accept their gender and sexuality. These structures do nothing more than promote hate, heteronormativity, and homophobia. Not to mention, there is no success in these practices other than to instil trauma in those forced into them.
615. I support the ban on conversion therapy in Saskatoon because conversion therapy at its core is the enunciation that being gay is wrong and needs to be fixed, which is of course not true in the slightest. To stop the normalization of thinking gay is "wrong" we have to stop the structures that are supporting or benefiting from that ideology. Together, we can bring love and equality, once and for all.
616. Conversion therapy is unethical. Forcing someone to change who they are and a part of their identity is wrong.



213 Ave C S
Saskatoon, SK S7M 1N3
306.665.1224
1.800.358.1833
outsaskatoon.ca

- 617. Conversion therapy is and will always be a practice rooted in hate and discrimination with absolutely no rationale. It never should have been a practice but now in 2021 we can fully recognize the harm it caused to hundreds of LGBTQ+ youth, and we need to celebrate that we can all be accepted and live as our authentic selves. City council needs to be apart of making this change in order to prove to ALL of their constituents that they are willing to represent and stand up for their rights.
- 618. conversion therapy is disgusting and shouldn't have ever existed in the first place. It's well past time that the a ban is implemented as it is abusive and criminal.
- 619. Conversion therapy is inhumane and a violation of human rights. Queer people deserve to be treated as humans, not as if their identity is something to be fixed.
- 620. No one should be forced to change who they are and I stand beside my peers of the LGBTQ community.
- 621. it is harmful and damaging to people, families and communities.
- 622. it is unfair and cruel, it should be banned so it cannot be used ever again
- 623. The process of conversion therapy is inhumane, and is an insult and challenge faced to those in the lgbtq community
- 624. Because conversion therapy is psychologically and emotionally abusive and should have no place in canada or saskatoon.

The following letters of support were sent to us from our partner organizations. Additional letters of support from community based organizations were submitted through the City's website:

**BUILDING A
BRAVER FUTURE**

To Whom It May Concern,

We stand in solidarity with Saskatoon's 2SLGBTQ community and in support of Bylaw No. 9747, The Prohibited Business Bylaw. As an organization that provides affordable housing solutions and support services throughout the city of Saskatoon, we work directly with many individuals who identify as proud members of the 2SLGBTQ community. Therefore, we understand that the practices of conversion therapy only harm Two Spirit, Transgender, and Queer people, including those that we serve.

We work alongside OUTSaskatoon and support their vision of a community that affirms and celebrates 2SLGBTQ people so that they may live full, free, and open lives.

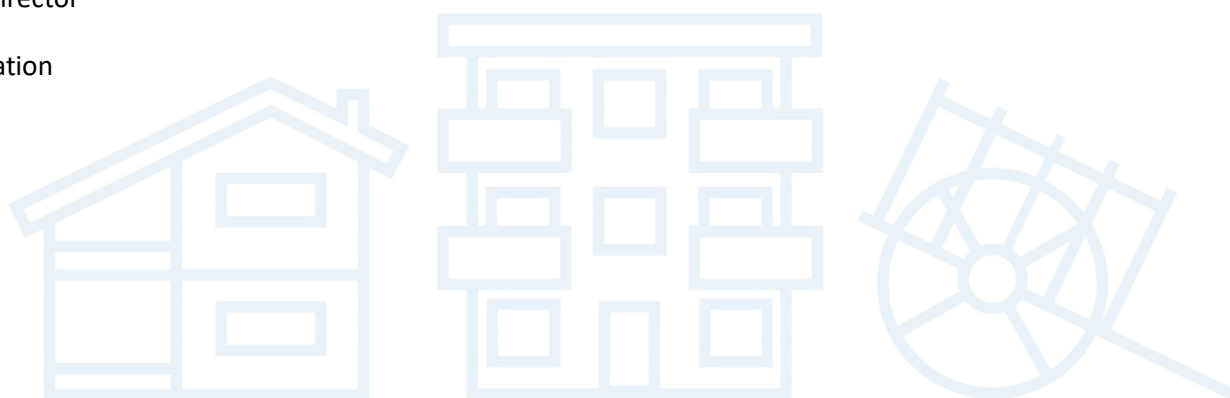
We strongly urge you to vote in favour of Bylaw No. 9747 and in favour of supporting Saskatoon's 2SLGBTQ community.

Sincerely,

Toby Esterby

Toby Esterby, Executive Director

Camponi Housing Corporation





February 19, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

We stand in solidarity with Saskatoon's 2SLGBTQ community and in support of Bylaw No. 9747, The Prohibited Business Bylaw.

As an organization that works with underserved members of the community, including the 2SLGBTQ community, around food security issues we recognize much of the misinformation this community is subject to. Therefore, we understand that the practices of conversion therapy only harm Two Spirit, Transgender, and Queer people, including those that we serve.

We work alongside OUTSaskatoon and support their vision of a community that affirms and celebrates 2SLGBTQ people so that they may live full, free, and open lives.

We strongly urge you to vote in favour of Bylaw No. 9747 and in favour of supporting Saskatoon's 2SLGBTQ community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gord Androsoff".

Gord Androsoff
Executive Director
CHEP Good Food Inc.



To Whom It May Concern,

The YWCA Saskatoon stands in solidarity with Saskatoon's 2SLGBTQ community and in support of Bylaw No. 9747, The Prohibited Business Bylaw. Since 1910, the YWCA Saskatoon has been providing inclusive supports and services to female identified people experiencing trauma, gender-based violence and social barriers.

Many of our clients identify as members of the 2SLGBTQ community and have faced significant discrimination, violence, homelessness, addictions and trauma as a result. We've seen the detrimental impacts societal attitudes and discriminatory practices such as conversion therapy, have had on our clients' mental health and well-being. This has to change. Conversion therapy can only harm Two Spirit, Transgender, and Queer people, including those that we serve.

We work alongside OUTSaskatoon and support their vision of a community that affirms and celebrates 2SLGBTQ people so that they may live full, free, and open lives.

We strongly urge you to vote in favour of Bylaw No. 9747 and in favour of supporting Saskatoon's 2SLGBTQ community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cara Bahr", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Cara Bahr
CEO
YWCA Saskatoon