

Dear Honorable Members of Parliament,

Thank you for the opportunity to present to you things I believe are important in the discussion of Bill C-6.

About a year and a half ago I learned about a Bill to ban what is known as "conversion therapy" and I was curious because I personally know 3 people who were in the LGBTQ, who married and lived heterosexual lives. You can imagine that I thought: what about them, what about people like them who upon seeking help would also have this same result.

I am writing to you because this is about them and only them. And when you have people like them brave enough to come forward with their story, please listen. I ask you to consider them to be the true heroes in this discussion, because there is a great backlash against them.

The major force behind the ban is a man named Dr. Kristopher Wells. His specialty is in education. Dr. Wells lives in my home city of Edmonton. I saw him in action at the meeting on conversion therapy ban in Aug. 2019. and in the W5 episode on conversion therapy and the church. Dr. Wells speaks about long abandoned procedures that only a medical doctor could have ordered. He speaks about them as if they are happening today. I observed the audible gasp from the committee members when he spoke about lobotomy, chemical castration and electric shock treatments. Who wouldn't be shocked by this claimed torture. It is an effective tactic.

Dr. Ann Gillies was in Edmonton attempting to present current scientific knowledge and had brought a moving testimony of a man who had been a leader in the LGBTQ who has also changed. The counselors were shocked that there would be anyone coming forward with an alternate outcome, and still voted to proceed with the ban. The Mayor clearly said this was not about clergy counselling people, but there was a

bait and switch in the final draft. How could this happen, This final draft was not what was agreed upon at the committee meeting, but although there were some concerns voiced, there was pressure to have a positive vote on that day.

Why is current scientific knowledge not considered valid. In The UK, there is a class action suits against a trans clinic from clients who regret their transition claiming they did not receive enough counseling beforehand, the counselling that Bill C-6 bans. I would expect law suits against the Government of Canada since this will happen here too. Are you willing to have these people go through live changing surgeries only to find this was a phase they needed a bit of talk therapy to navigate through?

I could go on, but I think I have made my major points which are:

- 1) This is about helping LGBTQ who are asking for help with their personal issues**
- 2) Medical Methods abandoned decades ago should not be part of this current discussion**
- 3) The science on this is not settled, change is possible**
- 4) There are people who have an apparent vendetta especially against clergy, who are misleading well intentioned lawmakers like yourselves**
- 5) The true heroes are those who are ex LGBTQ who are brave enough to come forward with their stories. They deserve to be heard.**
- 6) Lawsuits projected as a result of Bill C-6**

Thank you for taking the time to read this very short version of a difficult subject. I do not believe anyone condones abuse of people, and as I understand, we already have laws on the books to protect against this.

**Thank you and take care,
Renita Lowry**