

I am writing to express my support for Bill C-6, An Act To Amend The Criminal Code (conversion therapy).

For the past four years I have been researching conversion therapy in Canada, specifically those who practice, and those who support conversion therapy, or SOGIECE - Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression Change Efforts. My position in doing this research is as an advocate to 2SLGBTQ+, and in support of all bans; municipal, provincial, and federal ban Bill C-6.

I have supplied information to the offices of Minister David Lametti, and Minister Bardish Chagger. My research has contributed to studies, surveys, and bans prepared by Dr. Kristopher Wells, Dr. Travis Salway, No Conversion Canada, and others working to stop conversion therapy in Canada. This information has also been requested by national journalists, who are writing about conversion therapy in Canada.(1) My research on Northern Youth Programs was used by CBC journalist Jody Porter to address the connection between conversion therapy, and youth Suicide in Indigenous communities. (2)

My findings have indicated that people of all ages are at risk of being subjected to the harmful practices of conversion therapy. Many of the practitioners of conversion therapy are licensed biblical counsellors, and psychotherapists. These therapists hold accreditation as biblical counsellors, with this accreditation issued by Christian Colleges and Universities in Canada. (3) These people offer "pastoral care", or "help for those struggling with same-sex attraction", and are often registered charities, or operate through churches that have charitable status.

Organizations like the PACCP - Professional Association of Christian Counsellors and Psychotherapists, demand that a biblical view of marriage and sexuality is upheld by their members, and therefore hold biases when dealing with LGBTQ clients. (4) The PACCP Members Resources includes known conversion therapy practitioners.(5)

Adults who have been brought up in an environment of intolerance towards anyone who identifies outside of the heteronormative, biblically sanctioned view of sexuality and gender, often have no choice but to participate in the tortuous practices of conversion therapy. The hope of any intimacy with another human adult in a loving relationship is lost to them, unless they submit to "pastoral care" to repair their "brokenness", so they may marry in a biblically sanctioned (heterosexual) union. The only other choice for many is a life of celibacy, or the shunning loss of community, and family. "Mixed orientation marriages" are another "choice" in some religious groups.(6)

Consent is not a word that should ever be used when applied to the tortuous practices of conversion therapy. Those who have been coerced their whole lives may not have the skills to discern between coercion, and consent. Consent has no place in this Bill (Bill C-6, conversion therapy).

Please amend Bill C-6 (conversion therapy) to include adult protection.

Please stop all conversion therapy practices in Canada. This is a criminal matter, and a matter of Human Rights.

If you need more information, or further documentation, please do not hesitate to ask.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Marianne Brown
Annapolis Royal
Nova Scotia

(1) Rachele Browne Global News - <https://globalnews.ca/news/5511047/conversion-therapy-ban-3/>

Kevin O'Keefe - W5 - Thy Will Be Done - <https://www.ctvnews.ca/w5/how-religious-organizations-use-conversion-therapy-to-try-to-make-lgbtq-people-straight-1.4791880>

(2) CBC Jody Porter article about Northern Youth Programs/Beaver Lake Camp - NYP teaches runs IBCI - Institute of Biblical Counselling International Residential Schools Cast a Long Shadow on LGBTQ2 Community in Northern Ontario <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/northern-ontario-evangelical-christian-group-anti-lgbtq2-1.5722906>

(3) IBCI - Institute of Biblical Counselling International - courses accredited by Providence Theological Seminary of Manitoba <https://www.ibcinternational.net>
<https://www.ibcinternational.net/about-us>

Providence University - Diploma in Biblical Counselling - taught by missionaries from Northern Youth Programs Dryden ON.

Equip Yourself for Christian Counselling in Northern Communities and Inuit and First Nations settings <https://www.prov.ca/programs-courses/theological-seminary/diploma-in-biblical-counselling/>

(4) PACCP - Professional Association of Christian Counsellors and Psychotherapists <https://www.paccp.ca>

(5) PACCP - Member Resources - sexuality <https://www.paccp.ca/member-main-page/members-resources/mental-health-resources/mentalhealthresources/pornography-and-sexual-addiction-resources/>

(6) Mixed orientation marriage - Latter Day Saints / Mormons <https://affirmation.org/mixed-orientation-families/>