

Bill C-6 - Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser

To the members of the Justice Committee.

I will try to be “brief”.

The [Canadian Psychological Association Policy Statement on Conversion Therapy](#) states:

*The Canadian Psychological Association opposes any therapy with the goal of repairing or converting an individual's sexual orientation, regardless of age. Conversion therapy, or reparative therapy, refers to any formal therapeutic attempt to change the sexual orientation of bisexual, gay and lesbian individuals to heterosexual (e.g., Nicolosi, 1991; Socarides & Kaufman, 1994). **It can include prayer or religious rites, modification of behaviours, and individual or group counselling (Bright, 2004; Nicolosi, 1991).***

In my experience, I would testify that this is true. The Policy statement goes on to list many of the difficulties experienced by those who have undergone Conversion Therapy. Based on my experience, I would testify that their assessment of the effects is correct.

A few notes.

1. Very few people are willing to provide evidence of a Conversion Therapy that reliably works. Even the Briefs written in opposition to the Bill provide little evidence of this. This is due to the paucity of the evidence that it reliably works.
2. In my experience, Conversion Therapy is almost always talk therapy. People are no longer tied down and electrocuted on a wide scale. Conversion therapy is often conversational and practiced by lay people. It is implicitly available, rarely explicitly offered.
3. Due to the lay nature of Conversion Therapy, many organisations and churches providing “Conversion Therapy” a) do not believe that what they are doing falls under the boundaries of Conversion Therapy and/or b) would argue that what they are doing does not fall under the boundaries of conversion therapy.
4. It is necessary to take a strong stand against professional “conversion therapy” because this will set a boundary on expectations that people can change. If professionals are banned from attempting to change people, it will encourage laypersons, similarly, to abandon misguided and uninformed attempts.

5. The wording of the current definition in **320.101** criminalizes conversations aimed at “reducing” sexual behaviour. Conversations aimed at reducing sexual behaviour are not necessarily “conversion” conversations, and should not be criminalized. This will run afoul of religious groups and they will rightly come against it, very strongly.

Reader, regardless of your Political Party, thank you for the time, work and personal sacrifice that you give to our Country.

Best,  
Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser

1. Canadian Psychological Association statement on Conversion Therapy  
<https://cpa.ca/aboutcpa/policystatements/>