

## Conversion Therapy Law

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When we were sixteen years old, in 1962, my roommate and I were forced to undergo two years of psychiatric conversion therapy in order to be cured of our homosexuality. This occurred in a private boys' school in the United States. Homosexuality was considered to be a mental illness by the American Psychiatric Association until 1973. The Canadian Psychiatric Association, however, never thought that homosexuality was a mental illness.

As a result of this psychiatric torture, my friend committed suicide and I suffered an acute paranoid schizophrenic psychosis and was hospitalized for fifteen months. I knew that I had been driven insane by a psychiatrist and I knew that the only possible cure was to do everything that he had told me not to do, in other words to accept my homosexuality and live accordingly.

I have published this horrific story in two different books: *Comment réussir sa schizophrénie* (Montréal: V.L.B. éditeur, 2000) and *What Rough Beast* (London: Austin Macauley, 2017).

I hope that Canada will soon outlaw all forms of conversion therapy.