



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION NO.: **421-03168**

BY: **Ms. BENSON (SASKATOON WEST)**

DATE: **FEBRUARY 1, 2019**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **THE HONOURABLE DAVID LAMETTI**

Response by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Conversion Therapy

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

Conversion therapies are immoral, painful and do not reflect the values of our government or those of Canadians. Various medical and psychological associations have identified the practice as unethical. This issue primarily implicates the regulation of the health profession, which is a provincial and territorial responsibility.

Certain Criminal Code offences may apply to situations involving conversion therapy, depending upon the circumstances. For example, Criminal Code offences such as kidnapping (subsection 279(1)), forcible confinement (subsection 279(2)) and assault (sections 266 to 268) may apply where a person is forcibly compelled to undergo conversion therapy. The fraud offence (section 380) may apply where fees are charged for conversion therapy services, since the practice has been discredited by medical and psychological associations, and the offence prohibiting the wilful promotion of hatred against an identifiable group (subsection 319(2)) may apply if the offering of conversion therapy services involves wilfully promoting hatred against persons based on their sexual orientation. We continue to work with provincial and territorial governments to address these practices through the regulation of the health profession.