

Memorandum

TO: Dana Earle, Deputy City Clerk

FROM: Councillor S. Ch'ng

DATE: July 22, 2021

SUBJECT: Revised Motion – Ban Against Conversion Therapy
Committee of the Whole – July 26, 2021

Members of Council,

I would like to provide a revised motion relating to Ban Against Conversion Therapy. The changes relate to the information contained within the 4th paragraph as well as the addition of a report back date for Administration. The following is presented for your consideration,

WITH RESPECT to the Memorandum from Councillor S. Ch'ng dated July 13, 2021 relative to a ban on Conversion Therapy (also known as Reparative Therapy, Reintegrative Therapy, or Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Change Efforts is any form of treatment, including individual talk therapy, behavioural or aversion therapy, group therapy treatments, spiritual prayer, exorcism, and/or medical or drug induced treatments) which attempt to actively change someone's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, we recommend that conversion therapy be denounced as a harmful and unethical practice by major medical and human rights organizations including Canadian Psychological Association, Canadian Psychiatric Association, and Canadian Association of Social Workers and denounce the practice of conversion therapy as a dangerous and harmful practice that perpetuates myths and stereotypes about sexual orientation and gender identity;

AND THAT the City of Thunder Bay support and advocate in favour of Bill C-6, An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Conversion Therapy) which proposes five conversion therapy-related offences, including:

- (a) causing a person to undergo conversion therapy against the person's will;
- (b) causing a child to undergo conversion therapy;
- (c) doing anything for the purpose of removing a child from Canada with the intention that the child undergo conversion therapy outside Canada;
- (d) advertising an offer to provide conversion therapy; and
- (e) receiving a financial or other material benefit from the provision of conversion therapy.

AND THAT the City of Thunder Bay acknowledge that any municipal prohibition on or regulation of conversion therapy may face legislative and jurisdictional challenges, and as conversion therapy is often practiced in secret outside of formal business settings and deemed that regulation of this practice is better addressed at the federal level where it can be criminalized;

AND THAT Administration be directed to report on options available to prohibit the practice and advertising of conversion therapy in the City of Thunder Bay, through Planning, Development, Business Licensing and human resources support available for city employees along with engagement with local agencies such as Canadian Mental Health, Thunder Pride, Rainbow Collective, Children's Centre Thunder Bay and any other relevant stakeholders;

AND THAT Administration report back on or before March 31, 2022;

AND THAT notice of this resolution be shared with the Prime Minister of Canada, the Minister of Justice and the Attorney General, the Minister of Diversity and Inclusion and Youth, MP Patty Hajdu, MP Michael Gravelle, MPP Marcus Powlowski, MPP Judith Monteith Farrell to express support for Bill C-6, An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Conversion Therapy);

AND THAT any necessary by-laws be presented for ratification.

C.C. Diversity Thunder Bay
Thunder Pride
Canadian Mental Health Association
Children's Centre Thunder Bay
Rainbow Collective