

Dear City Clerk,

I would like to request time to speak before the Regina City Council on July 14, 2021 at 1:00pm via teleconference. I am opposed to Conversion Therapy By-law No. 2021-51 and thus I want to speak on the issue.

My name is Nerissa Young. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak before the council. I support a ban on coercive counselling which is more like torture. No one supports that. But the by-law as worded, bans so much more than this. The highlights of my brief discussion opposing this by-law are as follows:

- the by-law is not properly worded and needs many changes. Right now, it bans much more than “conversion therapy”. It also bans helpful counselling.
- the by-law discriminates against Canadians by limiting what services they can receive Based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. The by-law criminalizes professionals and faith-based counselling voluntarily requested and consent to by by LGBTQ+ Canadians. Many people, regardless of orientation need counselling at times to manage or reduce unwanted behaviours.
- the by-law hinders parents’ freedom for an open conversation with their own children about sexuality, sexual behaviour & relationship, gender identity, and set house rules because it provides no way for them to “reduce” non-heterosexual or non-cisgender behaviour, even if their child wants help to reduce that behaviour. I do not like the word “gender expression” as this is too vague.

Respectfully,  
Nerissa Young