

Excerpt from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops on Bill C-6:

“The Catholic Church, like many Canadians, is opposed to all forms of coercive and manipulative activities because they do not respect the sacred dignity of the human person and the freedoms inherent with that dignity. The protection of vulnerable Canadians from harmful acts is a necessary and important goal and one which the Bishops irrevocably support.

However, upon careful reading of Bill C-6, after discussions with professional associations and other faith groups and in consultation with legal experts, it is apparent that Bill C-6 has some serious (gaps) and shortcomings in its present form ... This is mainly because of its problematic definition of conversion therapy which reads: ‘a practice, treatment or service designed to change a person’s sexual orientation to heterosexual or gender identity to cisgender, or to repress or reduce non-heterosexual attraction or sexual behaviour.’”

It is precisely this problematic definition that you seek to endorse.

This problematic definition, which you want to endorse, could make lawful and respectful actions ... subject to our Nation’s Criminal Code.

This problematic definition, which you seek to endorse, makes “no provision for legitimate diversity ... on human sexuality arising from religious beliefs, from philosophical debate, or from scientific and medical study ...”

This problematic definition, which you seek to endorse makes no provision “for conscientious dissent related to (human sexuality) in forums of teaching or public presentation.”

This problematic definition, which you, my City’s Counsellors, so desperately want to endorse makes it a real possibility “that within families, private conversations between parents and their children ... (will be) deemed public and subject to criminal prosecution ...”

You do this, after you removed the statue of Sir John A MacDonald as a sign of respect for our Indigenous Communities suffered under the plight of Residential Schools. Residential Schools that told our Indigenous Communities that they ought not be the primary educators of their own children, that they do not have a right to instruct their own children ... their sacred traditions, beliefs, and morality.

Ironically, my dear City Council, by endorsing Bill C-6 ... you are guilty of the very crime you accused Sir John A. MacDonald of. This bill, which you seek to endorse, tells all Canadians, that we ought not be the primary educators of our children; this bill, which you seek to endorse, puts us all into a type of residential school system by telling us that parents do not have a right to instruct our own children our sacred traditions, beliefs, and morality.

From your own perspective, residential schools erased the religious and cultural freedom that thrived in Indigenous Communities, and today, you too, by endorsing Bill C-6, erode this same inherent religious and cultural freedom all of Regina’s Citizens enjoy.

No one wants any other human person to suffer.

Let us work together to draft meaningful correspondence to our Federal Government, that reflects the legitimate concerns of the very people you seek to serve.

Kevin Philip