

Hello

My name is Tria Donaldson, and I am resident of Ward 3, in Treaty 4 territory and the homeland of the Metis.

I am a queer woman, and I am here today speaking in favour of a strongly worded bylaw to ban conversion therapy in Regina.

Conversion therapy is rooted in the harmful notion that queer and trans people are broken and in need of fixing. The pressure for young people to conform to homophobic and transphobic values causes very real damage.

Though based on US stats, a peer-reviewed study published by The Trevor Project in the [American Journal of Public Health found that](#) LGBTQ 2S youth who underwent conversion therapy were more than twice as likely to report having attempted suicide and more than 2.5 times as likely to report multiple suicide attempts in the past year.

Homelessness is also a challenge for LGBTQ2S youth who face rejection from their homes and faith communities. Which is why organizations like Regina's own Lulu Lodge are so important.

It warms my heart to see several members of council participating in the upcoming Drag Show fundraiser for Lulu's lodge. I hope that you will all be as brave as them today and take steps to support LGBTQ 2S people in Regina.

Just one note, I would like to call for amendments to the bylaw that bring it in line with the motion that was actually passed by Saskatoon council; which includes the phrase: No person shall contravene or fail to comply with any provision of this bylaw.

In the past, the City of Regina has looked to other levels of government to take action.

But the bill to ban Conversion therapy has stalled in the Senate and will fail if there is an early federal election called.

Given the absence of a federal ban, it is more important than ever that the City of Regina follows the example set by Saskatoon and moves forward with a ban on this hateful practice immediately.

I want to live in a city where politicians at all levels respect and value my queer and trans friends and family. And given the failure of 13 out of 14 Saskatchewan members of parliament to support this bill, and the continued silence of the provincial government, we are all counting

on the City of Regina to make the right choice and take immediate steps to make this city a little more safe for everyone.