

About UR Pride

Formed in 1996, we are Regina's largest and longest running 2SLGBTQ+ service organization. Our aim is to set the foundation for a safer, healthier, and more vibrant community for sexually and gender diverse people in Regina, both on campus and in the community.

Our programs include:

- support groups for seniors, youth, & trans people
- a community space
- free confidential counselling program for 2SLGBTQ+ people and their families, including folks who are questioning and exploring their identity

Our counselling program - Monarch Mental Health - offers professional counselling that does not prescribe what conclusions a person might come to about themselves. This service is of particular importance because 2SLGBTQ+ people experience harm by living in a society that continues to stigmatize and debate us.

First, a message to 2SLGBTQ+ people listening:

UR Pride wishes to express our unequivocal love & support for you. *You are loved and wanted in this world.*

We also wish to acknowledge the many 2SLGBTQ+ people who cannot listen today or chose not to speak today because it is too difficult to hear the disinformation, stigmatization, and - in some cases - hate that (despite Council's efforts) this conversation brings out.

Lest there be any doubt, conversion "therapy" happens in Regina

Rarely do the people engaging in these practices call what they are doing "conversion therapy". Yet our staff have supported people who have survived efforts to erase their identity, who have been forced to endure religious leaders or supposed 'therapists' who shame them for who they are, and who try to modify their behaviour against their will.

Since I appeared before Council in April, three separate survivors have sought me out to talk to me about their experience and to support my advocacy on their behalf, and behalf of all 2SLGBTQ+ people who could be vulnerable to these kinds of treatment.

Conversion therapy is harmful

We know this from the testimony of survivors. If you wish to hear directly from survivors harmed by these practices, I urge you to read transcripts of their words from the parliamentary committee hearings on Bill C-6.

Research has repeatedly confirmed the harm done by attempts to alter gender identity or sexual orientation. This scientific consensus has led to dozens of major medical, health, and human rights organizations around the world denouncing the practice including the [World Health Organization](#), [Canadian Psychological Association](#), [Canadian Psychiatric Association](#), [Canadian Paediatric Society](#), and [Canadian Association of Social Workers](#)

The need for a bylaw

Some have asked whether a municipal bylaw is necessary given that federal Bill C-6 would criminalize certain conversion therapy-related activities.

It's important to note that while that Bill has passed the House of Commons, the Senate has not yet passed it. That means if a federal election is called before the Senate resumes in late September, the Bill will not become law.

Even if criminalization comes to pass, there is still value to having a variety of tools at different levels to tackle this problem. This is consistent with the approach on many other issues addressed by multiple levels of government.

In light of all this; vote to pass this Bylaw

Some delegates are likely to suggest wording changes that would weaken or soften the wording, trying to create loopholes that allow this harmful practice to continue in certain circumstances. Resist these attempts.

Invest in support for the 2SLGBTQ+ communities

We recommend that city council also

- Provide core funding to 2SLGBTQ+ support organizations such as UR Pride and TransSask Support Services
- Pressure the province to fund mental health initiatives to address harm done by these services and by a world that continues to tell us that we are lesser than others in our City.

Thank you for your time.

Aspen Huggins, Vice-Chair
UR Pride Centre

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From this perspective, we wanted to provide additional informational items to help our elected City Council members make an informed decision regarding the impacts of conversion therapy on the 2SLGBTQ+ community.