
Opposition to Conversion Therapy

Policy Statement

Strathcona County is in opposition to, and condemns, the use of Conversion Therapy.

Section 3(c) of the *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000, c M-26, sets out that it is a municipal purpose to "...develop and maintain safe and viable communities". The County believes that Conversion Therapy is a practice that reduces that safety of some members of the Strathcona County community, and as such, takes a stance against the promotion or practice of Conversion Therapy.

Strathcona County will not support the use of Conversion Therapy with any County resources, or through the use of any County facilities.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to protect vulnerable and at-risk persons from the use of unproven techniques, including Conversion Therapy, that attempt to change a person's sexual orientation, gender identity, gender preference, or gender expression.

Definitions

"Conversion Therapy" means an attempt to change an individual's sexual orientation, gender identity, gender preference, or gender expression; an attempt to convert an individual from one orientation, identity, preference, or expression to another. Conversion therapy includes various physical treatments, chemical or hormonal treatments, drug treatments, counselling, or behaviour modification through shaming or emotionally coercive or traumatic stimuli. Conversion therapy does not include clinical assessment and treatment by a medical professional that explores all aspects of an individual's sexual orientation, gender identity, gender preference, or gender expression, or that explores an age- or developmental-level-appropriate use of gender transition to align an individual's anatomical features with the individual's gender identity.

"County" means the municipal corporation of Strathcona County, a specialized municipality established under the authority of the Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, c M-26 and Order in Council 761/95

Guidelines

County grants, funding, donations, or other contributions, whether financial or otherwise, will not be provided to organizations that currently promote or practice Conversion Therapy.

The County will not permit the use of its facilities for use by any organization or person who will use the facilities to promote Conversion Therapy or to perform Conversion Therapy on another person.

County advertising and the County logo are not permitted to appear in any place where they may be construed as indicating support for the practice of Conversion Therapy.

If County advertising, or the County logo, appears on a third party's advertising or property in a manner that may be construed as indicating support for the practice of Conversion Therapy, the County will take steps to have the County's advertising or logo removed from that location as soon as practicable.

Policy Record

Date of Approval by Council: Month XX, 2019 **Resolution No:** 2019/XXX

Next Review Date: Month XX, 2022 **Policy No:** GOV-001-039

Last Review Date: Month XX, 2019 **Replaces:** N/A

Administrative Review: Governance Advisory Committee