

GOVERNANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**Opposition to Conversion Therapy Review Policy and Bylaw Review****Report Purpose**

To seek Council approval of the repeal of Policy GOV-001-039 Opposition to Conversion Therapy and Bylaw 28-2019 Conversion Therapy Prohibition Bylaw to align with recent amendments to the Criminal Code.

Recommendation

1. THAT Policy GOV-001-039 Opposition to Conversion Therapy, be repealed.
2. THAT Bylaw 50-2022, a bylaw to repeal the *Conversion Therapy Prohibition Bylaw*, be given first reading.
3. THAT Bylaw 50-2022 be given second reading.
4. THAT Bylaw 50-2022 be considered for third reading.
5. THAT Bylaw 50-2022 be given third reading.

Report

The Governance Advisory Committee is responsible for the review of Council governance policies in accordance with the policy review schedule. Policy GOV-001-039 Opposition to Conversion Therapy and consequentially Bylaw 28-2019 Conversion Therapy Prohibition Bylaw were reviewed by the Committee on July 13, 2022.

Policy GOV-001-039 and Bylaw 28-2019 were approved by Council on September 24, 2019. At that time, Council also passed the following motion:

THAT the Mayor, on behalf of Council, write letters to the federal and provincial governments requesting that they take all steps within their respective constitutional powers to ban conversion therapy.

Amendments to the Criminal Code making conversion therapy illegal in Canada were approved in December 2021 and came into force on January 7, 2022. This legislation creates significant overlap with Policy GOV-001-039 and Bylaw 28-2019. As provisions of both the policy and bylaw are now included in the Criminal Code, the Governance Advisory Committee recommends that both be repealed. This will prevent duplication and the proliferation of policies and bylaws that are superseded by other pieces of legislation.

Council and Committee History

July 13, 2022	Governance Advisory Committee approval: THAT the Governance Advisory Committee recommend to Council that Policy GOV-001-039 Opposition to Conversion Therapy and Bylaw 28-2019 Conversion Therapy Bylaw, be repealed.
September 24, 2019	Council approval: THAT Policy GOV-001-039 Opposition to Conversion Therapy, as set out in Enclosure 2 of the Legislative and Legal Services September 24, 2019 report, be approved.

September 24, 2019	Council approved Bylaw 28-209 Conversion Therapy Prohibition Bylaw.
September 24, 2019	Council approval: THAT the Mayor, on behalf of Council, write letters to the federal and provincial governments requesting that they take all steps within their respective constitutional powers to ban conversion therapy.

Enclosure(s)

- 1 Policy GOV-001-039 Opposition to Conversion Therapy
- 2 Bylaw 50-2022 *Conversion Therapy Prohibition Bylaw* Repealing Bylaw