



BRITISH COLUMBIA

August 1, 2019

The Honourable David Lametti, PC, QC, MP
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
284 Wellington Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0H8

Dear Minister Lametti:

We are writing in response to your June 21, 2019 letter, regarding the harmful practice of so-called 'conversion therapy'. On behalf of Premier Horgan and the government of British Columbia, we unreservedly reject conversion therapy as nothing more than ignorance and prejudice disguised as a medical treatment. Attempting to treat or change an individual's sexual identity is unethical, contrary to human rights and risks exposing those affected to life-long trauma.

We therefore call on the federal government to amend the *Criminal Code* to cover the full range of this circumstances that this practice occurs. Conversion therapy is hateful and harmful and therefore should be a crime in Canada. People across British Columbia have been clear that they will not stand for this dangerous practice taking place in our province.

It is important for the public to understand the rules that are in place in BC to prevent this inappropriate and unethical practice. Conversion therapy is prohibited in our public health care system. Health professionals are prevented from offering the service and billing for it and any regulated health professional found to be doing so would be referred for inquiry and potential discipline by their regulatory college. If someone were to bill for it under a different billing code, this would be considered fraud.

We encourage anyone in BC who has been impacted by this so-called treatment being offered to file a complaint. The Ministry of Health page on professional regulation outlines the process on how to file such a complaint <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/practitioner-professional-resources/professional-regulation>. Similarly, regulatory colleges are taking proactive measures to ensure conversion therapy is not promoted by registrants.

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We welcome action by other provinces in Canada follow this approach in prohibiting conversion therapy in their public health care systems. Our message to any health professional offering or planning on offering this abusive treatment is simple: you will be reported, and you will face disciplinary action.

As communities across BC celebrate Pride, we are committed to ensuring that people of all sexual orientations and gender identities can live without fear or discrimination. If you are gay, you do not need to be fixed. If you are trans, you are accepted here in BC. No matter who you are, you are beautiful, and we see you.

Yours truly,

A black ink signature, likely of David Eby, consisting of a large 'D' and 'E' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

David Eby, QC
Attorney General

A black ink signature, likely of Adrian Dix, featuring a stylized 'A' and 'D' with a horizontal line through the middle.

Adrian Dix
Minister of Health

A blue ink signature, likely of Spencer Chandra Herbert, with a stylized 'S' and 'H' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Spencer Chandra Herbert
MLA for Vancouver-West End