

PARENTAL CONSENT ALBERTA

Ensuring the Parents' Voice in Their
Children's Sexuality and Gender Development

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Impact of Federal Bill C-4, So-called "Conversion Therapy Ban" on Parental Consent Rights and Childrearing Roles



Please read [Bill C-4 – An Act to amend the Criminal Code \(conversion therapy\)](#).

After exchanging a number of emails with Conservative MPs on the topic of Bill C-4: Conversion Therapy Ban, it became clear that an unbalanced, irrational and ambiguous law is very likely to be passed, perhaps with a majority of Conservative MPs giving their approval. Loyal Opposition affirmations of the Bill were as follows:

As parliamentarians, MPs have a responsibility to protect the most vulnerable in our society. That includes members of the LGBTQ community who have been the target of degrading or dehumanizing practices in an effort to change their sexual orientation against their will.

The spirit of Bill C-4 is not to end conversations or drive a wedge between children and their parents. It is meant to condemn and protect vulnerable people from a dangerous practice.

Conservatives agree that conversion therapy is wrong and should be banned. No Canadian should be forced to change who they are. We know that too many Canadians have been harmed by this practice.

I [Conservative MP] fully support every LGBT Canadian living the way they choose. I also am totally opposed to any form of abuse or forced conversion of LGBT children and adults.

What matters is not the so-called “spirit of Bill C-4” declared by ban proponents, but rather the actual wording of the law and its legal applications and practical implications for all stakeholders.

Unprecedented disenfranchisement of traditional parenting rights and responsibilities, and forced acceptance and application of “**one secular, pro-sexual minority social ethos**” in family affairs and child sexual development is the antithesis of freedom of religion and conservative values. Albertans must not stand-by while the state radically alters the sexuality and gender development environment for over 733,000 school-age youth through unparalleled/unbalanced changes in “*parent-child-State*” relationships. Very few are for abusive forced conversion of Canadians in order to change their sexual orientation or gender (SOGI) self-identity. The real issue is supporting the maximum number of “**Canadians living the way they choose.**”

Bill C-4 actually denies Canadians (of any age) their free will right to choose to change/modify/reduce a sexual attraction or behaviour with their preferred choice of counsellor/therapist/doctor. The Bill denies Canadians the free will right to choose to investigate their gender dysphoria with their preferred choice of counsellor/therapist/doctor. The Bill denies Canadians the free will right to choose and access professional help to change a previously declared gender identity back to match the person’s biology. **The Bill denies Canadian parents the longstanding right and responsibility to determine, choose and consent to the medical/counselling/therapy services they deem in the best interests of their off-spring.** The Bill denies the free will right of sexually or gender wavering/confused/questioning children (and their parents) to find and have access to heteronormative counsel/therapy.

Bill C-4 embodies the following flawed political/ideological tenets, which are also the foundational premises of *Alberta Education* secret SOGI self-identification and GSA membership policies:

- the position that no youth, of his/her own free will, would ever wish to change/reduce a sexual attraction;
- the position that no youth will ever mistakenly/misguidedly/incorrectly wish to transition from his/her birth/biological sex;
- the position that no youth, of his/her own free will, would ever wish to “detransition” to realign gender identity with their anatomical sex;
- the position that SOGI self-identity is sacrosanct and fixed, never fluid or influenced by environmental factors, maturity, and cognitive/psychological/medical considerations; and
- the position that guidance/counselling/therapy to wavering/confused/questioning persons must always be LGBTQ affirming and never heteronormative-based.

The definition of conversion therapy includes “*any practice to repress or reduce non-heterosexual attraction or sexual behaviour.*” Bill C-4 criminalizes the following activities:

- causing a minor [any child under age 18] to undergo “*any practice to repress or reduce non-heterosexual attraction or sexual behaviour;*”
- promoting or advertising an offer to provide “*any practice to repress or reduce non-heterosexual attraction or sexual behaviour;*” and
- receiving a financial or other material benefit from the provision of “*any practice to repress or reduce non-heterosexual attraction or sexual behaviour.*”

Bill C-4 also authorizes courts to order that advertisements for “any practice to repress or reduce non-heterosexual attraction or sexual behaviour” be disposed of or deleted.

Furthermore, Liberal and NDP members in the Justice Committee refused to support rational clarifying amendment initiatives. The Justice Committee majority opinion rejected:

To add clarity to the bill and ensure that voluntary conversations between individuals and their teachers, school counsellors, pastoral counselling, faith leaders, doctors, mental health professionals, friends or family members are not criminalized.

Faced with a number of stakeholder complaints that Bill C-4, including its definition, was too vague, Justice Minister David Lametti, responded indicating he sees no need for amendments. Instead, he has allowed the Justice Department to post at the end of a Bill C-4 [advisory](#) on their website:

These new offences would not criminalise private conversations in which personal views on sexual orientation, sexual feelings or gender identity are expressed such as where teachers, school counsellors, pastoral counsellors, faith leaders, doctors, mental health professionals, friends or family members provide affirming support to persons struggling with their sexual orientation, sexual feelings, or gender identity.

That this notice has no legal utility and will one day disappear from the internet matters little to the government. Indeed, according to [National Post journalist, Brian Platt](#), Minister Lametti told the Justice Committee: “A mere conversation cannot therefore be considered a practice, service or treatment, unless it forms part of a formalized intervention such as a talk therapy session.” Platt further reported that NDP MP Randell Garrison told Lametti “he’s dismayed to see [then] Bill C-6 still allows for consenting adults to undergo conversion therapy.” The final approves Bill C-4 actually bans Canadians of all ages.

One must conclude from the progressive left (Liberal and NDP) intransigence to make any clarifications, that a goal of Bill C-4 is to cancel, restrict, and criminalize faith-based, social conservative “practices and values,” and to deny access to institutions/agencies/counsellors affirming these values, beliefs and truths. Only neutral/indifferent practices, treatments or services that do not favour any particular sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression are allowed. **Where does the ban leave Christian/Islamic/Judeo and/or social conservative parents rearing “vulnerable” sexually wavering/questioning/confused children, very young children, or cognitively challenged children?**

The approval of Bill C-4 effectively requires parents to affirm their children’s SOGI self-identity starting at age of first expression in the home, indeed, everywhere. An attempt by parents to change a child’s SOGI self-identification may result in incarceration. Both federal and provincial governances assert/declare to parents “once a child articulates a SOGI self-identity, this identity is fixed – never to be retracted, never to be challenged, never to be changed/modified, and always to be affirmed.” Family values and beliefs not in agreement with the State are to be overruled.

The convergence of *Alberta Education’s* system of “secret” SOGI self-identity/GSA membership policies, some aspects of inclusive education policies, and the federal Bill C-4 legislation raises a additional concerns - see PCA document: **Questions and Issues UCP Leadership Contenders and the New Premier Need to Answer and Address** – [click here](#). [5 Minute Read]