

**From:** "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>  
**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"  
**CC:** "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"  
**Date:** 4/3/2019 11:30:24 AM  
**Subject:** Conversion therapy

Good morning Mayor and Council,

I am writing further to a recent media enquiry regarding the current prohibition on the commercial practice of conversion therapy within the City of Vancouver.

By way of background, on June 6, 2018, Council approved a motion directing staff to bring forward an amendment to the Business Prohibition By-law to include conversion therapy as a service subject to that by-law. The full text of the motion, including the rationale for the prohibition, is set out on page 5 of the meeting minutes: <https://council.vancouver.ca/20180606/documents/cfsc20180606min.pdf>

The amended by-law was enacted on June 19, 2018: <https://bylaws.vancouver.ca/consolidated/12147.PDF> The effect of the by-law is to forbid "charging a fee for any services that seek to change the sexual orientation or gender identity of any person." The by-law also provides for the following explicit exception to the prohibition: "Services prohibited do not include services that provide acceptance, support or understanding of a person or the facilitation of a person's coping, social support or identity exploration or development, or any services related to sex-reassignment surgery."

Of note, the City only has jurisdiction to prohibit activities that meet the foregoing definition where such services are provided in a manner that constitutes a "business". Activities undertaken by non-commercial organizations that do not entail payment of fees would likely fall outside this scope.

Please let me know if you require any additional information regarding this matter.

Best,  
Paul

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*The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.*