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## Transphobic Rhetoric Around Conversion Therapy Ban in Regina

April 23, 2021

For Immediate Release

TransSask Support Services would like to express our profound disappointment with the Community Wellness Committee of the Regina City Council during their discussion of a potential conversion therapy ban. During the investigation of this ban on April 14 and April 19, the Community Wellness Committee invited delegates to present to the committee. While many spoke in support of transgender and 2SLGBTQ people – notably, several members and leaders of Regina United Churches – a significant portion of delegates did not.

Several egregious misconceptions about 2SLGBTQ people were voiced, which were left unchallenged or were allowed to proceed well past the point of relevance to the committee. Echoing the open letter written by Cat Haines, published in Briarpatch,<sup>1</sup> these included:

- Language which misgendered transgender people and disrespected their identities;
- Harmful and outlandish conflation of hormone therapy and gender affirming surgeries with mutilation;
- The abhorrent and false association between homosexuality and pedophilia;
- The myth that the majority of cases of gender dysphoria in youth resolve on their own; and
- The discredited theory of Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria (ROGD), which equates gender dysphoria to a social contagion.

TransSask condemns these views, which are unscientific, outmoded, and border on infringing on the human right to self-determination and non-discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, and gender expression as laid out in the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and the *Saskatchewan Human Rights Code*.

Transphobia, homophobia, and queerphobia are a threat to our communities, and that these views were allowed to have a platform at the Regina City Council is unnerving and detrimental to the 2SLGBTQ community. We call on the Regina City Council to stand in solidarity with us in defying such flagrant hate. In particular, we would like to see the following from Regina City Council:

- To moderate future delegates, and implement a no tolerance policy for hateful statements against marginalized communities;
- To address the misinformation platformed by delegates, in order to prevent the spread of these harmful misconceptions; and
- To make positive, tangible steps to repair the relationship between Council and the 2SLGBTQ communities in Regina.

For the 2SLGBTQ people that call Regina home, we would like to see Regina City Council help us uplift this community so it may prosper and thrive, without fear or hatred.

Looking toward a world of acceptance and diversity,  
TransSask Support Services

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<sup>1</sup> Cat Haines, "Open Letter to Mayor Masters and the Regina Community Wellness Committee," *Briarpatch*, April 19, 2021, <https://briarpatchmagazine.com/saskdispatch/view/open-letter-to-mayor-masters-and-the-regina-community-wellness-committee>.