

MEDIA RELEASE

Supporting Bill C-4 and a Ban on Conversion Therapy

Victoria, British Columbia (December 2, 2021) - The BC Association of Clinical Counsellors (BCACC) applauds the Federal government for updating and fast-tracking Bill C-4 to ban the practice of conversion therapy.

According to GLAAD, conversion therapy is “any attempt to change a person’s sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.” BCACC strongly condemns the use of any such clinical practice which seeks to deny or repress a person’s authentic self.

“Conversion therapy has a long history of causing harm and discrimination. Our association stands firmly rooted in the belief that to ensure the mental health of Canadians, legislation that bans conversion therapy practice in Canada must be passed”, said BCACC Executive Director, Michael Radano. “Members of BCACC must abide by a Code of Ethical Conduct. The foundation of the Code rests on Principle I which states that Registered Clinical Counsellors must “*Respect the Dignity of All Persons and People*”. Conversion therapy, which has been discredited for many years, falls far outside of the scope of providing ethical, affirming and empathetic counselling care.”

The bill, once passed, will make Canada’s criminal laws on conversation therapy among the most comprehensive in the world.

###

The BC Association of Clinical Counsellors (BCACC) is a non-profit provincial professional association founded in 1988 with more than 5500 members. BCACC advocates for the Counselling profession and for public access to mental health services. Its members (Registered Clinical Counsellors – RCCs) are held to the highest standards of practice and a strict code of ethics in service and protection of the public.

For more information:

Michael Radano, BCACC Executive Director
778.990.7294

Michael@bc-counsellors.org