

November 26, 2019

The Honourable David Lametti, P.C., Q.C., M.P.  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada  
House of Commons  
284 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6



Dear Minister:

**Re: Support to amend the *Criminal Code* to prohibit so-called conversion therapy**

On behalf of the 390,000 members of the National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE), I am writing to express our strong support to amend the *Criminal Code* to prohibit so-called reparative or conversion therapy.

The practice of reparative or conversion therapy has been rejected by mainstream medical and mental health organizations for having no basis in science and for being deeply harmful to the individual undergoing "therapy." Minors are even more vulnerable to the adverse effects of conversion therapy such as depression, anxiety, drug use, homelessness, and suicide. We must take action to protect LGBTQI2S Canadians from this unethical practice that is nothing more than a weapon of homophobia and transphobia.

NUPGE is in full support of the letter sent to you by British Columbia's Minister of Health, Adrian Dix, Attorney General David Eby, and Spencer Herbert, MLA, calling on your government to amend the *Criminal Code* to prohibit this destructive practice.

The current patchwork of provincial legislation is not sufficient to protect the rights of our LGBTQI2S citizens. That the practice has not yet been banned universally in Canada, even though it has been 7 years since the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) issued a statement saying reparative or conversion therapy represents "a serious threat to the health and well-being—even the lives—of affected people," is appalling.

We strongly urge you and the federal government to take action immediately to amend the *Criminal Code* to prohibit reparative or conversion therapy in Canada.

Sincerely,

Larry Brown  
President

cc: Bert Blundon, Secretary-Treasurer  
National Executive Board