

# Conversion Therapy

## Bill C-8

### **Definition of *conversion therapy***

**320.101** In sections 320.102 to 320.106, ***conversion therapy*** means a practice, treatment or service designed to change a person's sexual orientation to heterosexual or gender identity to cisgender, or to repress or reduce non-heterosexual attraction or sexual behaviour. For greater certainty, this definition does not include a practice, treatment or service that relates

- (a) to a person's gender transition; or
- (b) to a person's exploration of their identity or to its development.

### **Forced conversion therapy**

**320.102** Everyone who knowingly causes a person to undergo conversion therapy against the person's will is

- (a) guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term of not more than five years; or
- (b) guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction.

### **Causing child to undergo conversion therapy**

**320.103 (1)** Everyone who knowingly causes a person who is under the age of 18 years to undergo conversion therapy is

- (a) guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term of not more than five years; or
- (b) guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction.

### **Mistake of age**

**(2)** It is not a defence to a charge under subsection (1) that the accused believed that the person was 18 years of age or older, unless the accused took reasonable steps to ascertain the person's age.

### **Advertising conversion therapy**

**320.104** Everyone who knowingly advertises an offer to provide conversion therapy is

- (a) guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term of not more than two years; or
- (b) guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction.

### **Material benefit from conversion therapy**

**320.105** Everyone who receives a financial or other material benefit, knowing that it is obtained or derived directly or indirectly from the provision of conversion therapy, is

- (a) guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term of not more than two years; or
- (b) guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction.

## Coming into Force

30th day after royal assent

6 This Act comes into force on the 30th day after the day on which it receives royal assent.

Cisgender denoting or relating to a person whose sense of personal identity and gender corresponds with their birth sex.