

Conversion Therapy

Ann Gillies & Restoring the Mosaic in the Context of Legal and Ethical Violations

The Psychologists' Association of Alberta (PAA) is the professional association for psychologists with the mission to advance the science-based profession of psychology and promote the psychological wellbeing of all Albertans. Discrimination harms, diversity strengthens; diversity increases tolerance and psychological health and is the model for a caring society (PAA Public Position Statement).

Actionable Recommendations / Solutions

The psychological health & wellness of Albertans is paramount. We advocate that:

1. Advertisements with illegal and clearly unsubstantiated information should not be allowed in public forums.
2. Regulatory colleges that protect the safety of Albertans should investigate the false advertising of Ann Gillies as a “doctor” and “counsellor” online and in newspapers
3. As she notes “Ontario” in her designation, health profession regulatory colleges in Ontario should investigate the false advertising of Ann Gillies as a “doctor” and “counsellor”

Advertised service

18 June 2021 an advertisement appeared in the Medicine Hat News for [Restoring the Mosaic](#) and [Free to Care](#).

The “Free to Care” website encourages advocacy against the bills legislating against conversion therapy. The “Restoring the Mosaic” website claims to have proof from psychotherapists in support of opposing conversion therapy bans and in support of conversion therapy practices.

Forefront to this ad is a photo of “Dr Anne Gillies” stating that she is a “trained therapist” noting Ontario beside her title and in which she calls herself a counsellor. Further, in her website she has identifying information as a Dr and counsellor [About | Restoring the Mosaic](#)

False Advertising

Advertised in this is Dr. Ann Gillies. It is advertised that she has been in private counselling practice for 20 years in Ontario. Ann Gillies is not registered with:

- College of Psychologists of Ontario
- The Canadian Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
- American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
- College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario
- Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association

In Alberta, only approved and regulated Physicians, dentists, chiropractors, optometrists, and psychologists can call themselves doctor. Ann Gillies is not listed on the registry for any of these regulated health professions.

In Ontario, only approved and regulated Physicians, dentists, chiropractors, optometrists, and psychologists can call themselves doctor. Ann Gillies is not listed on the registry for any of these regulated health professions.

Advertising Ann Gillies as a doctor and implying that she is a professional counsellor is a public safety concern.

Legal Landscape

Most jurisdictions have now passed bills banning conversion therapy.

The federal bill banning conversion therapy (tabled October 2020, passed by the House of Commons July 2021, and being debated by Senate) is making it illegal to “force a child or non-consenting adult to undergo conversion therapy; transport a child internationally for conversion therapy; and promote, advertise, or benefit from the provision of conversion therapy” [Bill C-6: An Act to amend the Criminal Code \(conversion therapy\) \(justice.gc.ca\)](#)

In Alberta similar bills have been passed in at least:

- Edmonton [Bylaw 19061](#) – the Prohibited Businesses Bylaw. “No person may engage in or operate a business listed in Schedule A (Conversion Therapy)”
- Calgary [Bylaw 20M2020](#) – Prohibited Businesses Bylaw. “A *person* may not engage in or operate a business listed in Schedule A (Conversion Therapy)”

Ontario [Bill 77](#) – first province to place the ban with legislation tabled in BC and conversion therapies banned in Quebec. Several other Canadian cities have similarly banned these practices.

Professional Landscape

Conversion therapy (as an intervention — be it talk or behavioural therapy, medication, or exorcism — meant to change a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity) is widely denounced by Canadian psychological and medical associations, conversion therapy. Consistent with our mission to advance the science-based profession of psychology and promote the psychological wellbeing of all Albertans, the PAA advocates for action against such advertising.

This fact sheet is being provided to:

- Ann Gillies (via her [website](#) and Free to Care 20 July 2021)
- Medicine Hat News, in writing, 20 July 2021
- The College of Alberta Psychologists, 20 July 2021 via email to Registrar
- The College of Psychologists of Ontario, 20 July 2021, in writing
- The Ontario College of Psychotherapists, 20 July via complaints@crpo.ca
- Alberta Counselling Therapists Association, via email, 20 July 2021
- Alberta Health, Office of the Association Minister of Mental Health and Addiction via email 20 July 2021