



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada**

In Mission for Others

November 4, 2020

The Honourable David Lametti
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
David.Lametti@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Lametti:

On behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), I write to express support for Bill C-6 to ban conversion therapy.

I am conscious that persons whose sexual orientation, gender expression or gender identity means living as a minority in a predominantly heterosexual and gender-binary culture, the risk of painful, harmful and/or dangerous experiences remains far too high.

The ELCIC does not support conversion therapy to change a person's sexual orientation; or any other form of treatment that is hostile to a person's identity.

We sense a deep need for safe opportunities to listen to diverse experiences, to learn from each other, and to honour people's identity. We are called to form families, communities and societies where all are welcome and where all make a meaningful contribution. We are committed to standing with our LGBTQ2SIA+ siblings in Christ, both inside and outside of our church.

In 2011, the ELCIC National Convention adopted a [Social Statement on Human Sexuality](#) that commits the church to:

- Upholding the dignity of all people;
- Entering into relationships with a core sense of respect for the value of each person as a unique child of God;
- Engaging in practices that more fully enable all people, regardless of their sexual orientation, to live as members of the body of Christ and as co-workers in ministry;
- Ongoing learning and growth in understanding of the diversity of people in our society and churches;
- And forming a truly diverse and inclusive community.

I recognize the proposed Bill C-6 as an important step in protecting Canadians from the damaging effects of conversion therapy.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Susan C. Johnson
National Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

cc: Hon. Rob Moore, Justice Critic for the Official Opposition
Randall Garrison, MP, NDP Justice Critic
Rhéal Fortin, MP, Bloc Québécois Justice Critic
Tara Howse, Green Party Gender Justice Critic
ELCIC National Church Council