



2SLGBTQI organizations welcome ruling in *Peterson v. College of Psychologists of Ontario*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TORONTO, ON – As intervenors in the *Peterson v. College of Psychologists of Ontario* case, Egale Canada and JusticeTrans [released a statement today](#) welcoming the decision of the Divisional Court of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice ruling in favour of the College of Psychologists of Ontario.

Represented by McIntyre Szabo PC and Kastner Lam LLP, Egale Canada and JusticeTrans intervened jointly in the case to argue that a psychologists' right to free expression has to be weighed against the public interest and the rights of patients to equitable access to healthcare.

The *Charter* right to freedom of expression is foundational in Canadian society and has been critical in the advancement of protections for 2SLGBTQI people. As a national organization advocating for the rights of 2SLGBTQI people and communities, Egale is committed to promoting free expression. Like all *Charter* rights, however, freedom of expression is not unlimited and Egale supports the Divisional Court's finding that psychologists are obliged to follow the *Canadian Code of Ethics of Psychologists*, which places respect for the dignity of persons and non-discrimination as fundamental principles.

Healthcare professionals, including clinical psychologists, are accountable to specific standards of professionalism. That's because all people in Ontario have the right to access healthcare safely and without discrimination, and to be able to trust in the integrity and professionalism of their healthcare providers. Today, the Court upheld those principles.

[Read the full statement at *egale.ca*](#)

Quotes:

“2SLGBTQI communities often face discrimination and barriers in accessing healthcare. Today's ruling that as a professional regulatory body, the College of Psychologists of Ontario has the mandate to regulate degrading and demeaning speech by its members, is a step in the right direction in ensuring that 2SLGBTQI individuals can access healthcare safely and without discrimination.” — Helen Kennedy, Executive Director of Egale Canada

"JusticeTrans welcomes this decision. Safer access to healthcare systems we can trust to provide the care we need – including mental healthcare – is vital for Two-Spirit, trans, non-binary and gender non-conforming (2STNBGN) communities to thrive. This is especially true in the context of growing backlash and misinformation about 2STNBGN people that continues to spread. The increasing spread of misinformation about trans people and gender-affirming health care adds additional harm and unnecessary barriers to accessing life-affirming care for 2STNBGN people and contributes to the ongoing violence against and marginalisation of 2STNBGN communities.

Also, it is the duty of professional organizations to ensure that their members are kept informed of best practices and that the profession is well represented to the public." — JusticeTrans

"The Court reaffirmed that freedom of expression does not insulate health professionals from accountability for discriminatory and anti-trans speech. This decision is an important affirmation of the authority of health professional regulators to protect the public from discrimination and to ensure equitable access to healthcare for all, including historically marginalized communities like the 2SLGBTQI community." John McIntyre and Gregory Ko, legal representatives for Egale Canada and JusticeTrans in the intervention

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