

December 14, 2021

**Brampton City Council Resolutions re. Government of Quebec – Bill 21**

City Council – April 24, 2019

C137-2019 Whereas, the Government of Quebec has once again proposed legislation (Bill 21) that would prohibit public employees from wearing visible religious symbols in the workplace;

Whereas Bill 21 could ban such items as turbans, kippahs, hijabs and visible crucifixes;

Whereas, given the City of Brampton's diversity and spirit of religious and cultural inclusion and equity, it is important for City Council to assure residents and visitors to Brampton that our City will always welcome people of all faiths, and protect their freedom of religion and expression;

Whereas Brampton City Council joins our colleagues on Montreal City Council who unanimously approved this week a declaration against the Quebec Government's secularism bill, with such declaration stating that Quebec is already a secular society, and there is no need to legislate what employees wear;

Whereas other cities, such as the City of Toronto, have passed Resolutions opposed to Bill 21 and in favour of freedom of religion and expression;

Therefore be it resolved that:

1. Brampton City Council reaffirm its continuing support for freedom of religion and expression, and opposition to any legislative action restricting or prohibiting such freedoms, in keeping with the City's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion; and
2. A copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Quebec, Montreal City Council and Brampton Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs).

City Council (Special Meeting) - June 26, 2019

C260-2019 That the following delegations, to the Special Council Meeting of June 26, 2019, re: **Item 4 – Government of Quebec Bill 21**, be received:

1. Jaskaran Singh Sandhu, Executive Director, World Sikh Organization of Canada;
2. Mustafa Farooq, Executive Director, National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM); and,
3. Father Roman Galadza, St Elias Ukrainian Catholic Church.

C261-2019 **Whereas** the City of Brampton consists of a diverse community, many of whom wear religious symbols including turbans, hijabs, Kippa, the cross and many others; and

**Whereas** the fundamental right of religious freedom is protected by the Charter of Rights in Freedoms; and

**Whereas** the City of Brampton, as Canada's most multicultural and diverse large City, stands firmly to support religious freedom as this is aligned with our Freedom of Rights under the Canadian Charter of Rights; and

**Whereas** the City of Brampton stands in solidarity with National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) in their legal challenge against Bill 21 in Quebec; and

**Whereas** Brampton is ground zero for diversity and Canadian multiculturalism and Council bears a responsibility to stand up in defence of the Canadian multicultural mosaic;

Therefore Be It Resolved That the City of Brampton support in principle the legal challenge against the discrimination of freedom of religion proposed in Quebec's Bill 21; and

That staff report back on ways Brampton can be supportive.

C262-2019 **Whereas** the Government of Quebec has passed Bill 21 prohibiting the wearing of "religious symbols" by individuals in positions of authority; and

**Whereas** The City of Brampton believes in the values of diversity and inclusion, including the accommodation of religious symbols;

**Therefore Be it Resolved:**

1. That the City of Brampton invite affected individuals, either pursuing or training for a career in different municipal services, including Fire and Emergency Services, to consider a career with the City of Brampton; and
2. That the City of Brampton produce and place select local advertising within ethnic, and diversity-based, media outlets located within Brampton and targeted social media advertisements in Quebec promoting career opportunities in The City of Brampton that highlight diversity as our strength in our City.

C263-2019 That the News Release, dated June 17, 2019, from the National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM), to the Special Council Meeting of June 26, 2019, re: **Civil Liberties Groups Launch Legal Challenge Against Bill 21**, be received.