



**Report Number:** C2019-1249

**Meeting:** Combined Meeting of Council

**Meeting Date:** 2019 September 30

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### RE: RESOLUTION AGAINST BILL 21

**Sponsoring Councillor(s):** CHAHAL,  
MAYOR NENSHI, CARRA, COLLEY-URQUHART, FARKAS, FARRELL,  
JONES, KEATING, WOOLLEY

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WHEREAS in 2019 the Province of Quebec enacted Bill 21 (*An Act Respecting the Laicity of the State*) which prohibits public servants from wearing religious symbols including turbans, hijabs, yarmulke, the cross and many others;

AND WHEREAS Calgary is a multicultural, socially diverse, and inclusive city that is home to many different faiths, religions, genders, languages, and cultures;

AND WHEREAS the wearing of signs or clothing as a religious symbol is a fundamental right in the exercise of “freedom of thought, conscience and religion,” as written in *Article 18* of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*;

AND WHEREAS Freedom of religion in Canada is protected by the *Canadian Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms* and the *Canadian Human Rights Act*;

AND WHEREAS The City of Calgary stands firmly to support religious freedom as this is aligned with the *Canadian Charter of Human Rights*;

AND WHEREAS Government has an important role in protecting our shared values of tolerance and diversity;

AND WHEREAS a secular and religiously neutral state is achieved by treating all citizens fairly through unbiased governance structures that do not favor one religion over another;

AND WHEREAS forcing citizens to abandon certain cultural and religious practices will create an environment that fosters intolerance and inequity;

AND WHEREAS Bill 21 is a divisive law that perpetuates exclusion, discrimination, and class division by increasing systematic barriers to employment for religious groups;

AND WHEREAS The National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM), the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) and others have initiated a constitutional challenge against Bill 21;

AND WHEREAS Calgary is an welcoming community and provides countless opportunities to people from across Canada and the world;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Calgary City Council oppose Quebec’s Bill 21 and continue to support building a welcoming city where everyone has access to opportunity and prosperity.