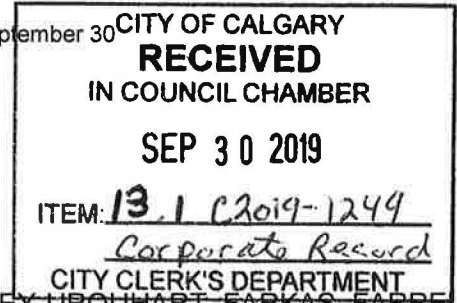




Report Number: C2019-1249

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

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), the **World Sikh Organization (WSO)** and others have initiated a constitutional challenge against Bill 21;

AND WHEREAS The Interfaith & Community Approach Resisting and Eliminating Hate, Racism, and Violence Task Force (I-CARE) and Calgarians Against Racism, Violence, and Hate (CARVH) and their members have raised their voices against Bill 21;

AND WHEREAS Calgary City Council is a signatory of *The Declaration to join the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination (2006)*;

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

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.

