

CITY OF CALGARY
RECEIVED
IN COUNCIL CHAMBER
SEP 30 2019
ITEM: 13.1 C2019-1249
Corporate Record
CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

ST LAURENCE
ANGLICAN CHURCH

September 27, 2019

Dear City Council,

I am writing to express my support for the resolution against Bill 21. I applaud Council for working to ensure that Calgary will always be a city where our Charter right to freedom of religion is upheld. As a member of the Calgary Interfaith Council, St. Laurence works with and respects people of all religions and wants all Calgarians to enjoy freedom of religion and religious expression.

Yours,

The Rev. Anna Greenwood-Lee



St. Laurence Anglican Church 5940 Lakeview Dr. SW Calgary, AB T3E 5S8
403-249-6184
www.stlaurence.ca



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, yamulke, 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;

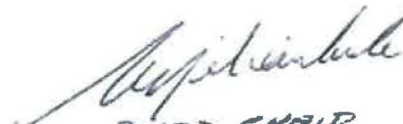
AND WHEREAS forcing citizens to abandon certain cultural and religious practices will create an environment that fosters intolerance and inequity;

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 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.


BOARD CHAIR
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR



INCA Senior Citizens Society

#215, 3770 West Wind Dr. NE Calgary AB T3J 5H3

Phone: (403) 285-3825

September 29, 2019

Established on April 07, 1984, INCA Senior Citizens Society has been helping the needy persons in the community. As a result of voluntary services rendered by this Society in almost all walks there has been a marked difference in the lives of those residents who benefited by our timely help. It is pertinent to say that this Society has helped all members of the community irrespective of their color, race, religion, creed etc. However, members of the Society have been disturbed by the discriminatory nature of Bill 21 that was passed by the Quebec legislature in 2019. It is satisfying to note that City of Calgary is bringing up a resolution to oppose this Bill. Our organization strongly supports City of Calgary on account of the following reasons:

- Bill 21 targets and discriminates against specific religious groups, mainly minorities
- This bill will further a climate of suspicion, fear, hostility, and racism towards religious minorities
- Secularism is not achieved through Bill 21 as it targets specific groups and is divisive
- Bill 21 violates fundamental human rights and freedoms and goes against the Canadian Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms
- Diversity and inclusive is a tenant of our strength and we must come together and speak up against those that are discriminated against
- Bill 21, *An Act respecting the laicity of the State*, was passed by the Quebec legislature in 2019.
- The bill is discriminatory, racist, and counter to Canadian values of inclusiveness and tolerance

[NAIB SINGH SANDHU]

President

INCA Senior Citizens' Society



Calgary, AB, September 27, 2019 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CARVH supports Calgary City Councilor's Motion - Resolution Against Bill 21

CARVH supports the resolution against Bill 21 (the "Notice of Motion") being sponsored by Councilors Chahal, Carr, Colley-Urquhart, Farkas, Farrell, Jones, Keating and Wolley, and Mayor Nenshi.

RESOLUTION AGAINST BILL 21

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;

On June 16, 2019, the Coalition Avenir de Quebec (CAQ) government passed Bill 21 known as "An Act Respecting Laicity of the State." Bill 21 proposes to ban the wearing of the hijab, niqab, kippah and turban and all religious symbols and religious attire (e.g. Catholics who may be challenged for wearing habits, veils, roman collars), for public servants including teachers, school administrators, judges, crown lawyers, police officers, correctional officers and others. Bill 21 invoked the notwithstanding clause in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

CARVH is very concerned and disappointed by the muted responses of public officials at all levels of government who have not voiced their opposition to this bill setting a dangerous precedent for the future well-being of all Canadians. This bill contravenes the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom which sets out those rights and freedoms that Canadians believe are necessary in a free and democratic society. We call upon all the federal and provincial political leaders to speak out against Bill 21 and its flaunting of the human rights of Canadian visible minorities living in Quebec.

Numerous community leaders are alarmed that unless direct action is taken, these legislations are to increase prejudice and discrimination against visible religious minorities and will lead to them to become second-class citizens, depriving them of their rights to practice their religious beliefs freely. This bill will further lead to acts of discrimination, prejudice and even violence by ordinary citizens and by those for whom this bill validates their white nationalism, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and other forms of hatred.

About Calgarians Against Racism, Violence and Hate (CARVH):

CARVH was established in April 2019 as an organization dedicated to end racism and hate in Calgary and Alberta. This joined organization represents over 20 organizations in Calgary. The taskforce will work under five principles: Collaboration; Education & Research; Community engagement; Political Activism and Effective Media Communication campaigns.

Content Information:

carvh@yycmuslims.ca

Junaid Mahoon, 403-808-3887

Dr. Mukarram Zaidi, 587-890-8321

CARVH (Calgarians against racism, violence and hate)





Dashmesh Culture Centre

Selfless Community Service, in Remembrance of God

Telephone : (403)590-0970

Office : (403) 590-0971

Fax : (403) 590-9927

Email: management@dashmesh.ca

Dashmesh Culture Centre, a religious organization established in the North-East Calgary, has been promoting the cause of Sikh religion besides providing food, shelter and other necessities of life to the poor. A large number of devotees come daily to this place of worship to offer their prayers to the Almighty and listen to religious discourses by eminent scholars, devotional recitation of Gurbani by qualified professionals and teachings by other missionaries. All members of the community - irrespective of their color, race, religion or dress – have freedom to come and dine in the free-kitchen run by this Institution. We have received a feedback from the community in general after passing of Bill 21 by Quebec legislature in 2019. People are disturbed by the discriminatory nature of this Bill. However, we are very happy that City of Calgary is bringing up a resolution to oppose this Bill. All members of the community stand united to strongly support City of Calgary's resolution that seeks to oppose this Bill. Their reasons for doing so are given below:

- ***Bill 21 targets and discriminates against specific religious groups, mainly minorities.***
- ***This bill will further a climate of suspicion, fear, hostility, and racisms towards religious minorities***
- ***Secularism is not achieved through Bill 21 as it targets specific groups and is divisive***
- ***Bill 21 violates fundamental human rights and freedoms and goes against the Canadian Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms***
- ***Diversity and inclusive is a tenant of our strength and we must come together and speak up against those that are discriminated against***
- ***Bill 21, An Act respecting the laicity of the State, was passed by the Quebec legislature in 2019.***
- ***The bill is discriminatory, racist, and counter to Canadian values of inclusiveness and tolerance***

[RANBIR SINGH PARMAR]
PRESIDENT

DASHMESH CULTURE CENTRE

Telephone: 403-437-1111

September 29, 2019

Peerless Training Institute

235-2635 37 Ave NE,
Calgary, AB T1Y 5Z6

September 30th, 2019

Calgary City Councilors
City of Calgary

Re: Notice of Motion Resolution Against Bill 21

Dear Members of City Council;

As the Founder and CEO of **Peerless Training Institute** I am deeply concerned and outraged with the Quebec Government's implementation of Bill 21. I would like to applaud Councilors: Chahal, Carr, Colley-Urquhart, Farkas, Farrell, Jones, Keating, Wolley and Mayor Nenshi for supporting and sponsoring this Motion Against above mentioned bill.

Canada is the envy of the world because of our diversity and inclusionary policies. Canada stands out as an example in opening its doors to refugees and immigrants from all over the world. This influx of immigrants has contributed to 30 to 50 percent of visible and religious minorities living in Canadian cities and its economy. Many of these newcomers have chosen to make Canada their home because of our acceptance and tolerance of different cultures.

It is truly shocking and disgraceful that Quebec has chosen to move in the opposite direction of inclusion and acceptance of our future generations. I recall in 1988 when one brave Sikh man by the name of Baltej Singh Dillon had the courage to defy the ban of wearing his turban as a member of the RCMP. There was a huge pandemonium that was instigated by the then Reform Party as a fear mongering tactic. They claimed that his wearing the turban would be the end of our long-standing uniforms and dress codes.

What they failed to realize was the that the demographics and face of Canada was rapidly changing and if they did not accommodate the wearing of religious symbols, they would be left behind in moving towards acceptance of all.

Regrettably, we are witnessing a resurgence of racial discrimination particularly towards immigrants who chose to wear religious attire and symbols. **Peerless Training Institute** attracts huge numbers of visible/religious minorities who contribute greatly to Calgary's economy by paying high fees, rental, food, medical, tourism etc. Our Institution is very concerned that this bill might take further root and discourage foreign students from coming to our country in fear of being targeted and discriminated and most importantly not being allowed in public spaces because of their attire.

I urge you our elected representatives to take a strong stand against this most outrageous discriminatory bill and speak fervently against it. Your opposition is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gulshan Akter
Founder and CEO
Peerless Training Institute



September 27, 2019

Re: I-CARE Letter for Notice of Motion Re Resolution Against Bill 21

On the evening of September 25, 2019, the Interfaith & Community Approach Resisting and Eliminating Hate, Racism and Violence Task Force (“I-CARE”) passed the unanimous resolution of support for the Notice of Motion Re Resolution Against Bill 21 (the “Notice of Motion”) being sponsored by Councillors Chahal, Carr, Colley-Urquhart, Farkas, Farrell, Jones, Keating and Wolley, and Mayor Nenshi.

At that time, I-CARE and CARVH also unanimously requested that the following additional language be added to the Notice of Motion:

“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 that have raised their voices against Bill 21.”

I-CARE is a Task Force composed of over sixty religious, community, humanitarian and non-governmental organizations, and law enforcement organizations and partners. The Task Force has a mandate of promoting interfaith relationships, eradicating religious stereotypes and prejudices, and enhancing the contribution of faith communities to the well being of the City of Calgary. A list of I-CARE Member Organizations and the I-CARE Terms of Reference is attached.

I-CARE and its member organizations has been active in public raising its voice against Bill 21, including the Press Statement and Press Conference occurring on June 26, 2019, which is attached.

Respectfully

Rabbi Shaoul Osadchey (Chair)

Dr. Mahammad Athar (Co-Chair)

Michelle Robinson (Co-Chair)

Dr. Mukarram Zaidi (Secretary)

Magdalena A K Muir (Secretary)

I-CARE Executive



Interfaith & Community Approach

Resisting and Eliminating Hate, Racism and Violence

Task Force

September 27, 2019

For Immediate Release

I-CARE supports Councillor George Chahal's Motion Against Bill 21

On June 16, 2019, the Coalition Avenir de Quebec (CAQ) government passed Bill 21 known as "An Act Respecting Laicity of the State." Bill 21 proposes to ban the wearing of the hijab, niqab, kippah and turban and all religious symbols and religious attire (e.g. Catholics who may be challenged for wearing habits, veils, roman collars), for public servants including teachers, school administrators, judges, crown lawyers, police officers, correctional officers and others. Bill 21 invoked the notwithstanding clause in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

RESOLUTION AGAINST BILL 21

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

Rabbi Shaul Osadchey, Chair of I-CARE, asserts that "This law will relegate visible religious minorities to the status of second-class citizens, depriving them of their rights to practice their religious beliefs freely. Furthermore, it will endanger the safety and dignity of all visible religious minorities by encouraging further acts of discrimination, prejudice and even violence by ordinary citizens and by those for whom this bill validates their white nationalism, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and other forms of hatred. Finally, it may have a disproportionate impact on women".

I-CARE is concerned and disappointed by the muted responses of public officials at all levels of government who have not voiced their opposition to this bill and the dangerous precedent it sets for the future well-being of all Canadians. We call upon all federal and provincial political leaders to speak out against Bill 21 and its flaunting of the human rights of Canadian visible minorities living in Quebec.

For further information and comments please contact:

Rabbi Shaul Osadchey, Chair, 4039928500

Father Adrian Martens, Dr. Athar Mahmud, Ms. Michelle Robinson, Co-chair's

Magdalena Muir 4036053393, Dr. Mukarram Zaidi, mzaidi@nosm.ca, 4039754094, Secretary

I-CARE Taskforce: More than 60 faith groups and community organizations are coming together to form The Task Force to fight hate, racism, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, Christianophobia, Xenophobia, Colonialism and Homophobia impact every person regardless of their faith, colour, or gender.



Calgary Alliance for the Common Good
8831 Fairmount Drive SE,
Calgary Alberta
T2H 0Z4
info@calgarycommongood.org
(403)993-7123

September 27, 2019

Dear Councilor Chahal,

The Calgary Alliance for the Common brings together 28 organization that represent approximately 30,000 Calgarians from across the diversity of our city. When we listened to our members this year, we heard clearly about the need to address the many divisions in our city. This includes overcoming divisions that exist between faiths and divisions that are rooted in racism. When our leadership team met, they unanimously decided to express our support for the Resolution against bill 21.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Andersen".

Ryan Andersen
Lead Organizer
Calgary Alliance for the Common Good.



INDO-CANADIAN

ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

September 29, 2019

Ever since its establishment, Indo-Canadian Athletic Association has been promoting physical fitness among residents of the City of Calgary through multiple track and field events like running, jumping, throwing etc. This Association welcomes participants from all members of the community and do not discriminate on the basis of their religion, dress, faith, color or race. However, it is disappointing to note that Quebec legislature has passed Bill 21 that discriminates on the basis of their religion, race, beliefs or wearing of religious symbols. It is a matter of satisfaction that City of Calgary is bring up a Resolution to oppose this Bill. All members of our group, their families and friends stand united in support of City of Calgary's initiative for the following reasons:

- Bill 21 targets and discriminates against specific religious groups, mainly minorities
- This bill will further a climate of suspicion, fear, hostility, and racisms towards religious minorities
- Secularism is not achieved through Bill 21 as it targets specific groups and is divisive
- Bill 21 violates fundamental human rights and freedoms and goes against the Canadian Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms
- Diversity and inclusive is a tenant of our strength and we must come together and speak up against those that are discriminated against
- Bill 21, *An Act respecting the laicity of the State*, was passed by the Quebec legislature in 2019.
- The bill is discriminatory, racist, and counter to Canadian values of inclusiveness and tolerance.

[JAGROOP KAHLON]
President

Indo-Canadian Athletic Association
Telephone : [403]614-3172



Think for Actions supports Calgary City Councillor's Motion - Resolution Against Bill 21

Calgary, AB, September 27, 2019 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Think for Actions support for the Notice of Motion toward re-resolution against Bill 21, the Notice of Motion, being sponsored by Councillors Chahal, Carr, Colley-Urquhart, Farkas, Farrell, Jones, Keating and Wolley, and Mayor Nenshi.

RESOLUTION AGAINST BILL 21

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;

On June 16, 2019, the Coalition Avenir de Quebec (CAQ) government passed Bill 21, also known as, "An Act Respecting Laicity of the State." Bill 21 proposes to ban the wearing of the hijab, niqab, kippah and turban and all religious symbols and religious attire for public servants including teachers, school administrators, judges, crown lawyers, police officers, correctional officers and others. Bill 21 invoked the notwithstanding clause in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Think for Actions is concerned and disappointed by the muted responses of public officials at all levels of government who have not voiced their opposition to this bill and the dangerous precedent it sets for the future well-being of all Canadians. We call upon all federal and provincial political leaders to speak out against Bill 21 and its flaunting of the human rights of Canadian visible minorities living in Quebec.

Dr. Mukarram Zaidi, Chair Think for Actions said, "These legislations are to increase prejudice and discrimination against visible religious minorities and will lead to them to become second-class citizens, depriving them of their rights to practice their religious beliefs freely. This bill will further lead to acts of discrimination, prejudice and even violence by ordinary citizens and by those for whom this bill validates their white nationalism, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and other forms of hatred".

Hate crimes targeting Canadian Muslims increased 151% in 2017. The data released by Statistics Canada on November 18, 2018 indicated a significant increase in hate crimes against most racial, religious and other minority groups. Two years later, Canadians are still reeling from the terrorist attack in Quebec that claimed six lives and injured 19 others when Alexandre Bissonnette opened fire on worshipers in a Quebec City Mosque on January 29, 2017. Terror attacks by Muslims receive 357% more press. Terrorist attacks committed by non-Muslims (or where the religion was unknown) received an average of 15 headlines, while those committed by Muslim extremists received 105 headlines, research by the University of Alabama has stated. (The findings are based on all terrorist attacks in the US between 2006 and 2015).

Think for Actions is a Calgary based national non-profit think tank, focused on the professional development of youth with a long-term goal of establishing a research institute on community affairs.

#513-1851 Sirocco Dr. SW
Calgary AB T3H 4R5,

Phone: 587 890 8321
Fax: 403 452 2171

chairman@thinkforactions.com
www.thinkforactions.com