



London
CANADA

300 Dufferin Avenue
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December 17, 2021

To the Members of Council

Re: Emergent Motion – Bill 21

In the aftermath of the horrific, racist terrorist attack on June 6th, which killed four members of the Afzaal family, London City Council committed itself to combating Islamophobia and racism in all of its forms.

We have taken and will continue to take meaningful action through a variety of measures, including the following emergent motion which denounces, and seeks to aid in dismantling Quebec's Bill 21.

Bill 21 prohibits the wearing of religious symbols such as hijabs, kippas, turbans, and crosses by teachers and other government employees deemed to be in positions of authority. Earlier this month, a teacher in Chelsea, Quebec lost her job because of her hijab.

In the aftermath of the attack in our community, we received messages of support and condolence from across the country. It is our turn now to do the same in offering a show of solidarity with Muslims, other religious communities impacted by Bill 21, and all those who believe in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. We believe that this injustice cannot continue unchallenged, and that this is another meaningful action that London City Council can take to live up to its commitment to combat Islamophobia in all of its forms.

As such, we are asking your support for the following emergent motion:

That the following actions be taken with respect to the Province of Quebec's Bill 21:

- a) the opposition to the Province of Quebec's Bill 21, An Act respecting the laicity of the State ("Bill 21") by London's Municipal Council BE AFFIRMED and the City's commitment to upholding the freedoms set out in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms BE REAFFIRMED;
- b) the current legal challenge against Bill 21 BE SUPPORTED by London's Municipal Council; and,
- c) the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to provide a one-time grant of up to \$100,000 to the joint legal challenges of Bill 21 by the National Council of Canadian Muslims, the World Sikh Organization, and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, with the funding to be accommodated from the operating budget contingency.

Respectfully submitted,

Mariam Hamou
Councillor, Ward 6

Ed Holder
Mayor

Josh Morgan
Deputy Mayor
Councillor, Ward 7