

COUNCIL MEMBER MOTION

3. Review of Bill 21

Submitted by: Councillor Dominato and Councillor Kirby-Yung

WHEREAS

1. 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 others;
2. Vancouver celebrates multiculturalism and diversity as an inclusive city and is home to many churches, gurdwaras, mosques, mundars, temples and other places of gathering and worship;
3. The City of Vancouver is committed to diversity, equity, and access in all of its programming and policies;
4. Freedom of Religion in Canada and BC is protected by the Canadian Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms, the Canadian Human Rights Act, and the BC Human Rights Code;
5. Disallowing citizens the right to fully participate and acknowledgement of their religious practices fosters intolerance entrenched discrimination, and inequity;
6. Bill 21 discriminates and divides communities and creates barriers to employment and services for some people of faith;
7. Big cities in Canada including Victoria, Calgary, Edmonton, Surrey, Brampton and Toronto have expressed their support for equality and diversity with their opposition to Bill 21;
8. Vancouver is the largest city in Metro Vancouver and third largest city in Canada that welcomes people from all over the world;
9. The National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCMM), the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA), the World Sikh Organization (WSO) and others have initiated a constitutional challenge against Bill 21.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Vancouver City Council continues to support diversity, equity, and access for all citizens and support in principle the legal challenge against the discrimination of freedom of religion as set out in Quebec's Bill 21;

FURTHER THAT Council refer this motion to the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee for further consideration.

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