



Motion Memorandum

SUBJECT: Resolution to Support the Challenge of Bill 21

TO: **Mayor and Members of Council**

FROM: Mayor Marianne Meed Ward

Date to Committee: N/A

Date to Council: January 18, 2022

Motion for Council to Consider:

Whereas Bill 21 – An Act Respecting the Laicity of the State, bans public servants from wearing religious symbols; and

Whereas Bill 21 was passed by the Province of Quebec in June 2019 and has led to loss of employment and reassignment for workers in Quebec based on them wearing religious symbols such as headscarves; and

Whereas Burlington City Council condemns Bill 21 as it is discriminatory and does not uphold equality of all citizens, regardless of their religious affiliation, as protected under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and

Whereas the City of Burlington supports residents of all faiths and backgrounds, and works to ensure everyone in the community feels safe and included; and

Whereas the City of Burlington stands with other municipalities, such as Calgary, Brampton, Toronto, Winnipeg and municipalities across Canada, who have also condemned Bill 21 and support the current legal challenge to Quebec's Bill 21;

Whereas there is a municipal interest in joining with others across Canada to uphold and defend the rights of all citizens of our country to freedom from discrimination based on religion;

Whereas the Ontario Big City Mayor's Caucus (OBCM), at their meeting of Dec. 16, 2021, approved a motion that OBCM stand in solidarity recognizing that Bill 21 is discriminatory and does not uphold equality of all citizens, regardless of their religious affiliation, as protected under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and further that OBCM asks the Parliament of Canada (both government and opposition), to support the challenge of Bill 21 at the Supreme Court;

Therefore be it resolved that:

The City of Burlington asks the Parliament of Canada (both government and opposition) to condemn Bill 21, and support the challenge of Bill 21 at the Supreme Court;

The City of Burlington stand alongside other municipalities to officially signal our support for the legal challenge against Bill 21 by the National Council of Canadian Muslims, the World Sikh Organization, and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association; and

A copy of this resolution be sent to The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P. Prime Minister of Canada, The Honourable, P.C., M.P. Erin O'Toole, The Honourable, P.C., M.P. Yves-Francois Blanchet, The Honourable, P.C., M.P., Jagmeet Singh, Burlington and Halton MPs, The Honourable Doug Ford, M.P.P. Premier of Ontario, Andrea Horwath, M.P.P., Steven Del Duca, M.P.P., Mike Schreiner, M.P.P., Burlington and Halton MPP's, the National Council of Canadian Muslims, the World Sikh Organization, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Ontario Big City Mayor's Caucus and be made available to the public.

Outcome Sought:

To pass the above resolution in the City of Burlington to condemn Bill 21 and support the legal challenge against it, via resolution.

Vision to Focus Alignment:

- ☐ Increase economic prosperity and community responsive city growth
- ☐ Improve integrated city mobility
- ☐ Support sustainable infrastructure and a resilient environment
- ☒ Building more citizen engagement, community health and culture
- ☐ Deliver customer centric services with a focus on efficiency and technology transformation

Motion Seconded by: Councillor Rory Nisan, Ward 3
Share with Senior Staff ☒

Approved as per form by the City Clerk,

Reviewed by the City Manager - In accordance with the Code of Good Governance, Council-Staff Relations Policy and an assessment of the internal capacity within the City to complete the work based on a specific target date (quarter/year).

Comments:

City Clerk: Approved as per Form

City Manager: Approved as per Form