



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MILTON

NOTICE OF MOTION

INTRODUCTION DATE: January 17, 2022
SUBJECT: Bill 21 Motion
CONSIDERATION DATE: February 7, 2022
REQUESTED BY: Councillor Ali
SECONDED BY: Councillor Hamid

WHEREAS, a third grade teacher in Chelsea, Quebec was removed from teaching due to her wearing of hijab to practice her faith because of Bill 21;

AND WHEREAS, Bill 21 is a law that bans Canadians in Quebec working as teachers, lawyers, police officers, and more from wearing religious symbols such as hijabs, turbans and kippahs that many people consider a religious requirement;

AND WHEREAS, Bill 21 disproportionately impacts people who are already marginalized and not only affects people currently working in the public sector, but also the youth who aspire to those careers;

AND WHEREAS, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees free practice of religion without discrimination;

AND WHEREAS, the City of Brampton has challenged the 100 most populated Canadian cities to fund the defence of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms;

AND WHEREAS, Milton Council believes we cannot allow the defence of the Charter and the foundational value of religious freedom to be on the backs of racialized communities against the Province of Quebec with unlimited legal resources;

AND WHEREAS, if Canada's Big Cities assist to fund the legal challenge, then we level the playing field since it is not a fair legal fight in the absence of federal government involvement;

AND WHEREAS, a Supreme Court decision allowing the infringement of religious freedom would have negative consequences for Miltonians and all Canadians.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Milton support the current legal challenge against the discrimination of freedom of religion in Quebec's Bill 21 - An Act respecting the laicity of the State;

AND, FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Milton provide a one-time 2022 contribution of up to \$10,000 to the joint legal challenges of Bill 21 by National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM), the World Sikh Organization of Canada (WSO) and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA), with staff identifying the appropriate funding source; and

AND, FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Canadian Big City Mayors, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) requesting they share with all their member municipalities inviting municipal contributions to support the legal challenge; and the Region of Halton, Town of Oakville, City of Burlington, Town of Halton Hills and all Members of Parliament and Ontario Members of Provincial Parliament, requesting their support.