

## **MEMBER'S RESOLUTION**

### **Committee of the Whole Report**

---

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022

**TITLE: CITY OF VAUGHAN OPPOSITION TO QUEBEC'S BILL 21, AN ACT RESPECTING THE LAICITY OF THE STATE**

**FROM:**

Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua

---

**Whereas**, in June 2019, the Province of Quebec legislated Bill 21, "An Act Respecting the Laicity of the State," which forbids public servants from wearing religious symbols in the workplace, including such items as turbans, kippahs, hijabs and visible crucifixes;

**Whereas**, Bill 21 is a divisive law that undermines equality in the name of secularism and instead contributes to further discrimination and intolerance;

**Whereas**, Vaughan is home to people of many faiths, and the City of Vaughan affirms that the expression of faith is a fundamental right as provided in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms;

**Whereas**, Vaughan is a multicultural community that is proud of its diversity and inclusivity;

**Whereas**, in January 2020, the City adopted the Vaughan Inclusion Charter in support of the Inclusion Charter for York Region, a document that promotes and celebrates human rights, accessibility and a sense of belonging to promote equal access to opportunities for everyone;

**Whereas**, Mayor Bevilacqua called an electronic-participation Special Committee of the Whole meeting held on November 25, 2020, to address issues of racism and to further advance and raise awareness about the City's diversity, inclusion and anti-racism efforts.

**Whereas**, as part of ongoing efforts to advance an agenda of diversity, inclusion and accessibility, the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force was founded. In 2020, the City of Vaughan established the new Diversity and Inclusion Officer role in the corporation, a senior-level position supported by the City's existing Accessibility and Diversity Co-ordinator;

It is therefore recommended:

1. That the City of Vaughan oppose Quebec's Bill 21 and support, in principle, the current legal challenge by the National Council of Canadian Muslims, the World Sikh Organization and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association against the discrimination over religious expression in Quebec's Bill 21; and
2. That this member's resolution be forwarded to the City of Vaughan's Diversity, Inclusion Task Force;
3. That the City of Vaughan calls upon the Parliament of Canada and all its Members and Federal parties to condemn and challenge Quebec's Bill 21; and
4. That a copy of this resolution is sent to Vaughan and York Region MPs, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Vaughan and York Region MPPs, Premier Doug Ford, the National Council of Canadian Muslims, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, the World Sikh Organization of Canada, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Ontario Big City Mayor's Caucus (OBCM) and be made available to the public.
5. That the City's Corporate and Strategic Communications department promote the passage of this resolution on the appropriate corporate communications channels.