

City Council

Motion without Notice

MM6.29	ACTION			Ward: All
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Reaffirming Toronto's Strong Support for Freedom of Religion and Expression - by Mayor Tory, seconded by Councillor James Pasternak

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

Recommendations

Mayor John Tory, seconded by Councillor James Pasternak, recommends that:

1. City Council once again reaffirm its support for freedom of religion and expression, and, further state its opposition to any legislation that would restrict or prohibit such freedoms and by doing so, Toronto states its position that the City continues to be a source of worldwide inspiration.

Summary

Recently, the Government of Quebec has once again proposed legislation that would prohibit public employees from wearing visible religious symbols in the workplace. Bill 21 could ban such items as turbans, kippahs, hijabs and visible crucifixes.

As one of the world's most diverse cities, and in keeping with our motto "Diversity Our Strength", it is incumbent upon Toronto City Council to assure residents and visitors to Toronto that our City will always welcome people of all faiths, and protect their freedom of religion and expression.

We join our colleagues on Montreal City Council who unanimously approved this week a declaration against the Quebec Government's secularism bill.

The declaration states that Quebec is already a secular society, and there is no need to legislate what employees wear.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM6.29