

councilmeeting

From: executivedirector ccncto <executivedirector@ccnctoronto.ca>
Sent: May 16, 2025 7:30 PM
To: councilmeeting; Clerk
Subject: [External Sender] Community Letter - Deep Concerns Regarding Proposed Demonstration Bylaw to Protect Vulnerable Institutions and Public Consultation Process
Attachments: CCNCTO Community Members Joint Letter Sign On.pdf
Categories: Communication (Supp)

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the May 21, 2025 City Council meeting on item **2025.CC30.5, Proposed By-law Amendment to Provide Access to Social Infrastructure**

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

To City Council,

We, the Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter(CCNCTO), are writing to strongly oppose the development of a bylaw restricting demonstrations/protests in Toronto, as directed by the City Council on December 17-18, 2024.

Our community members are opposed to this proposed bylaw for several reasons, including:

- The bylaw poses risks to our fundamental freedoms and rights
- Protests are essential to democracy and the bylaw seeks to threaten this form of civic expression
- The bylaw's true impact is concerning -- we risk criminalizing and suppressing legitimate protest
- The bylaw silences Palestinian and allied voices and is discriminatory
- Communities would suffer disproportionate negative impacts
- Institutions would be shielded from protests, preventing accountability
- Labour and collective bargaining rights would be compromised
- Affected communities have not been sufficiently engaged

For CCNCTO in particular, this consultation process raises several red flags for us:

- **Failure to engage affected communities:** The groups most impacted are racialized communities, political activists, human rights advocates, labour unions, educators, and students, who have been excluded from shaping this process. A meaningful consultation cannot take place without centering their voices.

- **Increasing the powers/need and funding for police (or bylaw enforcement):** A bylaw such as this one will only create more harm already vulnerable and heavily policed populations (i.e. immigrant, racialized, low-income, BIPOC, community members), especially as these populations are expressing their fundamental right to freedom of expression, assembly, and protest.
- **Improper consultation and engagement process:** This survey and virtual public sessions are taking place during a Federal Election. As many folks will be focusing their attention on Federal politics, it seems purposefully deceitful to claim that you are seeking public opinion on this proposed bylaw. To pass this bylaw, when the consultation period is conflicting with another key political process, would only prove that the City is pushing a biased agenda and is in fact not interested in supporting meaningful consultation and engagement processes.

Please find an attached Collective Letter, translated into Simplified Chinese, which contains more detail, including some additional comments, and is signed by 24 community members who also oppose the Proposed Demonstration Bylaw to Protect Vulnerable Institutions.

CCNCTO and our community members are urging Mayor Olivia Chow and all City Councillors to vote **NO** on this proposed anti-protest bylaw. We must protect the right to protest—not just for ourselves, but for future generations and for the health of our democracy.

For follow up, please connect with myself, Eleanor Marie Yang, the Executive Director at CCNCTO. My email is executivedirector@ccnctontoronto.ca and number is 647-280-6189

Signed,

CCNCTO Community Members and the Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter

Eleanor Marie Yang 杨倩茹

(she/her)

Executive Director

Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter

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CCNCTO Community Members Joint Letter Sign On 平权会社群成员联名信签署
Regarding the Proposed Demonstration Bylaw to Protect Vulnerable Institutions and
Public Consultation Process 关于提议中的保护弱势机构示威附例及公众咨询流程

Dear Mayor Olivia Chow, City Councillors, and City Manager:
尊敬的邹至蕙市长、市议员及市政经理：

We, the Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter(CCNCTO), are writing to strongly oppose the development of a bylaw restricting demonstrations/protests in Toronto, as directed by City Council on December 17-18, 2024. 我们是全加华人协进会(平权会)多伦多分会(CCNCTO)的成员, 谨此表达我们对多伦多市议会在2024年12月17日至18日会议上指示起草限制示威和抗议活动的附例的强烈反对。

Our Fundamental Freedoms and Rights Are at Stake 我们的基本自由和权利正受到威胁
The proposed bylaw threatens the fundamental freedoms and equality rights enshrined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Irrespective of how it is designed, any bylaw restricting protest near locations defined as “vulnerable institutions” risks effectively banning protests anywhere in downtown Toronto. It is unacceptable that our City Council, who bears the duty to enhance participation in civic life for all, are instead working to restrict our ability to have our voices heard. 拟议的附例旨在限制在被定义为“脆弱机构”(如宗教场所、学校和医院)附近的抗议活动。这可能导致在多伦多市中心几乎无法进行任何抗议活动, 严重侵犯了《加拿大权利与自由宪章》所保障的基本自由和权利。市议会本应促进所有市民参与公共生活, 而不是限制我们表达意见的权利。

Protests Are Essential to Democracy 抗议活动是民主的核心

As community members seeking justice and equity, we know protest is critical for achieving change, as demonstrated by Toronto's rich history of social movements. These protests have confronted injustice, built community power and improved conditions for all. 作为追求正义和平等的社区成员, 我们深知抗议在推动社会变革中的关键作用。多伦多丰富的社会运动历史证明了抗议在对抗不公、增强社区力量和改善社会条件方面的重要性。

The framing of the City of Toronto's proposed bylaw implies that protests are not in the public interest. It assumes that this form of civic expression threatens society, rather than being a foundational and constructive part of our democratic process. This framing could not be more detached from reality, particularly at this moment when rights and freedoms are being drastically eroded for our neighbours in the United States. 市政府将抗议描绘为对社会的威胁, 而非民主进程中建设性的一部分。这种观点与现实脱节, 尤其是在当前我们的邻国美国的权利和自由正被大幅削弱的背景下。

If we don't fight for our rights, we risk losing those we already have and further eroding those that are inadequate. 如果我们不为自己的权利而斗争, 我们将面临失去现有权利并进一步削弱那些本已不足的权利的风险。



We are deeply concerned that this bylaw's true impact and risks are in criminalizing and suppressing legitimate protest, while enabling disinformation and misinformation that influences bias, bigotry, and hate. 我们深感忧虑的是, 该附则的真正影响和风险在于将合法抗议定为犯罪并加以压制, 同时助长了影响偏见、偏执和仇恨的虚假信息 and 错误信息。

Silencing Palestinian and Allied Voices is Discriminatory 压制巴勒斯坦及其盟友的声音具有歧视性

We must be clear-eyed about the context and timing of this proposed bylaw and others like it. This measure appears deliberately designed to silence Palestinians and their allies who have been exercising their democratic rights to protest against ongoing genocide (as identified by many human rights and international law experts and organizations), and the complicity of Canadian governments, institutions, and individuals. 我们必须清醒地认识到这一拟议附例以及其他类似附例的背景和时机。这项措施似乎是蓄意压制巴勒斯坦人及其盟友行使民主权利, 抗议正在进行的种族灭绝(许多人权和国际法专家及组织都指出了这一点), 以及加拿大政府、机构和个人的共谋行为。

Communities Would Suffer Disproportionate Negative Impacts 限制抗议将对原住民、黑人和争取权利的社区造成不成比例的负面影响

This bylaw would stifle rights-seeking groups' access to essential means of being seen and heard. For many of these communities, protest is the main means through which democratic engagement occurs. It would heighten the prospect of criminalization and further subject people to unnecessary surveillance and overreach from bylaw enforcement and policing. 该附例将限制争取权利的群体获取被看见和被听见的基本手段。对许多社区而言, 抗议是实现民主参与的主要方式。它将增加刑事定罪的可能性, 并使人们受到不必要的监视和执法过度的影响。

Shielding Institutions from Protest Prevents Accountability for Misdeeds 将机构置于抗议之外阻碍了对不当行为的问责

The institutions the bylaw proposes to consider "vulnerable" have been responsible for mistreatment and discrimination, historically and recently. Restricting protests near these institutions would shield them from accountability. 拟议中被称为“脆弱”的机构, 历史上和近期都曾对人们进行虐待和歧视。限制在这些机构附近的抗议, 将使它们免于问责。

Labour and Collective Bargaining Rights Would Be Compromised 劳工和集体谈判权利将受到损害

As an organization that empowers advocacy amongst marginalized low-wage and precarious workers, we are concerned that this bylaw may compromise workers rights to demonstrate, host support rallies, and more. Any proposed "carve out" in an anti-protest bylaw for strike pickets (as was created in the Vaughan bylaw) is not of interest, and not consistent with our full rights. 作为一个致力于赋权边缘化、低薪及临时工人的组织, 我们担忧该附例可能会损害工人示威、组织声援集会等行动的权利。任何在反抗议附例中对罢工纠察设立的“豁免条款”(如旺市附例中的做法)都不值得接受, 也与我们应享有的完整权利不符。



Failure to engage affected communities 未能与受影响社区进行充分协商

The groups most impacted are racialized communities, political activists, human rights advocates, labour unions, educators, and students, who have been excluded from shaping this process. A meaningful consultation cannot take place without centering their voices. 该附例最直接影响的群体包括有色族裔社区、政治活动人士、人权倡导者、工会成员、教育工作者和学生。然而，他们却被排除在决策过程之外。若不以他们的声音为核心，所谓的“公众咨询”就无法称得上是真正有意义的协商。

Furthermore, this survey and virtual public sessions are taking place during a Federal Election. As many folks will be focusing their attention on Federal politics, it seems purposefully deceitful to claim that you are seeking public opinion on this proposed bylaw. 此外，此次问卷调查与线上公众会议正值联邦大选期间举行。许多人此时的关注焦点将集中在联邦政治上，因此声称正在广泛征求公众对该附例的意见，实际上显得具有误导性甚至存心欺瞒。

Our Call to Action 我们的呼吁

We urge Mayor Olivia Chow and all City Councillors to vote NO on this proposed anti-protest bylaw. We must protect the right to protest—not just for ourselves, but for future generations and for the health of our democracy. 我们强烈呼吁市长邹至蕙和所有市议员，投票反对这项拟议中的反抗议附例。我们必须保护抗议的权利——不仅为了我们自己，更是为了我们的下一代，以及我们民主制度的健康发展。

Sincerely 此致，

Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter Community Members

全加华人协进会(平权会)多伦多分会社群成员

Collected in 2 weeks, we had **24 community members, including residents in the City of Toronto and across Canada** sign this collective letter. Their postal codes are listed below:

通过两个星期的收集工作，我们有**24名社区成员**，包括多伦多市居民以及全加拿大居民，签署了这封联名信。他们的邮编如下：

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. M6J 0A9 | 14. M1W 3N6 |
| 2. M5R 2J7 | 15. M1W 3M7 |
| 3. M1T1H8 | 16. m1w 2t9 |
| 4. L9T 8Y5 | 17. L3X 0B5 |
| 5. M1T3W1 | 18. M4J4A6 |
| 6. M4S 2A3 | 19. M5H 2N2 |
| 7. M1W 3C3 | 20. M6C4B4 |
| 8. L6C1B3 | 21. M5A 0C2 |
| 9. M2N 3T9 | 22. M5J 2H7 |
| 10. M1B 2Z5 | 23. V6y 4c5 |
| 11. M3A 2B3 | 24. M1E4X4 |
| 12. M4Y1K9 | |
| 13. M1V 2Y1 | |



Additional comments shared by community members include 社区成员分享的其他意见包括：

- “It’s our right to protest!” “抗议是我们的权利！”
- “Please consider how demonstrations continue to be an important form of expression for people who do not have formal power in institutions. It is one of the primary ways that Canadians can raise awareness about injustices + hold people in power accountable. Demonstrating is a Charter right and any interference with this is problematic and oppressive - especially to already marginalized communities. The issue of passing a bylaw like this is that it sets a precedent for municipalities like Toronto to interfere further with public dissent and what is deemed as an "acceptable" way of protesting - which is undemocratic.” “请考虑到示威仍然是缺乏正式制度权力的人们表达诉求的重要方式之一。它是加拿大人提升对不公现象认识、追究掌权者责任的主要手段之一。示威是《权利与自由宪章》保障的权利，任何对这一权利的干涉都是有问题的、具有压迫性的——尤其是对已经被边缘化的群体而言。通过此类附例的问题在于，它为像多伦多这样的市政府进一步干预公众异议、界定‘可接受’抗议方式树立了先例——这是一种不民主的行为。”
- “Protest is a peaceful and educational method for communities to advocate for their rights, raise public awareness, and push for meaningful social change. For many marginalized and vulnerable populations, protest is not only a form of expression but also a crucial way to protect themselves and assert their dignity in the face of systemic injustice. Limiting the right to protest under the guise of protecting 'vulnerable institutions' risks silencing the very voices that rely on public demonstration as a means of survival, empowerment, and collective healing.” “抗议是一种和平且具有教育意义的方式，让社区能够争取自身的权利、提升公众意识，并推动有意义的社会变革。对许多边缘化和弱势群体而言，抗议不仅是表达诉求的形式，更是他们在面对系统性不公时保护自身、捍卫尊严的重要方式。以保护‘弱势机构’为名限制抗议权利，反而可能压制那些最依赖公众示威来求生、争取力量和实现集体疗愈的声音。”