

## councilmeeting

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**From:** Resource Movement <info@resourcemovement.org>  
**Sent:** May 21, 2025 3:06 PM  
**To:** Clerk  
**Subject:** [External Sender] Comment on Proposed By-law Amendment to Provide Access to Social Infrastructure, May 21-23 2025

To the City Clerk,

We, the members of Resource Movement's Toronto Chapter, are writing to oppose the City of Toronto's controversial bylaw to restrict protest by amending the existing Streets to Sidewalks Bylaw, despite widespread public opposition.

Resource Movement is a community of people with wealth or class privilege. We are working toward the redistribution of wealth, land, and power.

We oppose this bylaw because the right to protest is essential to democracy, particularly for poor, working and middle class people. This bylaw puts the power to restrict a fundamental freedom into the hands of the upper or 'owning' class by giving property owners of specific facilities—defined as childcare centres, places of worship, or schools—the right to request the establishment of an *Access Area* covering any City property within a 20-metre radius. People who 'own' institutions are not necessarily representative of all views in their community. We say this as a community largely composed of members of the 'owning' class. It is classist to give property owners the right to speak for their institution's community as a whole. It is both classist and undemocratic to give them the right to restrict freedom of speech near their property.

The institutions that the City of Toronto has indicated it is considering as "vulnerable" have been responsible for mistreatment and discrimination, historically and recently. Restricting protests near these institutions would shield them from accountability. For example, there are very productive critiques of psychiatry being articulated by former patients of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. Schools have long histories of perpetuating harms against racialized and low-income populations. Religious institutions operated most residential schools, where they perpetrated cultural genocide, a high incidence of physical and sexual abuse of children, systematic starvation and denial of healthcare, leading to numerous deaths.

Recently, climate change activism and social equity demands have been led from classrooms — this would also be constrained by limits on protests in proximity of schools.

Criminal Code Sections 423.2, 430.4.1 and 176.2 already address illegal activities of intimidation, and obstruction or interference of access to health care, mischief relating to religious or cultural institutions, schools, and daycares motivated by bias, prejudice or hate, and disturbing religious worship, respectively. A municipal bylaw is unnecessary.

Thank you for your time,

Resource Movement - Toronto Chapter

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