



Mayor, City Councillors and City Manager, City of Toronto
100 Queen St W, Toronto, ON
M5H 2N3
Via email: mayor_chow@toronto.ca

May 14, 2025

Dear City of Toronto's Mayor, Councillors and Manager:

We write to you today on behalf of CUPE 1230 and CUPE 3902 representing nearly 11,000 library, academic and service workers at the University of Toronto, to strongly oppose the development of a bylaw restricting demonstrations/protests in Toronto.

Peaceful protest and freedom of speech are some of the most powerful tools that Canadians have to advocate for our rights and seek justice collectively. As union members, we recognize that our right to peaceful protest helps improve wages and benefits, working conditions and workplace safety, but as members of the wider community, we also demonstrate to show support for stronger public and social services and human rights. By framing this fundamental part of the democratic process as a threat to society, this bylaw, if passed, will severely limit many forms of protest that seek to hold people and institutions accountable.

Furthermore, the timing and language in the by-law, which focuses upon "protecting places of worship, faith based schools and 'other vulnerable institutions' from acts of hate", 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. This deliberate targeting of specific political expression is highly discriminatory and threatens to criminalize certain forms of so-called "undesirable" dissent over others.

If passed, this bylaw will create false and harmful divisions within solidarity movements, will unfairly target and criminalize marginalized communities, and will erode the Charter-protected rights to freedom of assembly and freedom of expression that enable us to build community power in the pursuit of justice for all. We strongly urge councillors to listen to the many organizations opposing this by-law and vote against it on May 21-23.

Thank you for your attention to this letter.

CUPE Local 1230
CUPE Local 3902