



Jennifer Wyness, Ward 2 Councillor

Condemnation of Quebec's Bill 21

In June 2019, the province of Quebec passed Bill 21; instating policy that bans any public employees in positions of leadership or authority from wearing religious attire (such as hijabs, turbans, and crucifixes) while in the workplace. While it is my strong belief that Bill 21 is a deep infringement on the rights and freedoms of Canadian citizens, I do not agree with providing Calgary taxpayer funding to fight Quebec's legal battle regarding this issue.

I did not find that the proposed monetary commitment of \$100,000 of taxpayer funds would be fair to the many hardworking Calgarians who are struggling financially through the current economic climate. My decision to vote against sending funding towards this legal challenge was also informed and supported by the feedback of Ward 2 constituents.

As Bill 21 is a human rights issue, I suggested instead that Council members continue to engage and consult with our local religious leaders and community members to help the city determine alternative measures that could assist in combatting Bill 21. Until Bill 21 is struck down, we as a city must refrain from sending Councillors to Quebec, to show our solidarity with impacted Canadian citizens.

Furthermore, in December 2021, I voted in favour of supporting the challenge against Bill 21, led by the National Council of Canadian Muslims, the World Sikh Organization, and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, without any financial commitment from the City of Calgary.

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