

### Request for Regional Council Consideration

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Agenda Item</b><br>(Submitted to Municipal<br>Clerk's Office by Noon<br>Thursday) | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Added Item</b><br>(Submitted to Municipal<br>Clerk's Office by Noon<br>Monday) | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Request from the Floor</b> |
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**Date of Meeting:** January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Subject:** Halifax Regional Municipality's Opposition and Providing Financial Support to the Legal Challenge against Quebec's Bill 21

#### Motion for Regional Council to Consider:

That Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to provide a staff report on the implications of the HRM:

1. Opposing the Province of Quebec's Bill 21, An Act respecting the principals of the State ("Bill 21") and confirm our commitment to upholding the freedoms set out in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; supporting the current legal challenge against Bill 21;
2. Providing a one-time 2021/22 non-profit grant of \$50,000 to the joint legal challenges of Bill 21 by the National Council of Canadian Muslims, the World Sikh Organization of Canada, and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, to be accommodated from available funding within the 2021/22 Operating Budget (M310-8004); and
3. Calling on all other Canadian municipalities to affirm their opposition to Bill 21 and provide financial contributions to support the legal challenge.

#### Reason:

One of the things that I am most proud of in the Halifax Regional Municipality is that we have become a more diverse and multicultural municipality. We are home to many different religious communities, and we ensure that people of all faiths can feel comfortable wearing their religious symbols in schools, workplaces, and government institutions. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms provides that everyone has the fundamental freedom of conscience and religion.

Bill 21 diminishes rights protected by The Canadian Charter of Rights of Freedoms and stands contrary to the values of the residents of HRM and Canadians—values this council has been vigilant in protecting and upholding.

Cities like Brampton and Toronto have committed financial support to the legal challenge against Bill 21 and asked that other Canadian municipalities similarly provide financial contributions towards the legal challenge.

This Motion is urgent because, in order to provide the best fighting chance for the legal challenge to Bill 21, it requires a commitment of sufficient financial resources from Canadian municipalities as soon as possible. The best way to show our opposition to Bill 21 is to contribute financially to the legal challenge.

**Outcome Sought:**

Regional Council encourages the Federal Government to unequivocally condemn and challenge Quebec's Bill 21.

*Councillor Tony Mancini*

*District 6*