Wednesday, June 26, 2019
Special Meeting
(to start 15 minutes after the adjournment of the 1:00 p.m. Special Meeting)
Council Chambers – 4th Floor

Closed Session following (See Item 8)
Boardroom CH-4A – 4th Floor
(Under Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001)

Members:
Mayor P. Brown
Regional Councillor P. Vicente – Wards 1 and 5
Regional Councillor R. Santos – Wards 1 and 5 (Acting Mayor – August)
Regional Councillor M. Palleschi – Wards 2 and 6 (Acting Mayor – July)
Regional Councillor M. Medeiros – Wards 3 and 4 (Acting Mayor – June)
Regional Councillor P. Fortini – Wards 7 and 8
Regional Councillor G. Dhillon – Wards 9 and 10
City Councillor D. Whillans – Wards 2 and 6
City Councillor J. Bowman – Wards 3 and 4
City Councillor C. Williams – Wards 7 and 8
City Councillor H. Singh – Wards 9 and 10

For inquiries about this agenda, or to make arrangements for accessibility accommodations for persons attending (some advance notice may be required), please contact:
Terri Brenton, Legislative Coordinator, Telephone 905.874.2106, TTY 905.874.2130
cityclerksoffice@brampton.ca

Note: Meeting information is also available in alternate formats upon request.
1. **Approval of Agenda**

2. **Declarations of Interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act**

3. **Delegations**

4. **Reports**

Discussion Item re. **Matters regarding the Government of Quebec Bill 21 prohibiting the wearing of religious symbols by individuals in positions of authority.**

*Note:* The following motions will be considered by Council:

Moved by: Mayor Brown
Seconded by: Councillor Singh

**Whereas** the City of Brampton consists of a diverse community, many of whom wear religious symbols including turbans, hijabs, Kippa, the cross and many others; and

**Whereas** the fundamental right of religious freedom is protected by the Charter of Rights in Freedoms; and

**Whereas** the City of Brampton, as Canada’s most multicultural and diverse large City, stands firmly to support religious freedom as this is aligned with our Freedom of Rights under the Canadian Charter of Rights; and

**Whereas** the City of Brampton stands in solidarity with National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) in their legal challenge against Bill 21 in Quebec; and

**Whereas** Brampton is ground zero for diversity and Canadian multiculturalism and Council bears a responsibility to stand up in defence of the Canadian multicultural mosaic;

Therefore Be It Resolved That the City of Brampton join the legal challenge against the freedom of religion proposed in Quebec’s Bill 21.
Moved by: Mayor Brown  
Seconded by: Councillor Santos

Whereas the Government of Quebec has passed Bill 21 prohibiting the wearing of "religious symbols" by individuals in positions of authority, including firefighters; and

Whereas Brampton Fire and Emergency Services believes in the values of diversity and inclusion, including the accommodation of religious symbols;

Therefore Be It Resolved:
1. That the City of Brampton invite all affected individuals, either pursuing or training for a career in firefighting in Quebec, to apply for a career with Brampton Fire and Emergency Services; and

2. That Brampton Fire and Emergency Services place select advertising within Quebec promoting a career with Brampton Fire and Emergency Services.

5. Correspondence


6. Public Question Period

15 Minute Limit (regarding any decision made at this meeting)

7. By-laws

8. Closed Session

8.1 Information explicitly supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board by Canada, a province or territory or a Crown agency of any of them and the security of the property of the municipality or local board.

8.2 Labour relations or employee negotiations.

8.3 A position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board and advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.
9. **Confirming By-law**

9.1. To confirm the proceedings of the Special Council Meeting of June 26, 2019

10. **Adjournment**

    **Next Meetings:** Wednesday, July 10, 2019 – 9:30 a.m.
    Wednesday, August 7, 2019 – 9:30 a.m. (tentative)
CIVIL LIBERTIES GROUPS LAUNCH LEGAL CHALLENGE AGAINST BILL 21

NCCM & CCLA apply for a stay of the discriminatory recently passed Bill 21

(Montreal – June 17, 2019) The National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) today filed a legal challenge in the Quebec Superior Court to stay the application of Quebec’s Bill 21: An Act Respecting the Laicity of the State (Bill 21), which was passed into law late Sunday evening by the Coalition Avenir Quebec (CAQ).

The NCCM & CCLA lawsuit challenges the validity of the new law, contending that it is unconstitutional and will cause irreparable harm to religious minorities. It is expected the stay application will be heard in court on Thursday, June 20.

The plaintiffs in the case also include Ichrak Nourel Hak, an education student who wears the hijab. “The decision to wear a hijab was mine and came from me. The decision to remove it should also come from me, not the government. This law has stripped me of my dream and sends me a clear message that I am not a valued part of Quebec society. All my years of studying, all my efforts to be among the best teachers in Quebec went up in smoke in a snap. Being a hearing-impaired woman, I had to work far more than all my colleagues to get where I am today. However, this law has just cut off my wings,” says Ms. Hak.

Bill 21 bans people who wear religious symbols from holding a variety of public sector jobs, including as teachers, police officers and prosecutors. The law will most seriously curtail the freedoms of Muslim women who wear the hijab, Jews who wear the Kippa, and Sikhs who wear turbans.

“As of last night, the Quebec government has legalized religious discrimination – and we won’t stand for it. This shameful law is a black mark on the progressive and inclusive province that we know Quebec to be. It will upend people’s lives and livelihoods, pushing many Muslims, Jews and Sikhs to the margins of society in an already-tense time when Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and other forms of racism are on the rise. That is why we will be taking immediate legal action to prevent state-sanctioned second class citizenship,” says NCCM’s Executive Director, Mustafa Farooq.

“Equality and freedom of religion are universally recognized human rights, and foundational principles in the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms. A law that picks on the most visible of minority groups (many of them racialized and newcomers); that harms women in particular; and that fosters an environment of intolerance and division has no place in a society that values equality and freedom. This is why we are fighting the law in court, and why we stand with those who oppose it,” says Noa Mendelsohn Aviv, Equality Director at the Canadian Civil Liberties Association.

The plaintiffs are represented by Catherine McKenzie and Olga Redko of the distinguished litigation firm IMK LLP of Montreal.

The NCCM is an independent, non-partisan and non-profit organization that is a leading voice for civic engagement and the promotion of human rights.

The Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) is a national non-partisan, non-profit organization that works to protect the rights and freedoms of all people in Canada.