



TOWN OF FORT SMITH

Post Office Box 147, Northwest Territories, X0E 0P0

PASSED AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL – APRIL 16, 2019

PROCLAMATION DENOUNCING THE INFRINGEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

WHEREAS the Town of Fort Smith is committed to respecting the principles, values and ideologies of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Fort Smith is committed to creating an inclusive and accepting multicultural community;

AND WHEREAS the Charter of Rights and Freedoms provides for; a) the free expression of conscience and religion; and b) the freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including the freedom of the press and other media of communications; and c) freedom of peaceful assembly; and d) freedom of association;

AND WHEREAS provincial legislation is being introduced, in the Province of Quebec specifically Bill-21 entitled "An Act respecting the laicity of the State" evoking a ban on public workers wearing religious symbols at their place of work;

NOW THEREFORE the Town of Fort Smith wishes to publicly express its opposition to, and its disapproval of the intent of Bill 21 as a discerning infringement of the constitutional freedoms guaranteed under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms;

AND NOW THEREFORE call upon the Parliament of Canada to address the context of and uses of the "Not Withstanding Clause" (Section 33) allowing federal, provincial and territorial governments to revoke fundamental freedoms and legal rights of Canadian citizens.