



Applewood Hills & Heights Residents' Association (AHHRA)

'Applewood Residents Caring for our Community'

Monday, January 17th, 2022

Dear Councillor Fonseca,

RE: AHHRA Members Feedback on Quebec Bill 21

The *Applewood Hills & Heights Residents' Association (AHHRA)* in its continued respect and support for community engagement with the City of Mississauga, strives to inform and keep all AHHRA members updated and engaged in City Council decisions and especially decisions that would in some way affect them as taxpayers of our municipality and in particular decisions being made for the Applewood Hills & Heights community. In doing so, the opportunity for all members to give their personal feedback which is then collected and provided as a united community through the AHHRA is always available and to which responses from members are welcomed, respected, valued, and always appreciated.

The matter of Quebec's Bill 21 which is on the City Council's Agenda under 'Notice of Motion. Item 16.1' and is being addressed at this week's Council meeting on Wednesday, January 19th, 2022, is one such matter that all residents of Mississauga should be informed on and have the opportunity to give their feedback to.

To this, the AHHRA conducted a 2-question survey with request for members to reply to as well as to include any additional feedback if they wished to do so to the matter of Quebec's Bill 21.

The questions asked as well as the responses received, and any additional comments made by members are all noted in this letter and found below from pages 2 - 4.

This letter with the AHHRA's survey results will also be emailed to the City Clerk's office to be included in the 'Correspondence' for this week's Council matter regarding this Agenda item.

It is requested that you accept and support the feedback from the AHHRA members / Ward 3 constituents.

Should you wish to discuss any of the above with us, kindly email us at applewoodhhra@gmail.com

Thank you.

Kind Regards,

A. Tagidou, L. Forse, R. Wozniak, M. Das, S. Burns, C. Tyler

Board Members, On behalf of the Applewood Hills & Heights Residents' Association (AHHRA)



Applewood Hills & Heights Residents' Association - Responses to 2 AHHRA's Survey Questions on Bill 21:

1. Should the City of Mississauga Support or Oppose Bill 21? YES (Support) or NO (Oppose)
 2. Should the City of Mississauga financially support with City tax-payer's money Quebec's Bill 21?
YES or NO
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Below are the 21 replies received from AHHRA members on Sunday, January 16th, & 17th, 2022:

To Question 1: YES = 9 NO = 9 Unsure: 2 Neither: 1

To Question 2: YES = 3 NO = 18

Below are Additional Comments submitted by AHHRA members who provided a reply:

1. "I strongly agree that Mississauga should support Bill 21.
I DO NOT agree that they should financially support it.
2. "I answer NO to both questions. We live in Ontario and should not be getting involved in another province's legal issues. The money would be better invested in our city rather than in a legal battle."
3. As a taxpayer I feel that our taxes are high enough. This will also set a precedent for future challenges. Although it is appalling that the Quebec government is suggesting such a bill, it is a political decision for which their government will have to deal with the fallout.

I would support a letter writing campaign and petitioning however financial support during these difficult times is not the way to go. Helping fight the fight of a higher level of government in another province is not a prudent use of Mississauga tax dollars. "

4. "No. & No. Do not waste money on this divisive issue. Let the Feds sort it out."
5. "To be clear, it is NOT the City's role to wade into every issue; civic taxes are to build and maintain the city. However, a City is made of people—and when a majority of those people feel strongly about an issue, on an exceptional/case by case basis the city should be open to supporting that cause."
6. "In my opinion, Bill 21 is a federal matter, not a municipal matter, and as such, Mississauga should not fight it financially. If Council wants to make a statement condemning it, ok, it could please the associations but won't have any effect on the Quebec legislation.

Although I don't think the City should contribute financially to the legal fight against Bill 21, because it's outside the scope of this municipality, and would probably be futile, I do think it has a duty here to the residents who are represented by the three associations. It should affirm its own policy on equality of opportunity for all in Mississauga regardless of their race or religion, that it would not institute discriminatory policies such as Bill 21, and it would support them, even financially if residents were treated that way within Mississauga."



7. "I support opposition to Bill 21.
I support financial support from the City of Mississauga towards opposition to Bill21."
8. "I support the objection to anything that would allow for dangerous religious items to be in anyone's possession in any workplace.
I do not support the City of Mississauga making any financial donations to support opposition to Bill21."
9. "My answer is no at this point in financial contribution as I believe the federal government will have to get involved and our tax money will already be going towards it. I am very concerned about our economic and financial situation due to covid and I do not have even a suggestion of a solution but know we are in serious financial trouble already at every level of government.

Our economic situation indicates continues debt and our taxes will continue to go up out of necessity. Nothing is free. I would like to see all support go to our health system at this point.

Thank you."
10. "I cannot support the Bill in its current form. However, I do agree with some aspects of it.

In my view, people should be allowed to wear symbols of their religion – a cross or a Star of David on a chain, a turban, a prayer shawl, etc. Personally, I don't mind what people wear on their heads. I do, however, object to face coverings (outside of masks currently needed to combat Covid). I truly feel that wherever we are and whatever we are doing, we should be able to see the faces and expressions and identities of those around us. If we are working and supplying services to others, they should be able to see our faces. If we are obtaining services, the provider should be able to see who we are.

I also object to the carrying of any kind of weapon, ceremonial or otherwise.

Additionally, I believe that no one's religion takes precedence over the law of the land, in this case Canada or one of the provinces."
11. "Yes, I support the City opposing Bill 21.
But, No, to City of Mississauga financial support with City tax-payer's money of Quebec's Bill 21"
12. "I support the City opposing Bill 21. People should have the right to dress as they wish and express their religion if they wish to do so.
However, I do not agree with the City of Mississauga providing any taxpayers money to support the legal costs of any opposition to this Bill. This issue is in another province and our municipal money is to be used for the needs to best serve the residents here in Mississauga."
13. "The City of Mississauga should oppose Bill 21.
Yes, like other cities in Canada, our City should support the opposition financially."



14. "I support Bill 21.

However, I am strongly against any financial involvement the City of Mississauga in this matter. Taxpayers' money should be spent for the needs of ALL residents, not the ethnic groups."

15. "We should Support Bill 21. When people choose to come to a Christian country like Canada they must adhere to the customs and practices of this land.

Our precious taxpayers' monies should NOT be given to fight Bill 21. With the nation and the provinces so deeply in debt every penny of the tax papers monies should be spent on other life giving and life supporting projects starting with care of the helpless elderly in long term care homes to saving Canadians from hunger, poverty, homelessness, unemployment, adequate health care and hospitals, childcare, the list could go on. Our hard-earned taxpayers' dollars should be used to help the people of Mississauga and to help for the real issues that people are facing in our city."

16. "The Council should be spending time on city issues and not on ones that are provincial or federal."

17. "This is not an Ontario issue we should not be involved. Our taxpayer dollars are not for these purposes. We should not be funding this matter. "

18. "Answer to question # 1: The City of Mississauga should oppose Bill 21.

Answer to question # 2: City of Mississauga should not financially support the opposition to Bill 21."

19. "1) No.....The City should neither support nor oppose Bill 21. Our Mississauga residents, as all Canadians, can certainly express their opinions to local, Provincial and Federal Governments.

2) No..... Local Tax-payer money, of course, should not be involved. This is a Provincial Quebec issue decided by Quebec voters. Our Federal Government can challenge, using our tax dollars, if and when they decide on the political and legal realities.

Quebec Language Law; Bill 101:

This is an impactful law that our Quebec neighbour is adopting. Basically, it prevents residents from using English in the workplace, or sending their kids to English speaking schools, regardless of our employer (Private sector or public). The Federal Government, after decades of marginal support for English minorities in Quebec, has totally abandoned the cause in favour of the Provincial Government.

If we in Mississauga decide to be involved in Quebec legislative matters, then we need to first understand the issues faced by other minorities such as English speakers, Indigenous people, all visible minorities, other religions, and cultures etc. There are many differences in the Quebec v. Ontario systems.....direct communication is perhaps better than reliance on our Federal Government to solve our problems."

20. "We should oppose. No, we should not use taxpayer money. The Federal govt should be doing this."

21. "We are in a province separate from Quebec and should deal only with our provincial issues.

Our tax dollars should not go into another province regarding their Governance whichever it may be."