



CANADIAN ETHNOCULTURAL COUNCIL - CONSEIL ETHNOCULTUREL DU CANADA
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**EXECUTIVE
2010-2014**

November 30, 2013

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of Canada
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Mme. Pauline Marois
Première ministre
Assemblée nationale du Québec
Hôtel du Parlement
1045, rue des Parlementaires
Québec (Québec) G1A 1A3

Dear Madame Marois

The Canadian Ethnocultural Council has been following with great interest and concern the proposed Quebec charter of values (Bill 60).

Our Council represents a coalition of national ethnocultural organizations who have worked for the recognition of Multiculturalism as a fundamental characteristic of Canada as defined in Section 27 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and the Canadian Multiculturalism Act. Our membership includes representatives of ethnocultural organizations whose chapters and members are located in Quebec. Together we have worked for recognition of equality as defined in the both the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Quebec Charter of Human Rights.

We believe that if passed, Bill 60 (restricting public-sector employees from wearing religious symbols in the workplace) will negatively impact efforts and achievements for social and economic inclusion, as well as gender equality, for ethnic populations, newcomers and immigrants. Not only does this action directly attack those individuals who chose to express their religion freely, but Bill 60 also sends a message of intolerance towards all ethnic communities. Along with citizenship and participation, inclusion and respect for diversity are essential values of living in a democracy. Bill 60 will limit these values and instead create a society of mistrust and disrespect to the detriment of all people.

We believe that the restrictions placed on Quebecers will have far reaching negative effects on its communities and society as a whole. We urge you and your government not to proceed with this law.

Yours truly,

Lou Sekulovski

Lou Sekulovski
President

cc The Right Hon Stephen Harper
The Hon Thomas Mulcair
The Hon Bernard Drainville
Jean-Marc Fournier
The Hon Jason Kenney
Justin Trudeau
Canadian Race Relations Foundation
Canadian Ethnic Media Association
Canadian Ethnocultural Council, Board of Presidents

