

Motion

TO: Senate
FROM: Senator Wali and Senator Oke
SUBJECT: Motion Regarding Bill 62
DOCUMENT #: D17-20
MEETING DATE: November 23, 2017
ACTION REQUIRED: INFORMATION APPROVAL/DECISION

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE: Whereas, on October 18, 2017 the Quebec National Assembly passed Bill 62, *An Act to foster adherence to State religious neutrality and, in particular, to provide a framework for requests for accommodations on religious grounds in certain bodies*¹;

Whereas, McGill strives to promote fair access to academic and employment opportunities, and full participation in the McGill community, for all individuals, particularly for those from social groups that [...] face systemic barriers²;

Whereas, McGill is committed to equity, inclusiveness, and the right of religious choice as essential values for the University community^{3,4};

Whereas, Bill 62 may restrict access to classrooms, public services and employment opportunities for community members who choose to cover their face as an expression of faith⁵, which disproportionately affects and discriminates against Muslim women who express their faith in this way;

Whereas, Bill 62 may additionally have an adverse impact on members from minority religious communities, when they request an absence from work based upon religious grounds⁶;

Whereas, Bill 62 may negatively influence certain students' decision to attend McGill⁷, and may influence prospective students⁸;

¹ <https://www.canlii.org/en/qc/laws/astat/sq-2017-c-19/latest/part-1/sq-2017-c-19-part-1.pdf>

² <https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/committeesofsenate/joint-board-senate-committee-equity>

³ <http://publications.mcgill.ca/reporter/2013/09/fortier-stands-up-for-diversity/>

⁴ <http://www.mcgill.ca/about/intro/mission>

⁵ <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/bill-62-examples-ministry-release-1.4369347>

⁶ <http://montrealgazette.com/opinion/opinion-niqab-rule-isnt-the-only-problematic-part-of-bill-62>

⁷ <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/muslim-student-bill-62-1.4370234?cmp=rss>

⁸ <https://www.studyinternational.com/news/muslim-students-quebec-universities/>

Whereas, Senate has previously adopted a resolution on November 20, 2013 strongly objecting to Bill 60, the Charter of Values legislation, which had similar implications on the McGill Community⁹;

**MOTION OR
RESOLUTION FOR
APPROVAL:**

Be it resolved that the McGill Senate, in the context of Bill 62, reaffirm its commitment to the University's values, mission and principles, which include those of equity, inclusiveness and openness;

Be it further resolved that Senate strongly endorse the McGill University administration in seeking opportunities to preserve academic and personal freedoms on campus in response to effects that Bill 62 has or will have on McGill operations and procedures.

⁹ <http://publications.mcgill.ca/reporter/2013/11/senate-unanimously-rejects-provisions-of-bill-60/>