

**Report to
Rapport au:**

**Transit Commission
Commission du transport en commun
18 April 2018 / 18 avril 2018**

**Submitted on April 11, 2018
Soumis le 11 avril 2018**

**Submitted by
Soumis par:**

**Blair Crew, Citizen Member Commissioner, Transit Commission /
Commissionnaire Membre du public, Commission du transport en commun**

**Contact Person
Personne ressource:**

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Ward: CITY WIDE / À L'ÉCHELLE DE LA VILLE File Number: ACS2018-CCS-TRA-0002

**SUBJECT: ONGOING INSTRUCTION TO PROVIDE TRANSIT SERVICES
IN A MANNER THAT CELEBRATES DIVERSITY AND RESPECTS
FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS**

**OBJET: FORMATION CONTINUE AFIN DE FOURNIR DES SERVICES DE
TRANSPORT EN COMMUN D'UNE FAÇON VISANT À CÉLÉBRER LA
DIVERSITÉ ET À RESPECTER LES LIBERTÉS FONDAMENTALES**

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

That the Transit Commission approve the following resolution:

**Be it Resolved that the Transit Commission for the City of Ottawa remain
committed to equity and diversity, and will continue to provide OC Transpo's**

transit services in a manner that respects the fundamental freedoms guaranteed to all by the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

RECOMMANDATION DU RAPPORT

Que la Commission du transport en commun approuve la résolution suivante :

Il est résolu que la Commission du transport en commun de la Ville d'Ottawa continuera de promouvoir l'équité et la diversité ainsi que d'offrir, par l'entremise d'OC Transpo, des services de transport en commun qui respectent les libertés fondamentales garanties par la *Charte canadienne des droits et libertés*.

BACKGROUND

At the Transit Commission meeting of Wednesday, 21 February 2018, Commissioner Blair Crew introduced the below-noted Motion for the Commission's consideration, but due to time constraints, it was deferred to the present meeting.

DISCUSSION

On 18 October 2017, the Province of Québec adopted *Bill 62*, entitled "*An Act to foster adherence to State religious neutrality*". Commissioner Blair Crew drafted the Motion below for the Commission's consideration at its meeting of 21 February 2018. As noted above, due to time constraints at that time, consideration of the Motion was deferred to the present meeting:

WHEREAS the Province of Québec recently passed Bill 62 into law, which is an Act that is entitled "*An Act to foster adherence to State religious neutrality*" ("the Legislation"); and,

WHEREAS the Legislation specifically applies to public transit authorities; and,

WHEREAS the Legislation specifies that persons in Québec who request a service from a personnel member of a body referred to in the Legislation must have their face uncovered when the service is provided; and,

WHEREAS the City of Ottawa operates OC Transpo, a transit service that provides cross-border services into the Province of Québec; and,

WHEREAS this Legislation does not respect the fundamental freedoms of

conscience and religion and freedom of expression guaranteed by Section 2 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*; and,

WHEREAS this Legislation and the enforcement of it does not respect the *Canadian Human Rights Act*; and,

WHEREAS the Mayor of the City of Ottawa advised the Premier of Québec, by letter dated October 25, 2017, that the City of Ottawa's bus drivers will not take any steps to enforce the Legislation and would be instructed not to do so;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Transit Commission for the City of Ottawa will remain committed to equity and diversity, and will continue to provide OC Transpo's transit services in a manner that respects the fundamental freedoms guaranteed to all by the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

RURAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no rural implications associated with this report.

CONSULTATION

The meetings of the Transit Commission are open to the public and anyone wishing to speak to an item may do so.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT COMMENT

The Transportation Services Department supports this Resolution.

COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLOR(S)

This report is City-wide in nature. Commissioner Crew is in support of this Resolution.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE(S) COMMENTS

No Advisory Committees were consulted on this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal impediments in approving this resolution.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no Risk Management Implications associated with this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS

There are no Accessibility Impacts associated with this report.

TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES

This Resolution supports the following Term of Council Strategic Priority:

Healthy and Caring Communities

- HC1 – Achieve equity and inclusion for an aging and diverse population

DISPOSITION

If approved, staff will take direction from the Motion as appropriate.