

Inspirit Foundation is opposed to the charter of Quebec values

September 10, 2013 - The Inspirit Foundation is opposed to the charter of Quebec values proposal that prohibits government workers from wearing visible religious symbols while at work.

The proposed ban, if passed into law, will have a devastating impact on the lives and sense of identity of the many people in the province who come from different religious backgrounds. Belief, just like ethnicity and culture, is an element of our identity. People should not be deterred from wearing harmless items that are expressions of their beliefs and that are deeply connected to their identities and to who they are. We believe that this is a fundamental right and that the proposed ban is discriminatory.

We live in an increasingly diverse society, which prompts us to consider new approaches towards the appreciation and recognition of the value of diversity and difference. One way of defining our way forward is to look through the lens of pluralism, which is an approach that strives to recognize, understand and engage with each other's differences of culture, ethnicity, beliefs and other elements of identity. Rather than prohibit the public display of difference, we should seek ways to embrace difference and build, together, welcoming communities and a more inclusive and pluralist Canada.

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