



Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament for Edmonton East, has some serious concerns regarding the very disturbing Charter of 'Quebec Values', now entitled: "The Charter Affirming The Values Of Secularism And The Religious Neutrality Of The State, As Well As The Equality Of Men And Women, And The Framing Of Accommodation Requests," presented by the Parti Québécois (PQ). Here are his thoughts.

from being worn by Quebec public servants, as well as crosses in government offices including hospitals, police stations, courts. Employees working in public schools, including CEGEPs, universities and daycares would have to abide by these rules as well. There would be some exemptions when it comes to banning religious symbols, exceptions Peter Goldring finds exceptionally hypocritical as they deal exclusively with Christian symbols, such as the crucifix in the National Assembly, the cross on Mount Royal,

and Christmas trees in provincial government buildings. Mr. Goldring accurately asks: "Isn't Canada supposed to be a country of tolerance not bigotry? What does it say when one religious group is favoured in this way?"

According to PQ cabinet minister Bernard Drainville the title was selected by the government lawyers who worked on the bill. When Drainville was asked about the 28-word long name he replied: "It's the title of the bill. You need to give bills a title. Jurists are working on it. Jurists like giving bills long titles that's the real reason."

The controversial proposed 'Charter of Values' would ban countless religious symbols, such as burqas, turbans, hijabs, yarmulkes,



There supposedly are some exemptions when it comes to banning religious symbols, exceptions which are hypocritical as they deal exclusively with Christian symbols, such as the crucifix in the Quebec Legislature.

Where does the ban on religious symbols stop, and will it be extended beyond the civil service? What else will the PQ try and ban? Will they

ban the Native American sweetgrass ceremonies? Will they outlaw Dream Catchers?



Will Rastafarians be forced to cut their dreadlocks? Will the Amish and Mennonites have to up-style their wardrobes to seamlessly conform? Exactly who decided how big the symbolism is too big? What will the dress code be? As ridiculous as these questions may seem, it may be a reality if the PQ's proposed Charter of 'Quebec Values' is passed into law. We already know too well of the antics of Quebec's language police, the 'tongue-troopers', next it will be the measurement militia.

Mr. Goldring pointed out that 60 Quebec Members of Parliament voted in favour of the Canadian Bill of Rights in 1960 put forth by Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, a bill that passed the House unanimously. That Bill of Rights states: "It is hereby recognized and declared that in Canada there have existed and shall continue to exist without discrimination by reason of race, national origin, colour, religion or sex, the following human rights and fundamental freedoms, namely: (a) the right of the individual to life, liberty, security of the person and enjoyment of property, and the right not to be deprived thereof except by due process of the law; (b) the right of the individual to equality before the law and the protection of the law; (c)

freedom of religion; (d) freedom of speech; (e) freedom of assembly and association; and (f) freedom of the press." The unanimous passage demonstrates that at one point Quebec shared the same values with the rest of Canada.

Peter Goldring has great concern that if this proposed 'Charter of Values' is adopted, it will have an impact constitutionally. In 1995,

Mr. Goldring first became involved in public life after attending the referendum vote for separation in Quebec City, then founding the Western Canadian branch of the Special Committee for Canadian Unity (SCCU). The SCCU challenges issues that are unconstitutional; the proposed Charter of Values is undeniably one of them.



Protestors in Montreal Quebec holding up a sign which says: "Respect us and our religious attire." They speak for all who simply want to be themselves, showing pride in their culture and heritage.

The proposed Charter of 'Quebec Values' put forth by the PQ is just as preposterous as the recent soccer turban ban presented by the Quebec Soccer Federation, which was later rescinded, and apologized for - after receiving an abundance of worldwide negative media attention. There was also the hilarity of attempting to remove the word "pasta" from an Italian Restaurant menu. Peals of laughter over "Pastagate" were heard around the world.



The PQ's linguistic and cultural cleansing efforts are an international joke; Canada is recognized internationally and respected as a multicultural nation with a wealth of religions. As Mr. Goldring says: "As a Canadian, the message is simple: We are Canadians. As Canadians, we deserve the same rights and freedoms which every Canadian is entitled to." That includes freedom of conscience, religious thought, belief, and expression. Most important is that Canada is founded on the principles that recognize the supremacy of God, clearly not separatist politicians!

Canadians need to celebrate and respect each other's religious beliefs and cultural backgrounds as opposed to being xenophobic; the proposed Charter of 'Quebec Values' is extremely intolerant and insular in its approach to restricting religious freedom and expression. If Quebec separatists are attempting to implement the new Charter of 'Quebec Values' out of fear of losing their Québécois culture they are intentionally ignoring the fact that the Québécois culture was nourished and created by the hundreds of the world's other cultures that enjoined the French with the Aborigines in Canada. The French Canadian language is not even nearly Parisian French

but is a Québécois Patois as a result of the multiculturalism in Canada.

The separatists in Quebec demonstrate fully the ideals of their "just" society that awaits those who journey with them into separation. It has been historically shown that once a government treads down the slippery road of blatant discrimination, from linguistic cleansing to religious symbolism cleansing, the question then becomes where will the separatists supremacists go next? They may just eventually hit the book-burning-bonfires of total intolerance.



The controversial proposed 'Charter of Values' would ban the wearing of religious symbols, including burqas, turbans, hijabs, and yarmulkes, by Quebec public servants. Even voters wearing a Remembrance Day poppy have been denied their vote.

The Syndicat de la Fonction Publique et Parapublique du Québec (SFPQ), a labour union representing 42,000 Quebec government employees, says it has called for a 'secular

charter' for years and supports the proposed Charter of Values. SFPQ president Lucie Martineau was quoted saying: "Civil servants must reflect those values of neutrality. Thus, it would be unthinkable to see state employees showing their support for one of the parties in the National Assembly in the workplace, the same should go for religious beliefs". Ms. Martineau went on to say: "People can practice their religion outside working hours. The state is secular"



A number of Montreal communities would be gravely affected if the proposed Quebec 'Charter of Values' becomes implemented, especially those areas with a large Jewish population. The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) in Quebec is an organization which is dedicated to developing the quality of life for Jewish-Canadians. The CIJA has announced its official support for the "Manifesto for an inclusive Quebec"; the manifesto is critical of the proposed Charter of Values and has nearly 20,000 signatures, including support from journalists, politicians, and numerous other professionals. The CIJA -Quebec noted in a statement. "Freedom from discrimination based on religion, free-

dom of expression and freedom of association are fundamental. Any attempt to limit such freedoms must be reasonable and demonstrably justifiable. The government has failed to meet this test. The proposed measures are unreasonable and are not supported by any research or credible data."

Mr. Goldring believes, "The proposed 'Charter of Values' is a convoluted expression of a repressive regime. As Canadians, we deserve the same rights and freedoms which every Canadian is entitled to."

**UPDATE:** Another high profile Quebec politician is speaking out about the Quebec Charter of Values. Like separatists Jacques Parizeau, Lucien Bouchard and Bernard Landry before him, Gilles Duceppe said the proposed secularism legislation goes too far.

9111 - 118th Ave.  
Edmonton, AB T5B 0T9  
(780) 495-3261  
Fax: 495-5142

Web Site:  
www.petergoldring.ca  
Email:  
peter.goldring.c1@parl.gc.ca

411 Justice Bldg.  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6  
(613) 992-3821  
Fax: 992-6898

*This brochure series is intended to highlight special issues that Member of Parliament, Peter Goldring, has been involved in. If you wish to comment, please take a moment to fill out the survey below, write or call to the address above.*

**Your Opinion Matters...**

**Q1:** Do you believe it is fair to force public employees to take remove their headscarves, yarmulkes, turbans, dream catchers and crucifixes if they want to keep their jobs?

Yes                       No

**Q2:** Do you agree with Mr. Goldring in which he states the proposed 'Charter of Values' is a convoluted expression of a repressive regime?

Yes                       No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_



**Peter Goldring**  
Member of Parliament  
Edmonton East  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6