

August 11, 2021

City of Edmonton
Community and Public Services Committee
c/o Office of the City Clerk
Email: city.clerk@edmonton.ca

Dear Members of the Community and Public Services Committee:

Re: Consideration of proposed bylaw on hate-motivated harassment – Agenda, Wednesday, August 11, 2021, Item #6.6

The Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) has been aware of the terrible series of misogynist, racist, and Islamophobic attacks on women in Edmonton and has issued statements denouncing the attacks and expressing solidarity with the women involved, the families, and the communities affected by these events. LEAF called for urgent action to address the misogyny, racism, and Islamophobia that were manifested in Edmonton. The statements are at:

<https://www.leaf.ca/news/leaf-denounces-misogynist-racist-islamophobic-attacks/>
<https://www.leaf.ca/news/leaf-denounces-further-misogynist-racist-and-islamophobic-attacks-in-edmonton/>

LEAF has now become aware of the proposed Bylaw 19758, Amendments to Bylaw 14614 Public Places Bylaw – Acts of Harassment, which we understand will be considered by the Community of Public Services Committee on August 11 and will be put before the Edmonton City Council on August 16. While LEAF has not had sufficient notice or time to review and provide comment on the proposed bylaw, LEAF submits that:

- Measures by municipal governments (along with provincial, federal, and territorial governments) are essential to address hate targeting vulnerable groups.
- A community statement through provisions like a bylaw and through support for remedial and educational programs is an important affirmation of equality and is an educational tool.
- It is important for the City of Edmonton to consult the affected communities in crafting measures and programs to address misogyny, racism, Islamophobia, homophobia, transphobia, and other forms of discrimination and harm.

LEAF would be appreciative of the opportunity to provide, in collaboration with members of affected communities, further input on this important issue.

LEAF works to advance the substantive equality rights of women and girls through litigation, law reform, and public education. Since 1985, we have intervened in landmark cases that have advanced equality in Canada—helping to prevent violence, eliminate discrimination in the workplace, provide better maternity benefits, ensure a right to pay equity, and allow access to reproductive freedoms.

Sincerely,

Brea Hutchinson

Brea Hutchinson
Acting Executive Director, LEAF National