



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Protest against racial profiling in Quebec Tribute to George Floyd

Montreal, May 25, 2023 – On Saturday, May 27 in Montreal, a group of anti-racist organizations will hold a protest against racial profiling, marking the third anniversary of the death of George Floyd in the United States and the vast mobilizations that followed. The protest is aimed at denouncing racial profiling of Black, Indigenous and racialized people in Quebec. The rally is scheduled for 1 p.m. at 1500 Berri St. (Place Émilie-Gamelin). May 27 also marks the anniversary of the death of Régis Korchinski-Paquet, an Afro-Indigenous and Ukrainian woman who died in Toronto following a police intervention in her apartment in 2020. A tribute will be paid to her at the rally, as a reminder that the issue of police violence does not only concern men, or only the United States.

George Floyd's murder on May 25, 2020 has sparked protests against police violence and racial profiling elsewhere and here. In Quebec, the protest organizers believe that the Coalition avenir Québec government is wilfully blind to the systemic nature of racism, which it refuses to recognize. As a result, it is not proposing any serious action to fight the various dimensions of systemic racism, including racial profiling. Bill 14, currently being studied by the National Assembly, is nothing but a smokescreen, and maintains an unsustainable status quo.

On October 25, 2022, Superior Court Justice Michel Yergeau rendered a decision invalidating the Supreme Court's *Ladouceur* decision and the resulting section 636 of the Highway Safety Code (HSC). According to the judge, the power of random traffic stops conferred by section 636 of the CSR constitutes a safe harbor for racial profiling. Despite calls from anti-racist organizations not to appeal this decision and to put an end to random traffic stops once and for all, the Quebec government has decided to maintain the status quo and appeal the *Luamba* decision.

Police officers also continue to carry out street checks in public spaces, an arbitrary practice that disproportionately targets Black, Indigenous, racialized and marginalized people. A campaign demanding a ban on police street checks by the Quebec government, supported by 90 organizations, was launched in February 2023 and is ongoing.

The organizations involved believe that the government is mistaken if it thinks that protests against systemic racism and racial profiling are temporary. On the contrary, they are part of a global movement to transform institutions that perpetuate dehumanizing practices and violate human rights.

Demands

The event organizers are making the following demands, in order to really fight racial profiling:

1. Recognition of the systemic dimension of racism by the Quebec government;
2. Implementation of the *Luamba* decision that invalidate the power to do random traffic stops;
3. A ban on street checks in public spaces.

Quotes

"The humanity of Black, Indigenous and racialized people is continually belittled by the police. We are protesting to demand the transformation of this institution!" reacts Cassandra Exumé, Hoodstock's general coordinator.

"Bill 14, presented on March 15 by the minister of Public Security, François Bonnardel, and currently being studied by the Commission des institutions, will not put an end to random traffic stops, nor will it prohibit police street checks, both of which are sources of racial profiling," says Maxim Fortin, coordinator of the Ligue des droits et libertés - section de Québec.

"The government has no intention of fighting racial profiling in Quebec. It's trying to fool the population with Bill 14, while the measures announced are nothing but smokescreen!" says Lynda Khelil, spokesperson for the Ligue des droits et libertés.

Organizations involved: Collectif 1629, Hoodstock, Collectif de lutte et d'action contre le racisme (CLAR), Ligue des droits et libertés - section de Québec, Ligue des droits et libertés, Lakay, section diversité de l'Alliance de la Fonction publique du Canada (AFPC) and Red Coalition.

About the campaign to ban street checks in Quebec: <https://liguedesdroits.ca/statement-for-a-ban-on-street-checks-in-quebec/>

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For information and interviews:

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PROTEST AGAINST RACIAL PROFILING

A tribute to George Floyd

May 27 2023
1 PM

1500 Berri Steet
Montreal

