

Parking exemptions a slippery slope

In Canada's sixth largest city just next door, it's a bit surprising that parking was the big-ticket item on Mississauga council's agenda after a two-month hiatus.

However, the lengthy debate at city hall on whether or not to grant a temporary parking exemption for the religious holiday of Eid aroused a flurry of emotions around religious intolerance that seems to simmer beneath the surface in Mississauga.

Last week, councillors debated the merits of a staff report, requested by Mayor Bonnie Crombie in July, recommending a three-hour parking limit exemption on the Muslim holiday of Eid.

Coun. Pat Saito motioned to defer the decision, citing insufficient data. Coun. Carolyn Parrish stopped just short of calling Saito a racist, implying the deferral was discriminatory. Parrish reminded her colleagues when the issue came before council to grant an exemption for Easter Sunday, it was decided in 30 seconds. Despite her best efforts, Parrish did not receive support for the Eid exemption from any members of council.

The following day, Crombie, who had been at a conference in Edmonton when the original debate happened, sent out an email asking councillors to support a temporary exemption for those celebrating Eid-al-Adha this past Monday (Sept. 12). Eight of 11 councillors approved.

Although Parrish and Crombie secured a temporary victory, a permanent solution is still required.

To Parrish's point, Eid and Easter Sunday have important similarities. They are both religious holidays and are not nationally observed. They are also floating holidays, meaning they do not fall on the same date, and they are usually celebrated with large gatherings of family and friends.

Easter Sunday, however, is sandwiched between two statutory holidays - Good Friday and Easter Monday making it easier to justify an exemption.

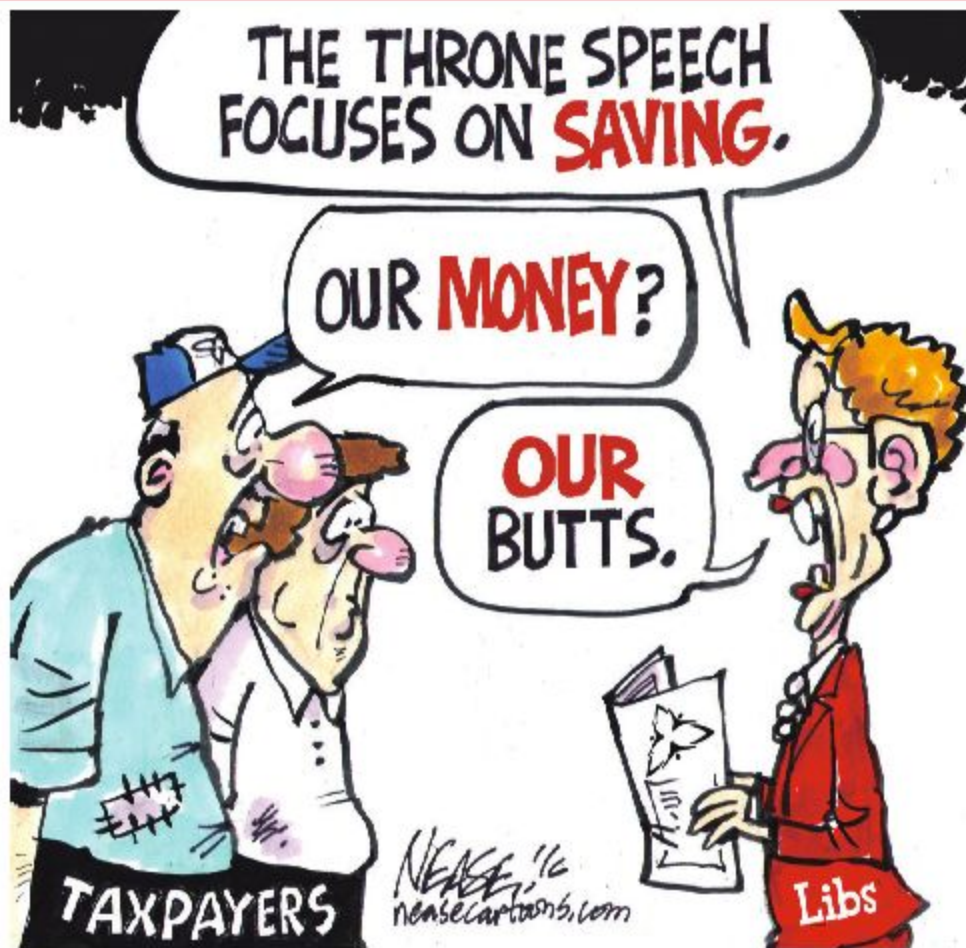
The same circumstances don't apply for Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr, yet they are considered the holiest days on the Islamic calendar. If the city approves the exemption on a permanent basis, it will open the floodgates for extended parking for dozens more religious holidays.

And if accommodation is really the end game to extend parking on religious holidays, and not just an opportunity for political pandering, why not extend it to Mother's Day, which is arguably the busiest day for family gatherings?

With diverse populations, a piecemeal solution is not the answer.

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Letters to the editor

It is truly time to educate about vaccines

We read Daniel Kooy's letter to the editor and certainly agree with him when he urges all readers to perform their own quality research.

He also mentions The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and that it is the world's foremost centre for disease and human health research.

People all over the world do indeed trust the CDC for their transparency and legitimate scientific facts including vaccine research.

However, the CDC neglected to share that their lead Research Scientist Dr. William Thompson became a whistleblower.

They deliberately omitted crucial data in their final report that revealed a definite causal link between the Measles-Mumps-Rubella

(MMR) vaccine and autism.

This scientific team then proceeded to destroy the original research findings and reworked the study in order to obtain falsified results that would debunk this causal relationship.

Thompson safely kept all the original research documents for 10 years.

This incriminating evidence was then shared in 2014 with biologist Dr. Brian Hooker through recorded phone conversations.

A documentary film has now been made reporting this fraudulent event entitled VAXXED.

It is playing across the U.S. and Canada.

It's currently at the Kingsway Theatre in Toronto.

This film is not an anti-vaccine movie.

It is about scientific fraud at the highest level of government.

No matter what your opinion may be about vaccines, all people should view this film and become

more informed.

If you are unable to see this documentary live in the theatre, it can also be viewed by going to Vaxxedthemovie.com where you can download the film.

Laurie Brafield and David Fox, Georgetown

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Anonymous letters will not be published. Letters should not exceed 150 words and may be edited for content and/or length.

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