

## Motion M-103

On this third anniversary of the passing of Motion M-103 (March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017), Dale Branscombe ponders its implications. The Motion itself (<https://tinyurl.com/gschyb2>) and the tendentiously worded petition (petition e-411-Islam) on which it is based (<https://tinyurl.com/ychw9u>), essentially condemn concerns about Islam as “Islamophobia,” which deliberately conflates criticism of Islam with discrimination against Muslims. M-103, especially in view of the government’s crack-down on alleged hate speech, looks a lot like a blasphemy law through the back door. – M.W.

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In March, 2017, the Canadian Parliament passed Motion M-103, a motion designed to reduce or eliminate “Islamophobia.” The mind boggles at the real-world implications of this term. From any perspective the motion appears as an obvious encroachment on our greatest cultural treasure – free speech.

“Free speech is the bedrock of liberty and a free society. And yes, it includes the right to blaspheme and offend.”  
– Ayaan Hirsi Ali

All freedoms are derived from the freedom of speech. Only by resolving to guarantee every individual the right to express their views and opinions can we be assured of our own rights. Free speech hinges on this seminal point – that without an open, honest exchange of ideas, including disagreement and criticism, we do not have a conversation.

“If liberty means anything it means the right to tell others what they don’t want to hear.”  
– George Orwell

It is the privilege, indeed the luxury, of criticism that we cherish. M-103 represents precisely the opposite of this ideal. It is a lethal cocktail of false altruism, contradiction, hidden agenda, and guilt. It is a perfect example of religious piety masquerading as victimization.

“Tyranny arrives one tiny step at a time.”  
– Jordan Peterson

M-103 is an invitation to submission and appeasement. It is a giant step backward to censorship and intolerance. It must be resisted. Unless we change direction we will destroy ourselves on the “Alter of Tolerance” in a futile attempt to accommodate every ideology including an ideology of intolerance.

“Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must undergo the fatigue of supporting it.”  
– Thomas Paine

—Dale Branscombe

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