

Bubble Bylaw Policy

LONG TITLE	A Policy Outlining CUSA's Position on Anti-Protest "Bubble Bylaws"	DATE OF ENACTMENT	27 January 2025
		LAST AMENDED	27 January 2025
REFERENCE No.	M-14	NEXT REVIEW	January 2027
CATEGORY	Municipal Stances	COMPETENT CHAMBER	Council

PREAMBLE

CUSA seeks to advocate for meaningful and engaged political discourse, which extends to promoting the right of students to engage in protests, demonstrations, and other forms of political expression. Municipal "Bubble Bylaws", which inherently limit protests from taking place outside of sensitive public buildings, fundamentally suppress legitimate expression and do not adequately address hate crimes in the City of Ottawa.

INTERPRETATION

Short Title

1 This Policy may be called the *Bubble Bylaw Policy*.

Definitions

2 In this Policy, the following definitions shall apply:

"Political demonstration" or "Protest" means any directed political action by a large group, or multiple groups, on behalf of a specific policy, cause, or political concern

"Bubble Bylaw" is any municipal bylaw or provincial legislation which seeks to limit political demonstrations within a certain radius of public buildings

"Hate crime" is any violent act against an individual or group made on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, religious affiliation, sexuality, etc.

PRINCIPLES

3 The Association is committed to:

- a) Promoting students' right to freedom of expression under the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*
- b) Ensuring that freedom of expression extends to all forms of peaceful protest in the City of Ottawa
- c) Ensuring our advocacy work, including during political demonstrations, aligns with the existing priorities of the student body

OVERALL POLICY

Stance – Opposition to Bubble Bylaws

4 CUSA opposes the implementation of any municipal Bubble Bylaw, or piece of provincial legislation that applies herein the City of Ottawa.

5 In-line with opinions expressed by the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, CUSA believes that a Bubble Bylaw is inherently unconstitutional and may lead to violations of legitimate freedom of expression, guaranteed by the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

6 CUSA supports the right of all the student it represents to take part in peaceful demonstration without fear of arrest or detainment.

Action

7 The Association’s Advocacy Team shall formally advocate against the implementation of any Bubble Bylaws through meetings with municipal stakeholders and legislators.

8 The Association’s Advocacy Team shall henceforth make hate crime prevention and the protection of student safety a primary focus when engaging with stakeholders at all levels of government, including but not limited to political demonstrations pertaining to foreign conflicts.

ALIGNMENT WITH OTHER POLICIES

9 This aligns with other CUSA & Campus policies, including;

- a) Existing Policies under Reference Letter E (Stances, Equity, and Advocacy)
- b) Political Stakeholder & Advocacy Policy