

## CANADIAN CONDEMNATIONS OF BDS

Canadian condemnations of the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement unfairly targeting Israel have taken several forms.

## THE PRIME MINISTER SPEAKS OUT

In his November 7, 2018, apology over the tragic events of the *MS St. Louis* in 1939, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said:

*“As we stand here today, we are reminded of not only how far we’ve come, but how far we still have to go.... Jewish students still feel unwelcomed and uncomfortable on some of our college and university campuses because of BDS-related intimidation.”*

On January 15, 2019, speaking at a town hall gathering at Brock University, Prime Minister Trudeau said:

*“I will continue to condemn the BDS movement.... We need to understand, as well, that antisemitism has also manifested itself not just as in targeting of individuals but it is also targeting a new condemnation or an antisemitism against the very state of Israel.”*

The Prime Minister added that Canada must be very careful

*“not to sanction this new frame around antisemitism and undue criticism of Israel.... When you have movements like BDS that single out Israel, that seek to delegitimize and in some cases demonize, when you have students on campus dealing with things like Israel apartheid weeks that make them fearful of actually attending campus events because of their religion in Canada, we have to recognize that there are things that aren’t acceptable, not because of foreign policy concerns but because of Canadian values.”*

The Prime Minister reiterated his opposition to BDS (and Israel Apartheid Week) in a [wide-ranging response to a questions about Israel’s relations with the Palestinians](#) during an April 16, 2019, townhall meeting in Cambridge Ontario.

On April 1, 2019, during a visit to Canada by Israel’s President, Reuven Rivlin, Prime Minister Trudeau said the Canadian government would continue to speak out, “in the most forceful away,” against the anti-Israel BDS (boycott, divestment and sanctions) movement and against the annual Israel Apartheid Week on university campuses as they *“hold Israel to an entirely different standard than any other country.”*

## THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMENTS

In response to a question put to him February 6, 2020, in the House of Commons, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, François-Philippe Champagne, stated:

*“Canada is, and will always be, a steadfast ally of Israel. Canada remains very concerned about any effort to single out or isolate Israel internationally. Let me be firm and clear to all Canadians: We condemn BDS. As a country, we need to urgently address the resurgence of anti-Semitism at home and abroad. We will continue to stand with the Jewish community in Canada and around the world.”*

## MOTION IN CANADA'S HOUSE OF COMMONS

On February 22, 2016, Canada's House of Commons passed the following resolution by a vote of 229 for and 51 against:

*“That, given Canada and Israel share a long history of friendship as well as economic and diplomatic relations, the House reject the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, which promotes the demonization and delegitimization of the State of Israel, and call upon the government to condemn any and all attempts by Canadian organizations, groups or individuals to promote the BDS movement, both here at home and abroad.”*

See the published vote in the [Journals of Monday, February 22, 2016](#)

## MOTION IN ONTARIO'S LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

On December 1, 2016, the Legislative Assembly of Ontario passed the following resolution:

*“That, in the opinion of this House, the Legislative Assembly of Ontario should; stand firmly against any position or movement that promotes or encourages any form of hatred, hostility, prejudice, racism and intolerance in any way; recognize the longstanding, vibrant and mutually beneficial political, economic and cultural ties between Ontario and Israel, built on a foundation of shared liberal democratic values; endorse the Ottawa Protocol on Combatting Antisemitism; and reject the differential treatment of Israel, including the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement.”*

See the published vote in the [Journals of Thursday, December 1, 2016](#).