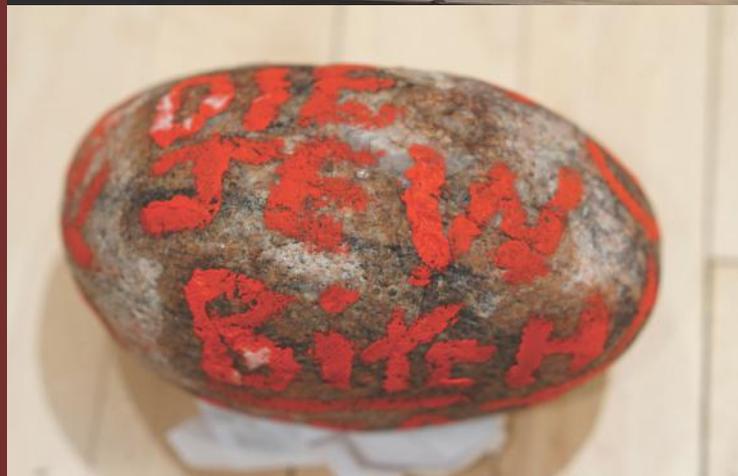
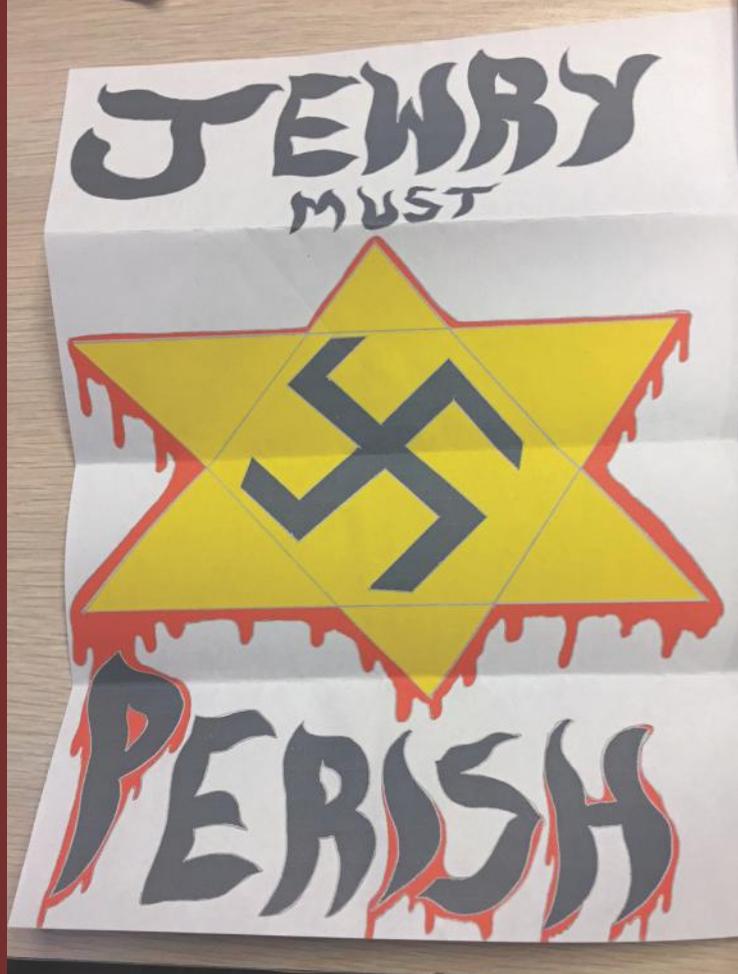


# ANNUAL AUDIT OF ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS 2017



League for  
Human Rights  
B'nai Brith Canada  
Ligue des droits de  
la personne





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

4	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	24	<b>ANTISEMITISM ON CAMPUS</b>
5	INTRODUCTION		A POLICY OF EXCLUSION
	<b>DEFINING ANTISEMITISM</b>		BOTCHED INVESTIGATIONS
6	METHODOLOGY		A NEW WAY FORWARD?
7	IHRA WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM	26	SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS
8	DEFINITIONS OF ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS USED BY THE LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS	27	THE VICTIMS' BILL OF RIGHTS
	<b>2017: THE DATA</b>		
11	FIVE YEAR TREND AND INCIDENT TYPE BREAKDOWN		
12	INCIDENT BREAKDOWN BY MONTH		
14	BREAKDOWN BY REGION		
	<b>BEYOND THE NUMBERS</b>		
17	<b>A RESURGENCE IN VANDALISM AND VIOLENCE</b>		
	INCREASE IN WHITE SUPREMACIST ACTIVITY		
	AN "EVOLUTION" FROM ACTS OF ANTISEMITIC HARASSMENT		
	ESCALATING ANTISEMITISM IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM		
19	<b>ANTISEMITISM IN THE POLITICAL SPHERE</b>		
	ASSOCIATING WITH ANTISEMITISM		
	PROVIDING SPACE FOR ANTISEMITISM		
	ENGAGING IN ANTISEMITISM		
22	<b>A CULTURE OF IMPUNITY</b>		
	FAILURE TO PROSECUTE		
	INCOMPLETE PROSECUTIONS		
	SENTENCING		

## COVER PHOTOS

*Top: A piece of antisemitic hate mail received by a Montreal synagogue in December. Similar hate mail was sent to synagogues in Toronto, Edmonton, Hamilton, Kingston, Calgary, Ottawa and Victoria.*

*Middle: A rock with antisemitic and misogynist slurs left on the doorstep of a Jewish woman in Winnipeg on New Year's Eve.*

*Bottom: Antisemitic graffiti defacing a playground at a school in Markham, just north of Toronto, in August. Two other school playgrounds were vandalized with similar graffiti the same week.*

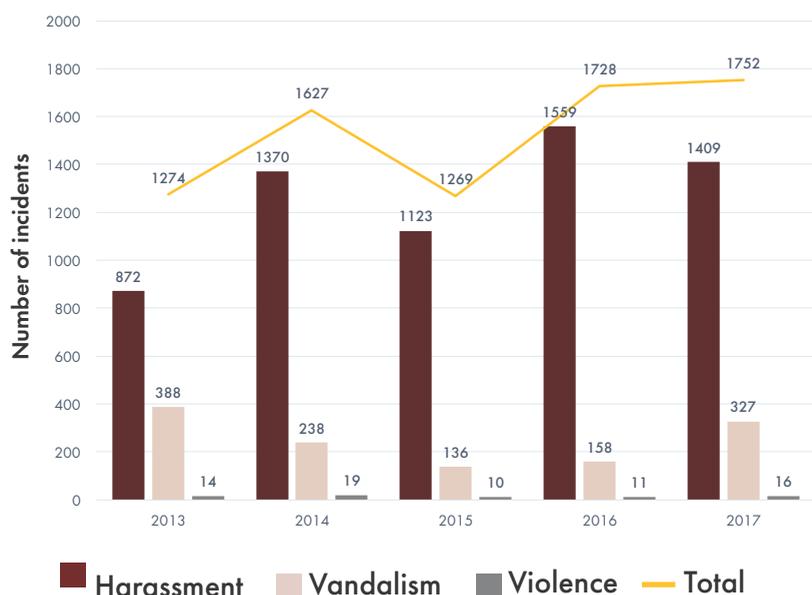
# 1,752 INCIDENTS

2017 featured 1,752 recorded incidents of antisemitism in Canada.

## VANDALISM

There were 327 incidents of antisemitic vandalism in 2017, a record high dating back to 2013 and a 107% increase from 2016. Vandalism accounted for 19% of total antisemitic incidents in 2017, as opposed to just 9% in 2016.

### FIVE YEAR TREND



### TOTAL FIGURES BY REGION

Ontario: 808	British Columbia: 165
Quebec: 474	Prairies: 54
Alberta: 206	Atlantic: 45

## CAMPUS HATE

From coast to coast, Jewish students faced antisemitism on university campuses stemming from both the far-right and far-left of the political spectrum. Perpetrators were rarely held accountable.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2017 WAS THE SECOND STRAIGHT RECORD-BREAKING YEAR FOR ANTISEMITISM IN CANADA.

INCIDENTS OF VANDALISM MORE THAN DOUBLED, GOING FROM 158 TO 327, WHILE INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE ROSE FROM 11 TO 16.

# INTRODUCTION

The year 2017 marks the 36th anniversary of B'nai Brith's annual *Audit of Antisemitic Incidents*, in which our advocacy arm – The League for Human Rights – tracks and analyzes trends in hatred directed toward members of Canada's Jewish community.

The 2016 *Audit* marked a watershed moment in the history of antisemitism in Canada, with a whopping 1,728 incidents recorded.

Unfortunately, and to our collective dismay, 2017 was no different. Where we would have expected a regression to the mean after a very bad year, we ended up with a slight increase: 1,752 incidents. To put that in perspective, our U.S. partner agency, the Anti-Defamation League, counted 1,986 antisemitic incidents in 2017 – in a country almost nine times bigger, and with a Jewish population 14 times larger, even by the most conservative estimates.

In other words, while Canadians often stress their multiculturalism and tolerance as defining national traits, our record on antisemitism is just as problematic as that of our southern neighbours.

While global events can never be an excuse for antisemitism or any other form of bigotry in Canada, 2017 was a tumultuous year in which Jews were increasingly targeted worldwide.

In August, white supremacists and neo-Nazis held a rally in Charlottesville, Va. that was unprecedented in both its size and brutality. Attendees staged a horrifying torch-lit march through the city, shouting "Jews will not replace us!" in mimicry of Adolf Hitler's annual torch-lit Nuremberg Rallies. Less than 24 hours later, a counter-demonstrator was murdered by a white supremacist in a car-ramming attack eerily similar to those targeting Jews in the Holy Land. The aftershocks of Charlottesville were felt here in Canada, as the Jewish community endured a massive wave of vandalism featuring swastikas and other pro-Nazi imagery.

In December, the U.S. government announced that it would move its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. This straightforward diplomatic decision – which had no obvious Canadian connection – prompted furious rallies in Canadian cities, many of which featured antisemitic rhetoric. One even degenerated into the assault of a Jewish teenager and the public burning of an Israeli flag. There was also a notable spike in online anti-Jewish hate speech across Canada.

What is most frustrating about these incidents is the culture of impunity that surrounds them. The government often talks a good game about "zero tolerance" for antisemitism and other forms of bigotry, but the reality is quite different. For example, Quebec prosecutors decided in September not to charge a Montreal imam who was twice caught red-handed telling his flock that "the accursed Jews" must be destroyed – despite the existence of Canadian laws designed specifically to punish such blood-curdling incitement. The infamous "al-Quds Day" march was allowed to proceed in downtown Toronto without a permit, even as organizers blasted music about stabbing, burning and running over Jews. The list goes on and on.

The bottom line is that when it comes to antisemitism in Canada, there is so much work left to be done. It is well past time for prosecutors, police, civil society and all levels of government to step up to the plate. **After all, what sort of country do we want to leave to our children and grandchildren?**



**Aidan Fishman**  
**National Director**  
**The League for Human Rights**



*Top: Antisemitic graffiti found at Woodbridge College High School, north of Toronto, in late June, on the morning of a graduation ceremony.*

## METHODOLOGY

### DEFINING ANTISEMITISM

Simply put, 'antisemitism' is the act of hostility, prejudice or discrimination directed against Jews. When monitoring and identifying acts of antisemitism, B'nai Brith uses a very precise definition adopted from the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). Under this definition, proponents of anti-Zionist hatred who seek to delegitimize the State of Israel and eliminate the Jewish people's connection to the land – including supporters of the boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) movement – are guilty of unfairly targeting the world's only Jewish state, therefore engaging in antisemitism. Those who promote falsehoods about the Holocaust or question aspects of the Holocaust that have already been confirmed (known as "Holocaust denial") are also guilty of antisemitism.

It is important to note why B'nai Brith uses the spelling 'antisemitism' as opposed to 'anti-Semitism.' The compound 'antisemite' was first popularized in Germany circa 1879 as a technical term for the word *Judenhass* (Jew-hatred). While the Semitic language family is fairly broad, including Jews, Arabs, Ethiopians, Maltese and other peoples, the term 'antisemitism' is and always has been directed only at Jewish people. Antisemites with ties to the Arab world often use this linguistic fact to claim that calling them an 'anti-Semite' is not accurate because Arabs are Semitic people too. This sort of semantic exercise is circumvented by the choice not to hyphenate the word. 'Antisemitism' is thus clarified as its own linguistic term, and does not allow for such false rhetoric and distractionary tactics.

## IHRA - WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) was formed in 1998 with the aim of uniting governments and experts to strengthen, advance and promote Holocaust education, research and remembrance. IHRA has 31 member countries (including Canada), along with the European Parliament and antisemitism watchdogs worldwide. IHRA members are committed to setting an example on how to effectively fight antisemitism through coordinated international political action.

*Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.*

Such manifestations could also target the State of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

It should be noted that the IHRA Working Definition used by B’nai Brith was also featured in the Ottawa Protocol on Combating Antisemitism of 2010, which was signed by the Government of Canada and adopted by the Ontario Legislature at the end of 2016. B’nai Brith calls on all sectors of Canadian society to adopt the IHRA Working Definition and/or the Ottawa Protocol in order to lend greater precision to our shared struggle against anti-Jewish hatred.

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in **public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere** could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

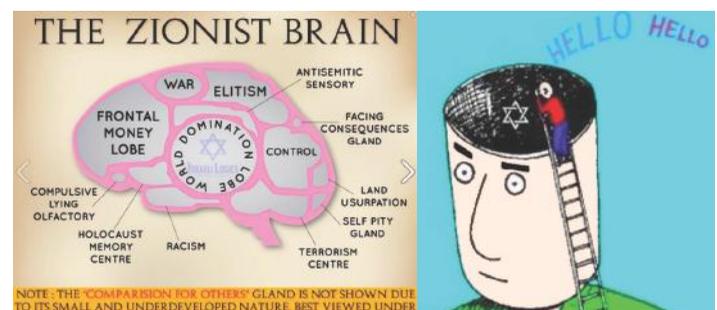
- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as a collective - such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).

- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.

Examples of the ways in which antisemitism **manifests itself with regard to the State of Israel**, taking into account the overall context, include:

- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

However, criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country should not be regarded as antisemitic. This last point is where antisemitism is sometimes allowed to creep in, around the edges of legitimate debate.



## DEFINITIONS OF ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS USED BY THE LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

While statistics show that social media platforms (particularly Twitter) have become the most popular vehicles for promoting antisemitic discrimination, antisemitism is by no means limited to online harassment.



### HARASSMENT

**Refers to verbal or written actions that do not include the use of physical force against a person or property. This includes (but is not limited to):**

1. Promoting hate propaganda and/or hate mail via social media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, etc.), the Internet, telephone or printed material.
2. Verbal slurs, statements of hate and bias, or harassment.
3. Stereotyping members of the Jewish community or commenting on 'Jewish characteristics.'
4. Systematic discrimination in the workplace, school or on campus.
5. Hate propaganda and hate mail via the Internet, social media, telephone or printed material.
6. Verbal threats of violence, where the application of force does not appear imminent or no weapon or bomb is involved.



### VANDALISM

**Refers to physical damage to property. It includes, but is not limited to:**

1. Posting of graffiti, swastikas and similar racist emblems and slogans, at times accompanied by other criminal acts including thefts and break-ins.
2. Damage to religious objects such as mezuzahs on the door posts of private homes, hospitals and other facilities.
3. Desecration of cemeteries and synagogues.
4. Fire-bombing and arson.



### VIOLENCE

**Refers to the physical use of force against a person or group of persons. While violence is the gravest form of antisemitism, it is also the hardest to identify, since the motives of the assailant may be unclear unless he or she takes pains to make them clear. Violence includes, but is not limited to:**

1. Bodily assault.
2. Assault with a weapon or accompanied by threat of the imminent use of a weapon.
3. Threats of violence directed against a particular person or group where there is reasonable cause to believe that bodily harm is imminent.

## THE ONLY REPORT OF ITS KIND IN CANADA

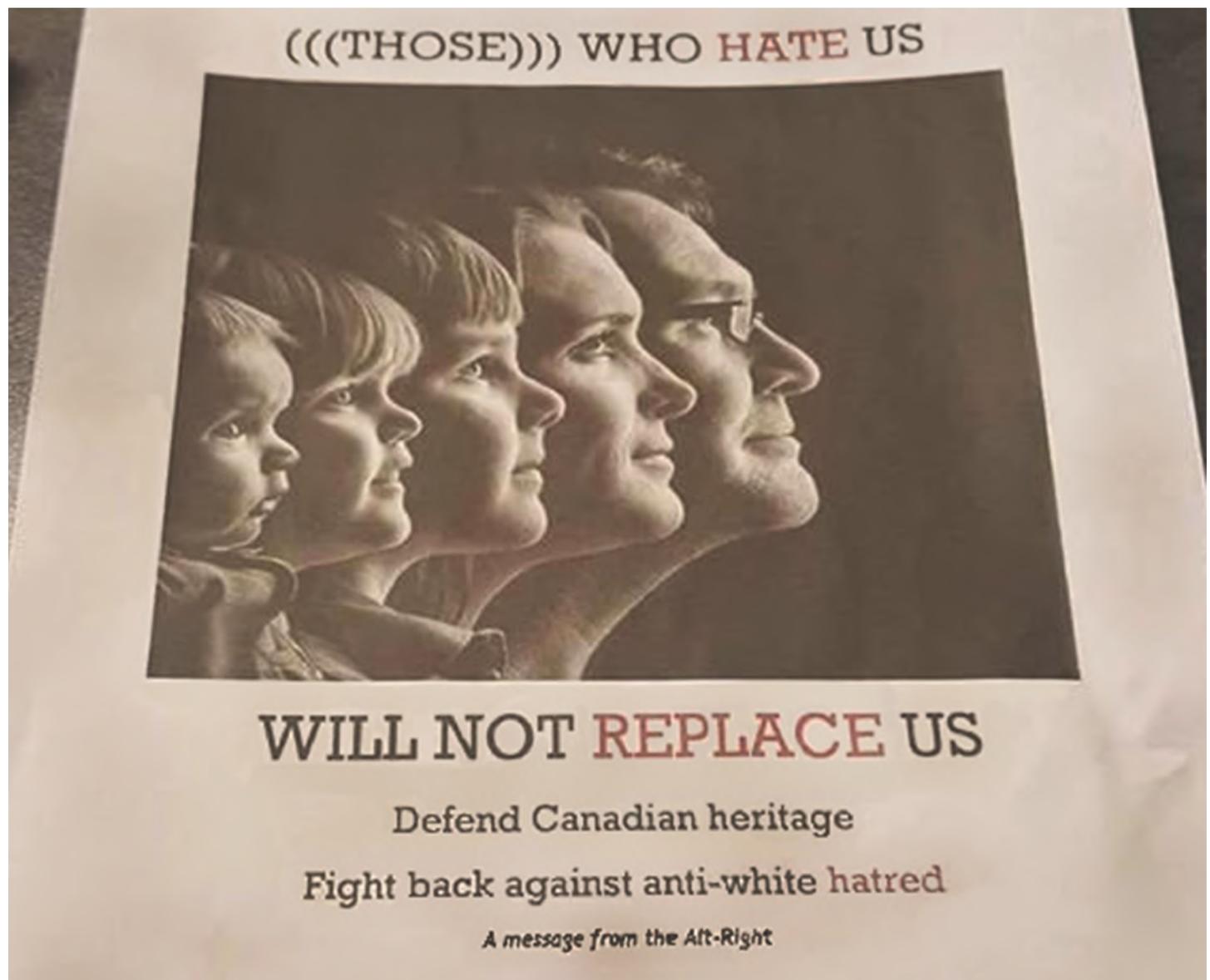
Now in its 36th year, B'nai Brith's annual *Audit of Antisemitic Incidents* is the only report of its kind in Canada. The *Audit* monitors and explores trends in antisemitism in Canada and includes incidents reported directly to B'nai Brith's 24/7 Anti-Hate Hotline (the only such hotline in Canada), as well as hate crimes reports from police and law enforcement agencies.

This is significant because the majority of incidences of antisemitism fall below the threshold of being considered a hate crime, but are still clear examples of hate-motivated behaviour. In Canada, the majority of instances where one wilfully promotes hatred against Jewish people do not result in a hate crime conviction.

For example, someone harassing a neighbour by shouting antisemitic slurs or slogans (or writing/posting such content

online) would not be charged with a hate crime, which would therefore not be captured in police statistics despite that it is clearly an expression of societal antisemitism that should be noted when trying to assess the level of antisemitism present in Canada today. Without independent tracking of hate incidents as well as hate crimes, there would be no accounting for these sorts of troubling and dangerous occurrences that are considered 'non-criminal' in Canada.

Moreover, when we consider that only an estimated 10 per cent of all hate crimes are reported to police, it is even more essential that incidents that do not meet a criminal threshold are investigated and recorded. Since one does not have to engage in criminal acts to significantly harm someone with hateful speech or actions, compiling data on all types of antisemitic behaviour is the best method of accurately measuring the level of antisemitism in Canada today.





## 2017: THE DATA

Top: A Nazi flag drawn on a wall at Woodbridge College High School, north of Toronto, in June.

Second: Antisemitic graffiti on a concrete barrier outside the Vaughan Mills mall, just north of Toronto, in September.

Third: A swastika targeting a B'nai Brith columnist outside her home in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. in January.

Bottom: A sample of graffiti targeting Jews and Muslims, found in a Calgary park in March.

Previous Page: An antisemitic poster plastered around the University of Victoria campus in October. The triple parentheses, also known as an (((echo))), are used by the far-right to identify Jews online.

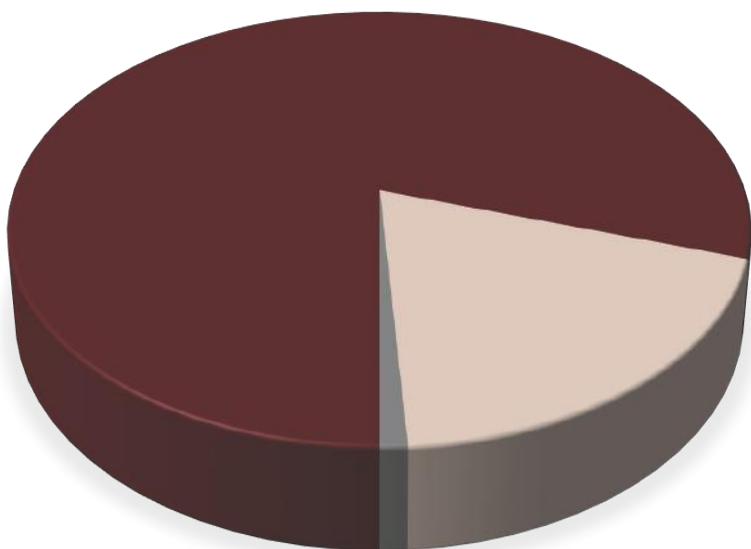
## 2017: THE DATA

### FIVE YEAR TREND

INCIDENT TYPE	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Harassment	872	1370	1123	1559	1409
Vandalism	388	238	136	158	327
Violence	14	19	10	11	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1274</b>	<b>1627</b>	<b>1269</b>	<b>1728</b>	<b>1752</b>

**2017 was the second straight record-breaking year for antisemitism in Canada. This year's 1,752 recorded incidents is a 1.4 % increase over last year's record high of 1,728 incidents.**

### INCIDENT TYPE BREAKDOWN



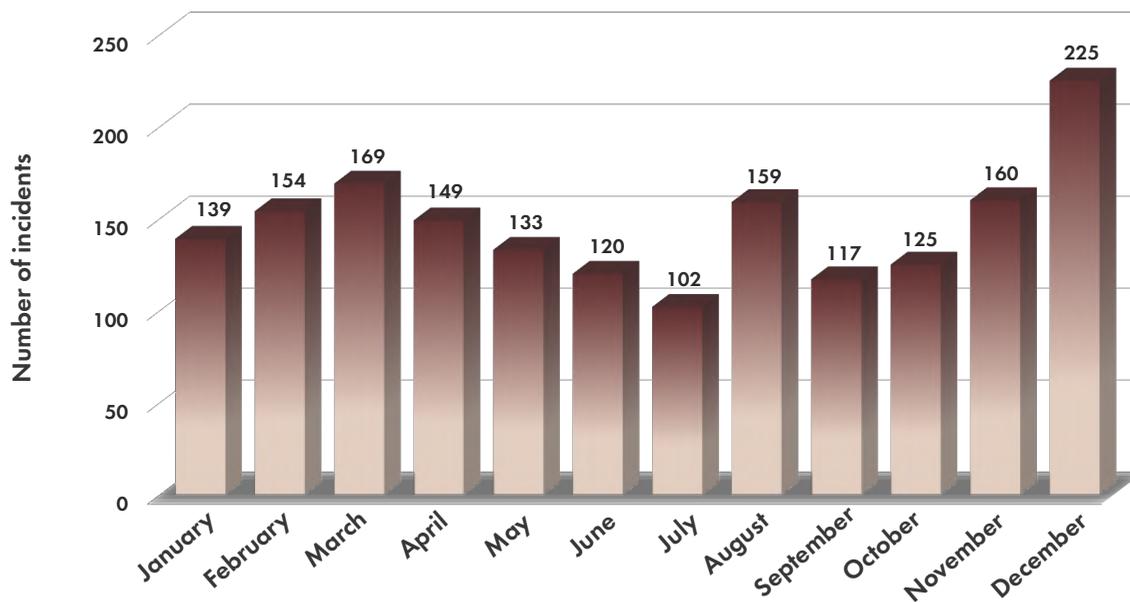
**While harassment continues to be the most common form of antisemitism experienced in Canada, violence and vandalism have made a very unwelcome comeback, reaching levels not seen since 2014 and 2013, respectively.**



As alluded to in the introduction, 2017 was another record-breaking year for antisemitism in Canada, with the total number of incidents just slightly above the previous year's total. However, as the numbers above demonstrate, 2017 saw a dramatic increase of **107 per cent** in incidents of violence and vandalism, the two most serious forms of antisemitism.

Antisemitism has remained on a steady increase for more than a decade, with the most dramatic numbers seen in the past five years.

## INCIDENT BREAKDOWN BY MONTH



Levels of antisemitic incidents remained high throughout the first four months of 2017, continuing the elevated pattern seen in the last few months of 2016. After a relative lull in June and July, numbers spiked again in August as antisemites were galvanized by the events in Charlottesville. November and December saw another sharp increase, likely prompted in part by speculation over U.S. plans to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, and the announcement itself on Dec. 6.

### JANUARY (139 INCIDENTS)

- A Winnipeg woman finds a rock with a swastika and the words "Die Jew Bitch" on her front porch on New Year's Eve.
- A B'nai Brith columnist in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. is personally targeted by a gigantic swastika drawn in the snow on her front yard.
- A woodworking school on Gabriola Island, B.C. bans an Israeli student from attending due to his nationality, before rescinding the discriminatory policy following pressure from B'nai Brith and other groups.

### FEBRUARY (154 INCIDENTS)

- A student leader at McGill University instructs his Twitter followers to "punch a Zionist today."
- The University of Calgary is blanketed with posters denying the magnitude of the Holocaust.
- A teaching assistant at Ryerson University is fired after asking Allah to "purify the al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Jews" during Ramadan prayers.
- Vandals smash mezuzot and distribute antisemitic

messages at a predominantly Jewish condo building in Toronto.

### MARCH (169 INCIDENTS)

- Anti-Israel students at UOIT in Oshawa, Ont. cover the Israeli flag at a campus multiculturalism festival; one student refers to Israeli Jews as "rodents" on social media.
- A student at a Toronto middle school pulls a knife on his Jewish peer and attempts to rob him.
- The Glendon campus of York University is evacuated multiple times after receiving several antisemitic bomb threats.

### APRIL (149 INCIDENTS)

- University campuses in Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver are all hit with antisemitic vandalism within the span of a week.
- Multiple lawn signs for the B.C. provincial election are targeted with swastikas in Vancouver.
- A middle school student in Hamilton tells her classmate that she "should be gassed like the Jews."

**MAY (133 INCIDENTS)**

- Lawn signs and the CBC building in Halifax are defaced with swastikas in the midst of the Nova Scotia provincial election.
- Jewish high school students attending an anti-racism seminar at York University are told that antisemitism is not a serious problem and that they must “shut the fuck up” and listen to “real persecuted minorities.”
- A Jewish student at a private Toronto high school has his locker repeatedly defaced with swastikas.

**JUNE (120 INCIDENTS)**

- A U.S. Holocaust denier is allowed into Canada to address the annual al-Quds Day hate-fest in Toronto, which is given clearance to proceed without a permit.
- A high school north of Toronto is plastered with a gigantic Nazi flag and graffiti asserting that “Jews did 9/11.”

**JULY (102 INCIDENTS)**

- A Montreal rapper flees to the U.S. as police investigate his song lyrics calling Jews “demons” and “parasites” and threatening to murder them.
- An imam calls on Allah to smite “the malevolent Jews” at an anti-Israel rally in downtown Vancouver.

**AUGUST (159 INCIDENTS)**

- A Jewish homeowner north of Toronto is threatened and harassed by a neighbour with white supremacist views.
- A professor at Concordia University shows his students the infamous “Arbeit Macht Frei” (“Work Sets You Free”) sign from Auschwitz as an “encouraging message.”

**SEPTEMBER (117 INCIDENTS)**

- An Ontario public schoolteacher praises Palestinian terrorists who murdered Canadian and Israeli civilians on social media.
- British conspiracy theorist David Icke is permitted to use a city-owned theatre in Vancouver, despite clear evidence of antisemitism in his performances.

**OCTOBER (125 INCIDENTS)**

- Quebec politician Amir Khadir claims that Members of the National Assembly are “completely controlled when it comes to the Palestinian issue... by the Zionist lobby.”
- An “anti-racist” comedian performing at a Montreal school as part of a professional development day

remarks that “Jews are not human.”

- Three students are removed from student government at McGill University over their refusal to support the antisemitic BDS movement.

**NOVEMBER (160 INCIDENTS)**

- Antisemitic and pro-Nazi posters blanket a number of university campuses in B.C., including the University of Victoria and UBC.
- The Student Federation of the University of Ottawa attempts to revoke the club status of the local Hillel, a Jewish group on campus.
- The University of Winnipeg’s campus radio station hosts a conspiracy theorist who accuses Jews/Israel of staging the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks, controlling the United States and fomenting the Russian Revolution.

**DECEMBER (225 INCIDENTS)**

- Fourteen synagogues across Canada receive hate mail bearing a Star of David dripping in blood and warning that “Jewry Must Perish.”
- Anti-Israel protesters in Vancouver burn and tear Israeli flags to pieces, while harassing peaceful pro-Israel counter-demonstrators. (See images below)
- A Jewish elementary school student in Regina is pushed into a “Jew hole” during recess by classmates, who threaten to “exterminate” him.
- A Jewish woman is refused treatment by a nurse at a hospital in Richmond Hill, Ont., who calls her a “spoiled rich Jewish lady looking for free meds.”



## BREAKDOWN BY REGION

REGION	HARASSMENT	VANDALISM	VIOLENCE	TOTAL
Atlantic	35	10	0	45
Quebec	421	53	0	474
Ontario	609	186	13	808
Prairies	29	23	2	54
Alberta	183	23	0	206
British Columbia	132	32	1	165

For the purposes of the 2017 *Audit*, the League tracks antisemitic incidents by region, rather than by province. The regions include the Atlantic provinces, Quebec, Ontario, the Prairie provinces (which also includes Nunavut), Alberta (which also includes the Northwest Territories) and B.C. (which also includes Yukon Territory).

As Canada's largest province and home to its largest Jewish community, Ontario was the scene of 808 incidents, representing 46 per cent of the total, a significant increase over its 28 per cent share last year. Quebec remained the second-highest contributor with 27 per cent.

The Prairie provinces were the only region to witness a slight decline in the total number of incidents, from 74 in 2016 to 54 in 2017. Alberta and B.C. both continued a trend of dramatic escalation, with each province individually contributing a number of incidents higher than their combined total in 2016, which was 121 incidents.

Better tracking in 2017 allowed B'nai Brith to allot a greater percentage of online incidents to a region, leaving none as unassigned.

### ATLANTIC CANADA

The Atlantic provinces returned as a distinct data region in 2017 for the first time since 2013, due to both an increase in the number of local incidents and their criminologically unique nature. While the number of incidents in this region was quite small in absolute terms, it should be noted that it is the smallest region by population and contains the smallest Jewish community as well.

Notable local incidents included a spate of antisemitic vandalism episodes in May, coinciding with the Nova Scotia provincial election, as well as a wave of antisemitic content emanating from white supremacist social media accounts in New Brunswick.

### QUEBEC

Quebec's share of the national total increased in 2017 after a temporary decline in 2016, led by a significant uptick in online antisemitic harassment and numerous incidents of swastika graffiti, much of it documented and then erased by local activist Corey Fleischer and his "Erasing Hate" campaign. Quebec is often said to possess a more volatile provincial political scene than anglophone Canada, and this phenomenon likely played into 2017's elevated levels of antisemitism.

Canada's only majority francophone province is home to Islamist extremist enclaves, a sophisticated far-right scene, and many of Canada's largest anti-Israel groups. The second of these scourges became a particular concern in 2017, as demonstrated by the shocking murder of six Muslims at prayer in Quebec City in January.

### ONTARIO

Ontario is often considered the beating heart of Canadian multiculturalism. Still, the province contributed a plurality of nationwide antisemitic incidents and the vast majority of physical assaults based on anti-Jewish sentiment. In a particularly worrying development, many of these attacks targeted Jewish students at public schools.

For years, Ontario has also been the national hub for campus antisemitism, a topic tackled separately in the pages that follow. In 2017, campus antisemitism spread well beyond Ontario, prominently manifesting in Quebec and B.C. as well.

### PRAIRIES

The Prairie region was the only one to record a decline in 2017 going from 74 incidents to 54. However, it was the location for a few of the year's more harrowing incidents, including a New Year's Eve outrage in which a Jewish woman discovered a rock on her porch with a swastika and

the words “Die Jew Bitch” written on it. There was also a Winnipeg-wide wave of antisemitic graffiti in August, likely inspired by white supremacist excesses south of the border.

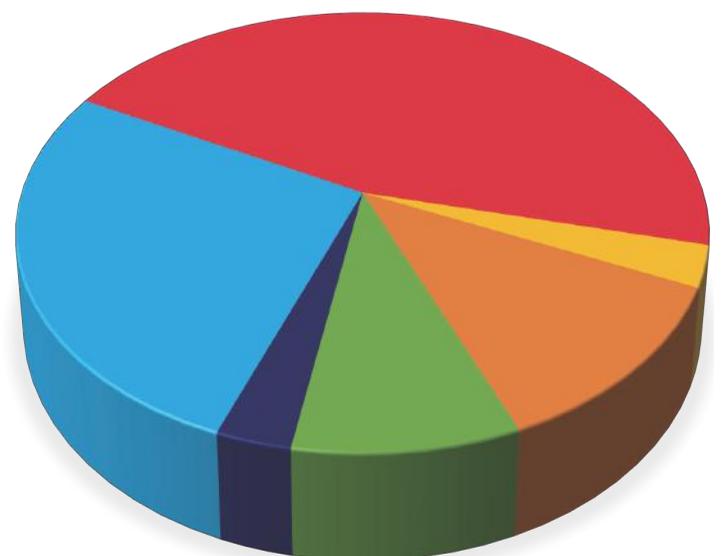
**ALBERTA**

Alberta emerged as a significant source of online antisemitism in 2017, while also playing host to other notable antisemitic incidents. Particularly galling was a speaker at a public event – sponsored by the governments of Alberta and Edmonton as well as the Canadian Human Rights Commission – telling listeners that Arabs are incapable of displaying antisemitism, that Palestinian terrorism is beyond reproach, and that boycotting the Jewish State is desirable.

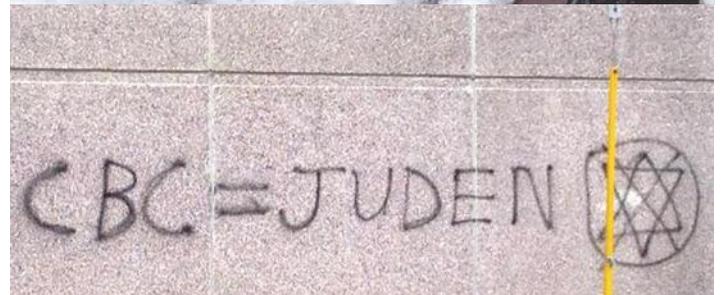
**BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Antisemitism spiked on Canada’s Pacific coast in 2017, with local Jews finding themselves caught in a vice on both the far-right and the far-left. University and college campuses across the province were hit with a seemingly coordinated campaign of neo-Nazi and white supremacist propaganda posters. In Metro Vancouver, anti-Israel extremism repeatedly revealed itself as old-fashioned antisemitism, as conspiracy theorist David Icke accused “Rothschild Zionists” of plotting world domination at city-owned spaces in September. Meanwhile, in July and December, anti-Israel protesters cursed Jews and burned Israeli flags.

**PERCENTAGE BY REGION**



- Atlantic (3%)
- Quebec (27%)
- Ontario (46%)
- Prairies (3%)
- Alberta (12%)
- British Columbia (9%)



Top: Antisemitic and anti-Israel messages scrawled on a sign outside the JCC of Greater Vancouver in October.

Middle: A swastika drawn in snow atop a Montreal car in February.

Bottom: Antisemitic graffiti defacing the CBC building in Halifax during a provincial election in May. “Juden” is the German word for Jews.



Hello Stav,

Due to the conflict and illegal settlement activity in the region, we are not accepting applications from Israel.

Regards

Pat

# BEYOND THE NUMBERS



Allah, destroy the accursed Jews!

...including only on Jewish deaths and ignoring the five million others. When I explain that this number is simply inaccurate, in fact made up, they become even more convinced of my ethnocentrism and inability to feel the pain of anyone but my own people."

<http://www.jta.org/2017/01/31/news-opinion/united-states/remember-the-11-million-why-an-riflat-ed-victims-tally-rics-holocaust-historians>  
<http://archive.is/L60P>

**DID THE '6 MILLION' REALLY DIE?**

Codoh.com

David Cole | Ernst Zundle | Robert Faurisson

Mark Weber | Arthur Butz

**TRUTH DOES NOT FEAR INVESTIGATION**

Top: British performer David Icke promoting antisemitic conspiracy theories in a public presentation.

Second: An email received by Israeli student

Stav Daron, informing him that he is banned from attending the Island School of Building Arts in Gabriola Island, B.C. on account of his nationality.

Third: Imam Sayed al-Ghitawi prays for the genocide of Jews at the al-Andalous Islamic Centre in Montreal.

Bottom: A Holocaust denial poster plastered across the University of Calgary campus in February.

# A RESURGENCE OF VANDALISM AND VIOLENCE

YEAR	VANDALISM INCIDENTS	TOTAL INCIDENTS	VANDALISM %
2013	388	1274	30%
2014	238	1627	15%
2015	136	1269	11%
2016	158	1728	9%
<b>2017</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>1752</b>	<b>19%</b>

Comparing the 2017 data on antisemitism in Canada to previous years, one of the most striking differences is the increase in vandalism and violence. Indeed, in recent years, B'nai Brith's League for Human Rights had commented on the steady rise in antisemitic harassment, especially on the Internet, even as physical incidents of vandalism and violence declined. In that sense, 2017 was a rude awakening for the Jewish community, as incidents of vandalism and violence spiked both in absolute terms and as a proportion of the overall number of antisemitic incidents, reaching levels not seen since 2013 and 2014, respectively.

As with any time where we see an uptick in racist or antisemitic trends, the question we must ask is: why? While it is beyond the scope of this *Audit* to give a definitive answer to that question, we can suggest three contributing factors:

## 1. INCREASE IN WHITE SUPREMACIST ACTIVITY

Antisemitism in Canada is a diverse phenomenon that springs from multiple sources, including but not limited to: Islamist extremists, radical Arab nationalists, and white supremacists. While all three of these groups were cause for concern in 2017, there is no doubt that the latter group in particular is increasingly active in Canada, galvanized to some extent by the massive far-right rally that took place in Charlottesville in August.

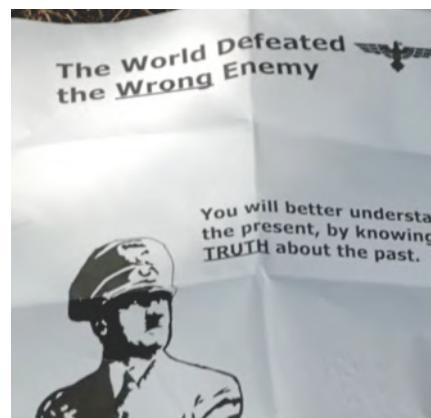
This development is significant because, while antisemitic vandalism could be the work of anyone, it is more strongly associated with antisemites on the far-right. For example, a spate of antisemitic graffiti that hit Winnipeg in 2017 was almost certainly linked to white supremacists emboldened by Charlottesville, insofar as it took place in August and purported to highlight a "white genocide" plotted by American-Jewish philanthropist George Soros. Similarly, a rash of antisemitic postering across university campuses in B.C. in November was characterized by pro-Nazi messages.

## 2. AN "EVOLUTION" FROM ACTS OF ANTISEMITIC HARASSMENT

As discussed in more detail in the pages that follow, the past few years have witnessed the rise of a "culture of impunity" when it comes to certain antisemitic acts that appear to violate Canadian law. In particular, prosecutions for the offence of promoting hatred against an identifiable group – which usually falls into the category of "harassment" as defined by our *Audit* – have been few and far between.

The danger of this permissive attitude toward antisemitic harassment is that it may be encouraging antisemites to push the envelope by escalating toward antisemitic vandalism, or even outright violence. For example, police in Peel Region, just west of Toronto, reported a whopping 33 incidents of graffiti aimed at the Jewish community in 2017. This a shockingly high figure, given that the 2016 census found only 2,035 Jews living in Peel that year. However, Peel is also home to *al-Meshwar*, an Arabic-language newspaper that has for years disseminated virulently antisemitic propaganda. Despite numerous complaints to police, the paper has never faced prosecution.

When a publication feeds a steady diet of hatred to its readers, it's only natural that some will be emboldened over time to take that hatred to the next level.



*Neo-Nazi and pro-Hitler flyers stuffed into mailboxes in East Vancouver in August. Similar neo-Nazi materials were distributed across the Lower Mainland throughout the latter half of 2017, following the far-right gathering in Charlottesville.*

### 3. ESCALATING ANTISEMITISM IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM

Of the 16 acts of antisemitic violence reported in 2017, almost half occurred in public schools. At the same time, public schools across the country, but especially in Ontario, bore witness to dozens of acts of antisemitic harassment and vandalism. While some may be tempted to dismiss these incidents as mere youthful delinquency, there are indications that distinct antisemitic ideology is in fact putting down roots in the Canadian education system.

In June, for example, a high school in Vaughan, just north of Toronto, was tagged with a Nazi flag and graffiti proclaiming, "Jews did 9/11," along with an image of a plane hitting the World Trade Center. This bears the hallmarks not of a bored and aimless teenager but of a convinced ideologue trying to spread an antisemitic message. In an age where youth are heavily reliant on websites and social media, and antisemitism is increasingly prevalent on those platforms, antisemitic ideology is likely to continue its spread in the school system unless strong steps are taken to combat it.



Top: Threatening antisemitic graffiti plastered onto Gladstone Secondary in East Vancouver in February.

Second: Antisemitic graffiti on a sign outside a Catholic school in Brockville, Ont. The school was targeted three separate times in December and January.

Left: A swastika spray-painted at a park in Fort Erie, Ont. in July.

Bottom: Antisemitic graffiti at a Montreal playground in August. "Arbeit Macht Frei," German for "Work Makes You Free," was famously inscribed on the gates of Auschwitz, as well as other Nazi death camps.



## ANTISEMITISM IN THE POLITICAL SPHERE

Given the significant media coverage of antisemitic incidents over the past few years, most Canadians are likely aware that antisemitism exists and continues to manifest itself in Canada. By the same token, many Canadians see antisemitism as a fringe phenomenon, securely in the domain of religious fanatics and troubled, aimless youths.

This, however, is often not the case. Antisemitism in Canada is becoming more and more mainstream and even casting a dark shadow over the political realm. It would seem that certain politicians, forced to choose between rejecting anti-Jewish sentiment and pleasing target constituencies, are making ill-informed choices.

Antisemitism should not and cannot be a partisan issue. Just like racism, sexism, homophobia and other forms of bigotry, politicians must actively distance themselves from antisemitism. Any group or individual seeking to partner with the government while promoting antisemitism is no partner at all.

Incidents of this type can be sub-divided into three categories:

1. Those in which politicians/government associate with groups or individuals that promote antisemitism;
2. Those in which politicians/government provide space for groups or individuals that promote antisemitism;
3. Those in which politicians/government, either knowingly or unknowingly, promote antisemitism themselves.

### ASSOCIATING WITH ANTISEMITISM

In 2017, official actors from coast to coast associated, either wittingly or unwittingly, with sources of antisemitism, thereby granting them undue legitimacy and publicity.

From February until October, the Canadian Left was captivated by a leadership race for the federal NDP, which had jettisoned former leader Tom Mulcair – generally regarded as a friend to the Jewish community – in April of 2016. One candidate in particular, Manitoba MP Niki Ashton, chose to use the Israeli-Arab conflict as a wedge issue in her campaign.

After attending an anti-Israel event in Montreal, Ashton shared pictures of it to social media, surrounded by posters calling for the release from prison of Ahmad Sa'adat, Secretary-General of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a banned terrorist group in Canada. Sa'adat is responsible for the assassination of Israel's Tourism Minister in 2001, while the PFLP has claimed credit

for dozens of other gruesome attacks, including one that killed a Canadian rabbi in 2014.

Despite complaints from B'nai Brith, Ashton refused to distance herself from Sa'adat or the PFLP. In August, she attended a fundraiser in Mississauga, Ont. organized by a member of her campaign team, where she met and won the endorsement of Nazih Khatatba, a local Palestinian notorious for his *al-Meshwar* newspaper, which has promoted Holocaust denial and other absurd antisemitic conspiracy theories. Facing another call-out from B'nai Brith, Ashton finally denounced Khatatba's Holocaust denial and support, much to the disappointment of the more rabidly anti-Israel elements of her fanbase.



Top: NDP MP Niki Ashton addresses an anti-Israel rally in Montreal, with banners in the background praising convicted terrorist Ahmad Sa'adat, Secretary-General of the PFLP, a banned terrorist group in Canada.

Bottom: Ashton poses with Nazih Khatatba, editor of the anti-semitic *al-Meshwar* newspaper, at a fundraiser for her NDP leadership campaign in Mississauga.

The NDP was not the only political party to have its members ignore ties to antisemitism in their outreach to the Canadian-Palestinian community. Iqra Khalid, Liberal MP for Mississauga-Erin Mills and sponsor of M-103 on Islamophobia and other forms of discrimination, granted a Liberal Party award and threw a personal birthday party for Amin El-Maoued, Public Relations Chief of Palestine House. Palestine House was previously stripped of its federal funding due to what officials called its “pattern of support for extremism.” Moreover, El-Maoued was under investigation in mid-2017 by police for his role in a July anti-Israel demonstration that featured antisemitic chants.

Another example of government association with antisemitism occurred in Edmonton in August. At a human rights conference called “Ignite Change” – sponsored by the City of Edmonton, the Government of Alberta and the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) – a panelist named Ranya El-Sharkawi launched into a bizarre diatribe in which she advocated a boycott of the Jewish State, told her listeners not to criticize Palestinian terrorism, and asserted that Arabs cannot engage in antisemitism. Neither the city, the province nor even the CHRC distanced themselves from El-Sharkawi’s bigoted rhetoric, with only MacEwan University, which hosted the event, opting to do so.

## PROVIDING SPACE FOR ANTISEMITISM

Another growing concern in 2017 was the willingness of some local governments to provide taxpayer-funded space for antisemitic activities. These incidents raised serious questions about what type of speech should be promoted by our municipalities, even when the rhetoric in question may not reach the high threshold necessary to be deemed a criminal act.

In July, despite an outcry from Jewish groups, the Toronto Public Library allowed its space to be used for a memorial to Barbara Kulaszka, a lawyer notorious for defending Holocaust deniers and white supremacists. The event was organized by Marc Lemire and Paul Fromm, two well-known Canadian white nationalists. Months later, the Ottawa Public Library cancelled an anti-Islam film screening, exposing an apparent double-standard. Perhaps embarrassed by this discrepancy, its Toronto counterpart adopted new rules in December to block future events that promote hate.

A similar problem emerged in August and September, when British conspiracy theorist David Icke visited Canada. Fond of denying the Holocaust, doubting Jews’ Middle Eastern ancestry and blaming the world’s problems on “Rothschild Zionists,” Icke had his shows cancelled by the Queen Elizabeth Theatre and Metro Convention Centre in Toronto, but found a warmer welcome in Vancouver. On the West

Coast, Icke’s show was allowed to proceed in the city-owned Orpheum Theatre – despite the city’s own Civic Theatres Board recommending that it be cancelled.

Finally, the city-owned Centennial Hall in London, Ont. played host to Arab heartthrob Mohammed Assaf, despite concerns over some of his song lyrics praising terrorism against Israeli civilians and his habit of brandishing weapons during music videos. The fears of many seemed confirmed on the day of the concert itself, as attendees told reporters waiting outside that “the Jewish is bad people (sic)” and that Israeli leaders were somehow responsible for the Holocaust. London municipal officials took no action, despite having passed an emergency motion to ban hateful events on city property, as a response to local anti-Islam rallies.



## MEMORIAL FOR BARBARA KULAZSKA – TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2017

TORONTO. Wednesday, July 12, 2017. Richview Library, Auditorium (1806 Islington Ave, Etobicoke, ON. — two blocks north of Eglinton (6:15 p.m.). \*\*\*\* NEW LOCATION & TIME\*\*\*\*Admission \$10.00

*Top: Logos of the organizations that sponsored the “Ignite Change” conference, where a speaker advocated boycotting Israel and denied that antisemitism is a significant problem.*

*Bottom: A promotional image for a memorial event honouring Barbara Kulaszka (far-left), a lawyer infamous for defending Holocaust deniers and white supremacists - such as Doug Christie (centre-left). Also pictured are event organizers Marc Lemire (centre-right) and Paul Fromm (far-right).*

## ENGAGING IN ANTISEMITISM

It is to be expected that when political leaders blur the line between what constitutes legitimate criticism of Israel and employing a double standard against the Jewish State that some would cross the line and deploy antisemitic canards themselves.

In October, footage emerged from a pro-BDS documentary of Quebec Solidaire MNA Amir Khadir claiming that the National Assembly is controlled by the money of “the pro-Israeli lobby.” Despite the insidious nature of his claim, Khadir doubled down on his rhetoric and did not face significant backlash from the mainstream media or his elected peers.

In December, NDP MLA Rod Loyola in Alberta joined an anti-Israel rally related to the U.S. decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel’s capital. Loyola told the assembled crowd, “You don’t need to be Muslim to stand up for Jerusalem – you need to be human.” The obvious implication of this statement is that those who agree that every nation has the legal right to choose its own capital, including Israel, are not human at all. Dehumanization of Jews has long been a staple of antisemitic discourse.

Another instance of antisemitism in the political sphere transpired at an election debate in Calgary, when City Councilor Ward Sutherland was heard to condemn the city’s practice of relying on foreign artists such as “Jonny Jew from New York.” Facing wall-to-wall criticism for his miscue, Sutherland later claimed to be referring to Jimmy Choo, a famous shoe designer based in London, England. Despite the controversy, Sutherland was re-elected.



Top Right: Municipal election signs defaced with antisemitic propaganda in the Montreal suburb of Dollard-des-Ormeaux in October.

Middle Right: Provincial election signs defaced with swastikas in North Vancouver in April.

Bottom Right: A provincial election sign defaced with Nazi symbols in the Halifax area in May.

Top Left: Quebec Solidaire MNA Amir Khadir utilizes antisemitic tropes in a documentary on the Quebec BDS Movement.

Bottom Left: Alberta NDP MLA Rod Loyola addresses an anti-Israel rally outside the Legislature in December.

# A CULTURE OF IMPUNITY

Antisemitic incidents happen. Even in the most finely calibrated liberal democracy, extremists will always emerge to terrorize or victimize other groups. The real test of Canada's tolerance, by contrast, comes in how we react to incidents of antisemitism, especially those that cross the high threshold rendering them criminal acts.

The failure to prosecute or impose just sentences on those who engage in illegal antisemitism has created a culture of impunity which may encourage further, and more serious, acts of hatred against Canadians.

The fact that many notable perpetrators of antisemitism from 2016 were never held accountable for their actions is likely a contributing factor to the spike in antisemitic vandalism and violence in 2017.

## FAILURE TO PROSECUTE

The year 2017 bore witness to a number of incidents where police and prosecutors inexplicably failed to lay charges against perpetrators of antisemitic hate crimes, especially the offence of wilfully promoting hatred contrary to section 319(2) of the *Criminal Code*. Indeed, over the course of the whole year, only two sets of charges for targeting Jews under that provision were handed out – and as we shall see later, even those exchanges were arguably mishandled.

In February, footage emerged of Imam Sayyed al-Ghitawi twice leading congregants in prayer at the al-Andalous Islamic Centre in Montreal to “destroy the accursed Jews” and “kill them one by one,” a clear violation of section 319(2) and also arguably of section 318, which prohibits advocating genocide against an identifiable group.

B'nai Brith duly communicated this information to Montreal Police, who launched an investigation. In September, Quebec prosecutors announced they would not launch criminal proceedings against al-Ghitawi. Their explanation was that, as the antisemitic remarks were made in 2014, the time limit for laying charges had elapsed. This, however, is simply untrue.

Time limits only apply to *summary*, or less serious offences in Canada – for *indictable*, or more serious offences, there is no time limit. Wilfully promoting hatred against an identifiable group is a hybrid offence, meaning that prosecutors can proceed in a summary or indictable fashion, based on the seriousness of the incident in question. Al-Ghitawi's hateful bile was clearly serious in nature, and in any case, the Supreme Court has outlined that prosecutions for hate speech need to fall into the more serious indictable category in order to pass constitutional muster.

The ongoing failure to charge Sayyed al-Ghitawi with an offence points toward a political, rather than a legal, barrier. Too many Canadians, including our politicians, often assume that hate crimes are purely a majority vs. minority phenomenon. However, members of groups that face discrimination can and occasionally do promote hatred against other minority groups.

## INCOMPLETE PROSECUTIONS

Even in the rare 2017 cases where individuals were charged for wilfully promoting hatred against Jews, half-measures by police or prosecutors resulted in a failure to create the kind of deterrence necessary to prevent similar incidents in the future.

In July, Montreal police issued an arrest warrant against Muhammad bin Musa Al Nasr, a visiting Jordanian cleric who delivered a virulently antisemitic sermon at the local Dar al-Arqam Mosque (see image below). However, since he had already returned to Jordan, the arrest warrant had little effect. Moreover, prosecutors chose not to pursue charges against officials at the mosque itself, even though, by displaying the sermon on the mosque's YouTube channel, they were also propagating antisemitism. In fact, despite condemnation from other Muslim associations in Quebec, the Dar al-Arqam never condemned Al Nasr or his hate speech to their congregants. Overall, the message conveyed was that Canadian groups that host hate preachers from overseas are unlikely to face any serious legal consequences



**At the end of time when the Muslims will triumph over the most evil of mankind [and] the human demons, the stone and the tree will say:**

**O Muslim, servant of Allah, O Muslim, servant of Allah, there is a Jew behind me; come and kill him; but the tree Gharqad would not say, for it is the tree of the Jews.**

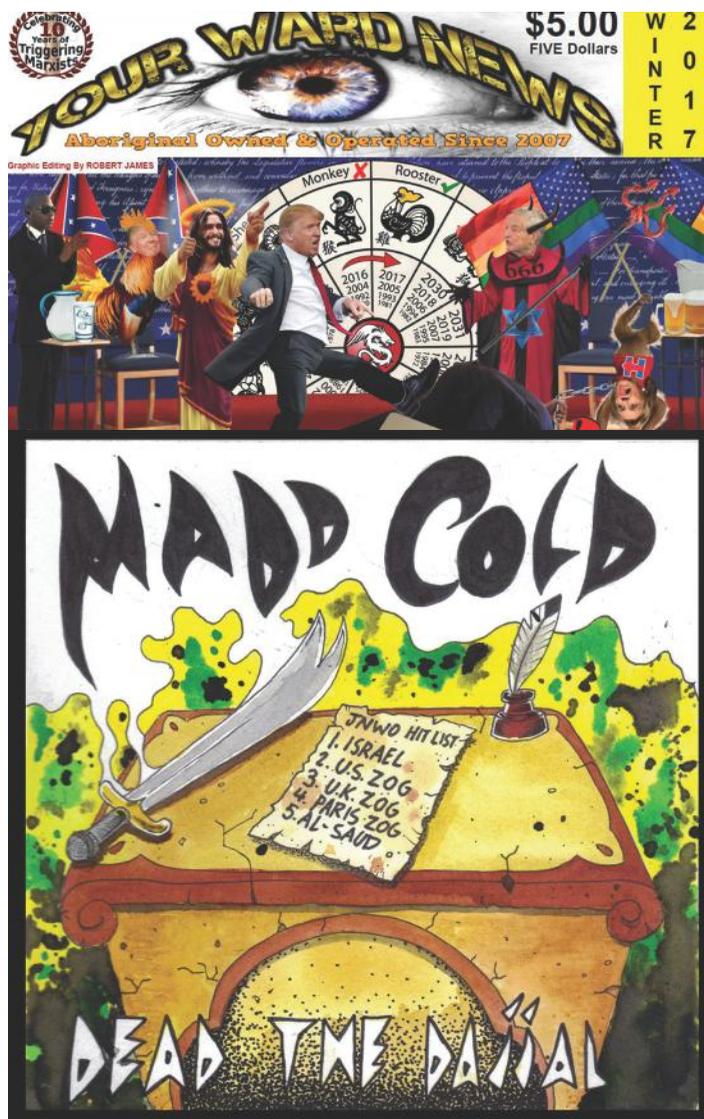
With much fanfare, the Attorney-General of Ontario announced charges in November against the editor and publisher of *Your Ward News*, a Toronto-based hate rag that has a long record of promoting antisemitism, homophobia and misogyny. However, prosecutors failed to take the elementary step of requesting an injunction against the continued distribution of the paper, which otherwise would have protected Holocaust survivors and Canadian war veterans from receiving material glorifying Hitler and Nazi Germany. The charges also came just months after a police spokesperson asserted that there was nothing criminal about the antisemitic newspaper, creating the impression of a political about-face by the Attorney General rather than a solid legal analysis of the publication.

## SENTENCING

On the relatively rare occasions that individuals were convicted of antisemitic hate crimes in 2017, the sentences imposed were too light to deter other hatemongers in the community.

In March, a sentencing hearing was held for Arthur Topham, a B.C. man who used his website RadicalPress.com to spread hatred against Jews – who he characterized as the “synagogue of Satan” – and advocate for their forced sterilization and destruction as an ethnic group. After being convicted by a jury in 2015, Topham received no jail time, in spite of being eligible for a maximum of two years behind bars and continuing to spread antisemitic propaganda – even as his proceedings dragged on. Instead, he received two years probation, an 11 p.m. curfew for six months and an order not to target Jews online. By early 2018, Topham had arguably breached these conditions by expressing support for Monika Schaefer, a Canadian woman jailed in Germany for inciting hatred against Jews.

In August, an Ottawa man received just three post-hearing months in prison after a reign of terror in late 2016, in which he vandalized three synagogues, a mosque and an African-Canadian church with swastikas and other pro-Nazi slogans. The sentencing judge refused a request from the Crown to treat the offender as an adult, since he had been just a few weeks shy of his eighteenth birthday at the time of his crime spree. The judge expressed hope that the offender would shed his white supremacist views, even though he had already attacked a Muslim youth while in custody and refused an offer of reconciliation from the African-Canadian church. Overall, the sentence seemed disproportionately low, especially in comparison to a man who received five months jail time in September for defacing a number of bus stops in Oshawa, Ont. with the words, “No More Muslims.”



Top: The Winter 2017 cover of *Your Ward News*, an obscene antisemitic, misogynistic, racist and homophobic publication distributed in Toronto.

Middle: An album cover for the music of Montreal-based rapper Madd Cold. The paper on the desk makes reference to a “JNWO Hit List,” denoting the antisemitic trope of a “Jewish New World Order.”

Bottom: Vancouver Imam Tarek Ramadan delivers an incendiary sermon against the backdrop of tensions surrounding the Temple Mount in July.

---

# ANTISEMITISM ON CAMPUS: ONE STEP FORWARD, TWO STEPS BACK

Continuing a trend first witnessed in 2016, the anti-Israel boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement, which ran rampant on Canadian university campuses from 2012 to 2014, continued to recede in 2017. This year, not a single Canadian student body adopted BDS, which was rejected in votes at four universities: the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, the University of Winnipeg, and the University of Ottawa.

Nonetheless, the overriding atmosphere of antisemitism on many campuses continues to exist. By the end of the year, it became apparent that “business as usual” would not suffice as a method of addressing the underlying problem.

## A POLICY OF EXCLUSION

The year 2017 kicked off with a shocking case of xenophobic discrimination after an Israeli applicant was denied admission to a B.C. woodworking school on account of his nationality. While particularly brazen in its straightforwardness, the incident set the tone for a year in which Jewish, Israeli and pro-Israel students would face constant attempts to exclude them from normal campus life. Around the same time, the sole Jewish candidate for office in York University’s student elections endured verbal harassment from her opponents, who publicly derided her as a “dirty Zionist” despite her lack of involvement in Israeli-Arab debates on campus. Indeed, the student was so fearful of further persecution at the time that she asked B’nai Brith not to publicize the incident and not to reveal her name.

Matters escalated significantly in February, as Igor Sadikov, a student politician at McGill University, told his peers to “punch a Zionist today” over Twitter. Perhaps more shocking than the incident itself was its immediate aftermath, in which Sadikov hung on to some of his student leadership roles for more than a month, and was staunchly defended by anti-Israel groups on campus. The debacle sparked a further outrage in October, when Jewish student Noah Lew and two non-Jewish allies were removed from student government by dubious means because of their refusal to support BDS. All three were eventually reinstated, but not before enduring another round of cynical rhetoric by local anti-Israel activists suggesting that supporting the existence of a Jewish State was indeed a legitimate “red line” that no student politician could cross.

In March, the focus shifted to Ontario, where a teaching assistant at Ryerson University was fired for denouncing “the filth of the Jews” while leading prayers at a nearby mosque,

and anti-Israel students at UOIT in Oshawa, Ont. covered the Israeli flag during a campus multicultural festival. The administration at Ryerson set a good example by taking swift action against the teaching assistant and standing its ground after an article in the *Toronto Star* attempted to justify his antisemitic comments and paint him as a victim. By May, the trend of exclusion had been extended to prospective Jewish university attendees when visiting students from a predominantly Jewish high school were subjected to a diatribe at York University about their supposed “white privilege” and the absence of antisemitism as a “real” problem in society – a truly ironic sentiment coming from a university that has come to symbolize campus antisemitism for many Canadians.

November provided an excellent example of the intersection between BDS and more blatant forms of antisemitism, as students at the University of Ottawa attempted to de-register the local Hillel chapter in the run-up to a contentious BDS vote. But December brought some of the worst incidents of all, as the anti-Israel student brain trust at McMaster University were outed as Hitler admirers and supporters of the banned PFLP terrorist group, while an anti-Israel professor at the University of Toronto boycotted a Jewish student seeking his assistance on account of the student’s membership in a campus pro-Israel group.

Throughout the year, Jewish students also had to contend with attempts at exclusion stemming from the far-right, rather than just the far-left. A number of campuses were covered with antisemitic and pro-Nazi propaganda posters, especially after the white supremacist revival in Charlottesville in August. This phenomenon was most severe on B.C. and Alberta campuses, but also reverberated as far afield as the University of Guelph in Ontario and Brandon University in Manitoba.

## BOTCHED INVESTIGATIONS

Despite a host of antisemitic incidents on campus in 2017, some universities chose to look the other way rather than address the harassment of Jewish students.

In March, B’nai Brith urged UBC administration to investigate an episode where members of “Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights” (SPHR) sold scarves bearing Hamas-linked slogans on campus in partnership with an external group that had praised Hamas founder Ahmed Yassin. B’nai Brith soon discovered that UBC’s Equity and Inclusion Office, the very body tasked with investigating such matters, was employing

Hussain Khan, a former president of SPHR. In addition to being an obvious conflict of interest, Khan's employment also raised serious questions of principle, having previously led this problematic student group.

Following the purge of anti-BDS individuals from student government in October, McGill Principal and Vice-Chancellor Suzanne Fortier announced an investigation to be conducted by former Student Ombudsperson Dr. Spencer Boudreau. However, upon its release in February, 2018, it turned out the report was replete with factual and logical errors. McGill refused to revisit the report – even in light of its admitted mistakes.

In a similar vein, the investigation initiated by McMaster University following revelations of blatant antisemitism by members of its own SPHR chapter turned out to be a toothless boondoggle. When announcing its conclusion in March of 2018, McMaster refused to identify what, if any, disciplinary actions had been implemented. B'nai Brith soon discovered that, at least according to McMaster SPHR itself, no punishments had been imposed and the president of the group, a staunch supporter of antisemitic terrorism, had not been placed under investigation.

## A NEW WAY FORWARD?

Looking back at campus antisemitism in Canada in 2017, two inescapable conclusions emerge:

1. **Campus antisemitism remains and is increasingly a serious impediment to Jewish students who seek to be active in campus life; and**
2. **Universities are institutionally incapable of investigating their own antisemitism.**

Where we go from here is not immediately clear. What is apparent, however, is that it will take the combined efforts of the Canadian Jewish community - and those brave enough to insist on human rights for all – to promote real change in some of Canada's most hostile spaces for Jews.

*Top Right: A desk in a classroom at McGill University is defaced with swastikas and "Igor S" in February, in the aftermath of an antisemitic tweet by student politician Igor Sadikov calling on his peers to "punch a Zionist today" (top right insert).*

*Middle Right: A May 2017 tweet by Lina Assi, President of Solidarity with Palestinian Human Rights at McMaster University, in which she expresses her agreement with a Hamas cleric, labelling Jews as "the most despicable nation on the face of the Earth."*

*Bottom Right: Pro-Nazi posters found in a gym at UBC in advance of a Remembrance Day ceremony.*



person: hey  
me:



# SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Having taken stock of the rising threat of antisemitism in Canada in 2017, B'nai Brith has drafted a list of recommendations that will meaningfully address many of these issues. Each of these proposed measures will take time, effort and political capital to achieve. By instituting this eight-point plan, important steps will be taken to avoid the fate of harried and harassed Jewish communities evident in countries such as France.

## B'NAI BRITH'S EIGHT-POINT PLAN TO TACKLE ANTISEMITISM

### 1. Institute Dedicated Hate Crime Units in Every Major City

As it stands, most Canadian municipalities lack officers with expertise and resources to tackle hate crimes. Establishing additional units will lead to greater deterrence and prosecution rates.

### 2. Provide Enhanced Training for Hate Crimes Officers

Hate crimes are a special and difficult-to-prosecute category of offences, especially when the hateful rhetoric is conducted in languages other than English or French. Specialized training can bridge many of these gaps and provide for more effective policing.

### 3. Publish the Attorney-General's Guidelines for Sections 318 and 319

The Attorney-General's decision-making process on hate propaganda prosecutions is currently opaque and open to charges of political bias. Publicizing the internal guidelines will help human rights groups know when to complain to police and help Canadians stay on the right side of the law.

### 4. Develop an Action Plan to Counter Online Hate

As revealed by both the 2017 and 2016 *Audits*, hate speech targeting Jews and other groups has flourished online, especially on social media. In the absence of the prior section 13 of the *Canadian Human Rights Code*, a fresh federal strategy is needed.

### 5. Declare a Zero-Tolerance Approach to Government Funding of Antisemitism

It is bad enough when private individuals promote hatred against Jews, but even worse when they do so with public funding or sponsorship. Federal, provincial and municipal governments must all pledge to reject the spreading of hatred with taxpayer dollars.

### 6. Introduce Anti-SLAPP Legislation in All Provinces

Ontario and Quebec currently possess legislation against "SLAPP": Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation. Extending this protection across the country would make it easier for human rights groups to call out bigots and extremists when necessary to advance public discourse.

### 7. Hold Universities Accountable for Campus Antisemitism

Almost all universities in Canada are publicly funded, and ultimately answerable to provincial ministers of advanced education. Just as the Government of Ontario stepped in to tackle campus sexual violence in 2016, provincial governments need to take ownership of the epidemic of antisemitic exclusion sweeping our nation's universities.

### 8. Adopt a National Action Plan for Antisemitism

As demonstrated by the findings of the 2017 *Audit*, antisemitism remains a persistent scourge in every region of Canada, affecting individuals in the workplace, at school, and even in their own homes. As it adopts a leadership role for the 2018 G7 Summit in Charlevoix, Que., our government should follow in the footsteps of allies such as France and Norway in adopting a national plan to tackle this phenomenon.



## THE VICTIMS' BILL OF RIGHTS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED ANTISEMITISM & OTHER HATE ACTIVITY

*Toronto Mayor John Tory speaks at a press conference at Toronto Police Service Division 32 headquarters following incidents of antisemitic vandalism in Toronto in February.*

When one person is singled out for hate, the entire community this person represents is also targeted. For every one of the 1,752 incidents of antisemitism in Canada this year, there were family, friends and colleagues impacted as well. Victims of hate-motivated acts deserve support, compassion and dignity, so that they feel empowered to come forward. Victims of hate activity deserve the following protections in their pursuit of justice:

- Prompt, dedicated service from local police and other law enforcement agencies that have specialized training and expertise in the area of hate crimes;
- Hate crime legislation designed specifically with the victim in mind, recognizing that modern day manifestations of hate take on many forms;
- A *Criminal Code* that counters the activities of those who deny the murder of six million Jews in the Holocaust and denigrate its victims, with measures to combat the Jihadist, neo-Nazi and radical Islamist propaganda that targets many different minority communities;
- A speedy and efficient trial that brings the perpetrators to justice and offers closure to the victims, ensuring their voices are heard;
- Consistent sentencing guidelines of perpetrators that reflect the impact of their hate-filled crimes, and will serve as a meaningful deterrent;
- Harassment-free, zero-tolerance environments for hate-based activity, whether at school or in the workplace, where individuals can practice their sincerely-held religious beliefs without fear of compromising their academic or professional standing;
- A concerted, dedicated effort by community, legal, law enforcement, educational, and corporate sectors to jointly advance programs aimed at countering the explosion of hate motivated activity, including hate on the internet;
- A government that fully implements international agreements against hatred and demands the same from its global partners;
- A demonstrated resolve by all levels of government to implement policies that advance multiculturalism in a way that actively promotes core Canadian ideals of tolerance and respect.

# B'NAI BRITH CANADA

National: 1-844-218-2624 (Toll Free)

National Headquarters  
15 Hove Street Toronto, Ontario M3H 4Y8  
416-633-6224  
Fax: 416-630-2150  
toronto@bnaibrith.ca

Quebec Region  
7155 Cote St. Luc Rd., Suite 202  
Cote St. Luc, Quebec H4V 1J2  
514-733-5377 x 127  
montreal@bnaibrith.ca

Midwest Region  
123 Doncaster St. Suite C403  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3N 2B2  
204-487-9623  
winnipeg@bnaibrith.ca

Ottawa Region  
613-598-0056  
ottawa@bnaibrith.ca

Edmonton Region  
780-483-6939  
edmonton@bnaibrith.ca

## Sources Citing B'nai Brith's *Annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents:*

- Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry
- Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labour - US State Department
- Stephen Roth Centre for the Study of Contemporary Anti-Semitism and Racism
- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Warsaw
- Human Rights First
- Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, US State Department
- Ministry of the Attorney General of Canada
- Ontario Human Rights Commission
- United Nations Commission on Human Rights, 60th Session, Mission to Canada
- Statistics Canada



@bnaibrithcanada



facebook.com/bnaibrithcanada

**ANTI-HATE HOTLINE: 1-800-892-2624**  
**BNAIBRITH.CA/REPORT**



League for  
Human Rights of  
B'nai Brith Canada  
Ligue des droits de  
la personne

*Annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2017*



BNAIBRITH.CA