

NDP Leadership Candidate

Middle East Positions

Questionnaire

Ten questions of interest to Canadians

Assembled by

*Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East, and
Independent Jewish Voices Canada*



June, 2017

June 15, 2017
Montreal & Ottawa

Dear NDP Leadership Candidate,

Our respective organizations, Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (CJPME) and Independent Jewish Voices Canada (IJV) are human rights organizations focused on Middle East issues, especially Israel-Palestine. Both of our organizations are grassroots, secular, and non-partisan, and our joint constituency stands at well over 100,000 Canadians.

Many of CJPME and IJV's adherents are NDP voters, and they are keenly interested in the current NDP leadership race. We wish to help them understand the positions of the different NDP leadership candidates on issues in the Middle East. International events of the past several years have intensified many Canadians' interest in Middle East, and their desire to see lasting and positive change. Many Canadians believe that Canada – and ultimately the NDP – have a role to play in creating a better Middle East.

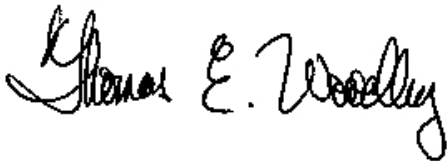
To help our constituents make an informed choice, we ask you to please complete this short questionnaire. Each of the ten questions focuses on a different topic of interest between the NDP, Canada and the Middle East. You may answer each by simply choosing your position on a sliding scale. If you wish, you may also add comments to clarify your position in either of Canada's official languages. Answering the questions could take as little as 3-4 minutes.

CJPME and IJV will collate the responses from all the NDP Leadership candidates who reply, and make them available to our constituents and others. To make it possible for your responses to reach them before the vote, **we will need to have your response to the questionnaire by Monday, July 10, 2017 at the latest.** You may email, or print and mail your completed questionnaire.

To send in your completed questions, or if you have any questions about the questionnaire, please address them to Miranda Gallo, our staff person managing this initiative:

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Montreal, QC H3L 2N7
438-380-5410, miranda.gallo@cjpme.org

We know that Middle East-related issues are not your only concerns, but we are convinced Middle East issues are among the most important for many Canadian voters. Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete this brief questionnaire. Best of luck as you pursue your leadership bid.



Thomas E. Woodley
President, Canadians for Justice and Peace
in the Middle East



Diana Ralph
Steering Committee Member
Independent Jewish Voices Canada



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1 Attitudes toward human rights and dictatorships in the Middle East

The Middle East has a long and unfortunate history of dictatorial and despotic leaders. Nevertheless, for many years, Canada was happy to “do business” with such leaders (e.g. Egypt’s Mubarak, Libya’s Gaddafi) despite serious human rights violations in those countries.¹ This trend continues today. As one example, Canada maintains free trade agreements with Middle East dictatorships, including Bahrain (2010), Jordan (2009), Kuwait (2014), Egypt (1997), and is currently in discussions with the United Arab Emirates.² Worse, neither the Harper nor the Trudeau government modulated a \$15 billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia despite that country’s egregious human rights record.

Fortunately, there have been occasions when Canada has used sanctions and commercial enticements to demand improvements in the human rights records (e.g. China, Iran, etc.), but these efforts are often inconsistent or tainted by politics.^{3 4}

As a leader of the NDP, on a scale from 1 to 5 below, how strongly would you support linking Canada’s commercial and diplomatic relations with the Middle East to the human rights record of the governments in question? (If completing the form electronically, simply bold and underline the appropriate numeral.)

I would avoid linking commercial and diplomatic relations with a Middle East government to its human rights record			I support giving human rights high importance when making commercial or diplomatic deals with Middle East governments.	
1	2	3	4	5

If desired, please type in additional comments:

I support giving human rights high importance when making commercial or diplomatic deals with Middle East governments.

¹ "Senator Andreychuk to Lead Oil and Gas Trade Mission to Libya," Canada News Centre. Foreign Affairs and International Trade

² "Free Trade Agreements of Canada," Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free-trade_agreements_of_Canada Accessed June 9, 2017.

³ "Cda. won't appease China on human rights: Harper," CTV News (ctv.ca). November 15, 2006.

http://www.ctv.ca/CTVNews/CTVNewsAt11/20061115/china_ssub_061114/ Accessed January 19, 2012. However, more recently the Canadian government appears to be less committed to using trade to pressure on China to improve its human rights record; see "Stephen Harper travelling to China next month," CBC News. January 11, 2012.

<http://www.cbc.ca/m/rich/politics/story/2012/01/11/pol-harper-china-trip.html> Accessed January 19, 2012

⁴ "Canada Supports Intensified Restrictions on Iran - Backgrounder - Canada's Response to Human Rights Situation in Iran," Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada. July 8, 2011. (<http://www.international.gc.ca/media/aff/news-communiqués/2011/194.aspx?view=d> Accessed January 19, 2012

2 Views on Addressing the Problem of Islamophobia in Canada

There has been a marked rise in Islamophobia in Canada since 2012, likely as a result of disquieting international events associated with ISIS.⁵ While a Parliamentary motion condemning Islamophobia passed unanimously in October 2016,⁶ the issue became highly polarized and divisive early in 2017 with the anti-Islamophobia motion M-103 introduced by MP Iqra Khalid.⁷

Many Canadians understand Islamophobia as a form of discrimination against Muslims in the same way that they understand homophobia as a form of discrimination against homosexuals. However, many Canadians – including certain political leaders – took issue with the concept when M-103 was introduced. The CBC summarized these objections, saying:

*Some critics of the motion worry it could infringe on free speech and the charter right to freedom of expression, because criticism of Islam could be construed as Islamophobia. Some have even raised the fear that the parliamentary study could ultimately lead to legislative changes, including Shariah blasphemy laws. Others object to Islam being singled out as a religion in need of special protection.*⁸

For many Canadians, M-103 made sense in light of the rise in Islamophobia in Canada, and in light of the terrorist attack by a gunman in a Quebec City mosque on January 29, 2017 which left 6 Muslim-Canadians dead. While NDP MPs supported all Parliamentary motions addressing Islamophobia, there are sure to be continuing debates about the severity of the problem in Canada, and how exactly to address it.

As a leader of the NDP, on a scale from 1 to 5 below, to what degree would you believe Islamophobia requires special attention at this time in Canada? (If completing the form electronically, simply bold and underline the appropriate numeral.)

I don't think it is necessary to "single out" Islamophobia as a specific discrimination. I believe Muslim-Canadians and their rights are sufficiently protected under existing laws.					I believe Islamophobia is a huge threat in Canada and that special attention is required to ensure the protection of the rights of Muslim-Canadians.
1	2	3	4	5	

If desired, please type in additional comments:

I believe Islamophobia is a huge threat in Canada and that special attention is required to ensure the protection of the rights of Muslim-Canadians.

⁵ Li, Josephine, "Infographic: The rise in Islamophobia," Legal Aid Ontario. Mar. 21, 2017.

<http://blog.legalaid.on.ca/2017/03/21/infographic-the-rise-in-islamophobia/> Accessed Jun. 9, 2017

⁶ Woodley, Thomas, "In Case You Missed It, Canada Passed An Anti-Islamophobia Motion," Huffington Post Canada. Nov. 2, 2016.

http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/thomas-woodley/canada-anti-islamophobia-law_b_12753924.html Accessed Jun. 9, 2017

⁷ Harris, Kathleen, "5 things to know about the Commons motion on Islamophobia," CBC. Feb. 17, 2017.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/iqra-khalid-islamophobia-motion-1.3987668> Accessed Jun. 9, 2017

⁸ Ibid.

3 Views on Canada’s Accession to the Arms Trade Treaty

There is no doubt that the easy availability of weapons in the international arms trade fuels conflict in the Middle East. Several of the biggest arms importers in the world are Middle Eastern countries, including #2 Saudi Arabia (which accounts for 7 percent of all arms purchases), and #4 the United Arab Emirates (UAE) (accounting for 4.6 percent of the world’s arms purchases.)⁹ As recently seen in Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Libya and other Middle East theatres of war, arms are repeatedly turned against civilians, and often result in war crimes.

The International Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) would oblige arms exporters to carefully control the delivery of arms, maintain export prohibitions, carry out export risk assessments, and provide documentary proof of their implementation of the treaty. Under the ATT, arms exports would be prohibited to countries which either violate UN Charter or Security Council obligations, or risk being used to commit a war crime. The UN ATT body recommends model legislation for countries interested in acceding to the ATT.¹⁰

The Trudeau government recently tabled bill C-47 to accede to the ATT, but it contains two major flaws. First, the control and reporting mechanisms proposed in C-47 exclude arms exports to the US. This is because under the Canada-US Defence Production Sharing Program (DPSA), trade relating to arms sales between the two countries is not publicly disclosed. Given that over half of Canada’s arms exports flow to the US – often as component parts of larger systems produced by the US – this is a significant loophole.

The second flaw with C-47 is its deferment of the details of the export permit approval process by Foreign Affairs until *after* Royal Assent. Such an approach to C-47 violates the basic rules of Parliamentary lawmaking, and enables the government to circumvent Parliamentary and public scrutiny on a key mechanism of Canada’s implementation of the ATT.¹¹

As a leader of the NDP, on a scale from 1 to 5 below, please indicate how closely you believe Canada should adhere to the proposed mechanisms set forth in the International Arms Trade Treaty (If completing the form electronically, simply bold and underline the appropriate numeral.)

I believe that Canada needs to take its own approach to accession to the ATT, giving foremost priority to Canada’s diplomatic and commercial concerns	I believe that Canada should accede to the ATT heeding closely to the treaty’s principles, even if it means adapting existing diplomatic and commercial relationships
1	5

If desired, please type in additional comments:

I believe that Canada should accede to the ATT heeding closely to the treaty’s principles, even if it means adapting existing diplomatic and commercial relationships

⁹ Sawe, Benjamin Elisha, "World's Largest Importers Of Military Arms," World Atlas, Mar. 15, 2017.

<http://www.worldatlas.com/articles/world-s-largest-importers-of-military-arms.html> Accessed Jun. 9, 2017

¹⁰ "The Arms Trade Treaty," United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. <https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/att/> Accessed Jun. 9, 2017

¹¹ "Key questions about Canada’s Arms Trade Treaty legislation," Rideau Institute Blog, May 9, 2017.

<http://www.rideauinstitute.ca/2017/05/09/key-questions-about-canadas-arms-trade-treaty-legislation/> Accessed Jun. 9, 2017

4 Views on Canada’s Voting at the UN vis-à-vis the Middle East

Since 2004, Canada’s votes on key UN General Assembly resolutions relating to the Middle East have shifted significantly. For example:

- On the recurring resolution condemning “Israel’s decision to effectively annex the Syrian Arab Golan,” Canada’s vote went from Yes (2004), to abstain (starting in 2011.)
- On the recurring resolution supporting “Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory”, Canada’s vote shifted from Yes (2004), to abstain, to No (starting in 2007).
- On the recurring resolution supporting “The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination,” Canada’s vote shift from Yes (2004), to abstain, to No (starting in 2011)

Similar voting shifts demonstrating diplomatic support of Israeli government interests occurred with most of the other of the 20 or so resolutions on the Middle East passed each Fall.

In the two years since the Trudeau government has controlled these votes, there has been no change in Canada’s voting patterns as compared to Harper’s final year.

As a leader of the NDP, please select your position, from 1 to 5 below, on whether you would acquiesce to this voting of the Trudeau government at the UN, or whether you would oppose it? (If completing the form electronically, simply bold and underline the appropriate numeral.)

Would publicly support Canada’s present voting patterns on Middle East issues at the UN	Don’t feel strongly either way about shift in Canada’s votes on Middle East at UN	Would publicly oppose Canada’s present voting patterns on Middle East issues at the UN
1	2	3
		4
		5

If desired, please type in additional comments:

I would publicly oppose Canada’s present voting patterns on Middle East issues at the UN

5 Views on Free Speech, & Legislative motions on BDS

On Monday, Feb. 22, 2016, Canada’s Parliament passed a motion asking the government to condemn groups and individuals who promote the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement in Canada. Sadly, in the “debate” preceding the vote, no mention was made of the actual stated objectives of the movement. While such motions are largely symbolic, they nevertheless could have important repercussions for free speech in Canada. Some fear a “chilling effect” on the Canada’s domestic dialog on matters relating to Israel-Palestine.

The BDS movement seeks:

1. An end to Israel’s occupation and colonization of all Palestinian land ¹²
2. The dismantling of Israel’s Wall ¹³
3. Full equality for Palestinian citizens of Israel; and
4. Respect for the rights of Palestinian refugees ¹⁴

The demands of the BDS movement align with international law and long-standing UN resolutions. As such:

- BDS is a democratic and non-violent means of protest and pressure,
- BDS is neither “anti-Israel” nor “anti-Semitic” as it is grounded in principles of international law,
- BDS is appropriate, as it is in response to a call from Palestinian civil society

BDS actions include boycotts (e.g. consumer boycotts, academic/cultural and sports boycotts), divestments (e.g. from pension and endowment portfolios), and sanctions, (i.e. calls for governments to end economic or military cooperation or ties with Israel). The BDS movement is slated to end when Israel’s violations of human rights end.

As a leader of the NDP, please select your position, from 1 to 5 below, on what position you would take vis-à-vis Canada and the international BDS movement. (If completing the form electronically, simply bold and underline the appropriate numeral.)

I would support future Parliamentary motions that condemn BDS and its supporters	While I stand opposed to motions that condemn BDS, I don’t believe the Canadian government should take actions in support of BDS	I believe the gov’t should take steps to support BDS, whether via trade or other sanctions
1	2	3
		4
		5

If desired, please type in additional comments:

In 2016 I was the only Member of Provincial Parliament to stand up in the legislature at Queens Park to speak out **against** the PC motion condemning BDS campaigns and I voted against the PC motion. To conflate the criticisms of a government policy with hate speech is a distraction from the real problem of anti-Semitism. Dissent, protest, and freedom of speech are a fundamental part of democracy. I am open to considering the use of sanctions in response to human rights violations.

¹² UN Security Council resolution 242 of 1967 calls on Israel to withdraw from the territories it had recently occupied, in accordance with the UN Charter, and the Fourth Geneva Convention, Art. 49, prohibits the colonization of militarily occupied land.

¹³ The International Court of Justice decision of 2004 called for the dismantling of Israel’s Wall.

¹⁴ UN Resolution 194 enshrines the legal rights of Palestinian refugees.

6 Views on sanctioning Israel’s colonies (i.e. “settlements”)

In the 2016 NDP policy book, the party writes: “Within a framework for United Nations resolutions and international law, Canada will work towards a two-state solution where Israelis and Palestinians can live in secure, viable and independent states within negotiated, agreed-upon borders.”¹⁵

The latest United Nations Security Council Resolution on this issue, 2334, states that Israel’s colonies constitute “a flagrant violation under international law and a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-State solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace.” It calls upon call states to “distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967.”¹⁶

Currently, Canada does not distinguish between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967 regarding the entrance of goods from these territories into Canada. While our allies in Europe have long had established labelling regimes to ensure that products originating from Israel’s colonies be labelled accurately, no such guidelines exist in Canada. In fact, through the Canada Israel Free Trade Agreement (CIFTA), Canada allows such goods to enter into Canada tariff-free.

As leader of the NDP, on a scale of from 1 to 5 below, would you favour action on this issue, such as the mandatory labelling of such products, or banning the entry of such products into Canada, as is the policy of the Green Party of Canada?¹⁷ (If completing the form electronically, simply bold and underline the appropriate numeral.)

I do not support taking any action directed against Israel’s colonies.	I would support mandatory labelling of products originating from Israel’s colonies, and excluding these products from the benefits of CIFTA.	I would support an outright ban on goods originating from Israel’s colonies into Canada.
1	2	3
		4
		5

If desired, please type in additional comments:

I would support mandatory labelling of products originating from Israel’s colonies, and excluding these products from the benefits of CIFTA. I am also open to considering a ban.

¹⁵ “NDP Policy,” NDP Edmonton 2016, Section 4: Redefining Canada’s Place in the World, p. 15
http://xfer.ndp.ca/2016/documents/2016_PolicyBook_EN_WEB.pdf, accessed June 14, 2017

¹⁶ “Resolution 2334 (2016) Adopted by the Security Council at its 7853rd meeting, on 23 December 2016,” United Nations Security Council, Dec. 23, 2016, S/RES/2334 (2016), <https://www.un.org/webcast/pdfs/SRES2334-2016.pdf> accessed June 14, 2017

¹⁷ “Measures to pressure the government of Israel to preserve the two-state solution: addendum to current Middle East policy,” Green Party of Canada, <https://www.greenparty.ca/en/sgm-2016/voting/resolutions/s16-p013> accessed June 14, 2017

7 Views on facilitating an end to the Israel-Palestine Conflict

For over two decades, the NDP has been stating in its election platform that the party supports the creation of a viable and independent Palestinian state with negotiated, agreed-upon borders, and an end to Israeli occupation of Palestinian land.

Meanwhile, Israel has continued to colonize increasingly more land within the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Israel’s government has moved significantly further to the Right, and it appears very unlikely that Israel—the occupying power—would willingly allow for the creation of a viable and independent Palestinian state to come into existence.¹⁸

A January 2017 EKOS poll found that 66% of Canadians and 84% of NDP supporters agree that sanctions on Israel are reasonable.¹⁹

Given the decades-long stalemate, and the day-to-day reality of millions of Palestinians living under a seemingly permanent regime of military rule, as NDP leader, would you support the use of targeted sanctions against Israel – e.g. such as military embargo – in order to pressure Israel into ending its military occupation of Palestinian land, and to negotiate in good faith towards the creation of a viable and independent Palestinian state? (If completing the form electronically, simply bold and underline the appropriate numeral.)

I do not support the use of any targeted sanctions against Israel	I would consider supporting the use of targeting sanctions against Israel	I would support the use of targeted sanctions against Israel
1	2	3
		4
		5

If desired, please type in additional comments:

I would consider supporting the use of targeting sanctions against Israel

¹⁸ Ravid, Barak. “Netanyahu: If I’m Elected, There Will Be No Palestinian State”. Ha’aretz, Mar. 16, 2015, <http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/elections/1.647212> Accessed June 9, 2017

¹⁹ “2017 Survey: On Israel-Palestine, Canadian Gov’t is out of touch,” Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East, <http://cjpme.org/survey> accessed June 14, 2017

8 Views on paid trips to Israel from Canadian lobbyists

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) is the primary organization in Canada that lobbies on behalf of the Israeli state. One of its tactics is to offer all-expenses paid trips to Israel for MPs to familiarize themselves with Israel.

Despite claims of neutrality, these trips are designed to inculcate support for the pro-Israel narrative on the Israel-Palestine conflict. Meanwhile, MPs have no opportunity to take all-expenses paid trips to the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Palestinian communities in Israel, or to Palestinian refugee camps. As such, MPs have minimal exposure to Palestinian voices, or to the human rights violations suffered by Palestinians.

As leader of the NDP, on a scale from 1 to 5 below, would you consider a moratorium on NDP MPs accepting all-expenses paid trips to the region, until such trips give equal attention to the Palestinian narrative on the conflict? (If completing the form electronically, simply bold and underline the appropriate numeral.)

I have no issue with all-expenses paid trips to Israel provided freely to NDP MPs.					I would consider a moratorium on NDP MPs accepting all-expenses paid trips to the region unless such trips give equal attention to Palestinians' concerns.
1	2	3	4	5	

If desired, please type in additional comments:

In 2017, I traveled to Palestine and Israel. This provided me the opportunity to also visit Hebron and Palestinian human rights activists. As NDP Leader I would strongly NDP MPs who want to take these trips to also travel to Palestine and see the full story, as I did.

I was shocked by the contrast I witnessed in Palestine, marked by the oppressive presence of military occupation in Hebron, the frustrating conditions created by settlements deep in the West Bank and systemic inequities in services and infrastructure.

Politicians are frequently lobbied. We know that the information given to us by lobbyist only presents one side or at least only the side that is in the best interest of the lobbyist. It is incumbent upon us as politicians to get all of the information and come to our own conclusions. That is why I went to Palestine myself and took the time to meet with Palestinian human rights activists.

9 Views on definitions of Antisemitism that conflate criticism of Israel with a hatred of Jews

Both the Canadian Parliament²⁰ and the Ontario Legislature²¹ have voted in support of motions that embrace what is known as the *Ottawa Protocol on Combating Antisemitism*. The protocol deems “singling out” Israel, “seeking its destruction” and “denying its right to exist” to be forms of anti-Semitism.

This language is regarded as highly deceptive by many, since special interest groups—which support Israel unconditionally—claim that those who support the non-violent tactics of boycott and divestment are “singling out” Israel, and those who challenge Israel’s discriminatory policies against its Palestinian citizens or who support the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their lands are “seeking its destruction” and “denying its right to exist.”

Unsurprisingly, the definition of Antisemitism employed in the Protocol has been widely discredited, having been rejected by the European Union²². However, the Ottawa Protocol is still promoted by special interest groups in Canada that wish to conflate criticisms of Israel’s foundational laws and its policies with a hatred of Jews.

As leader of the NDP, on a scale from 1 to 5 below, to what degree would you oppose efforts to conflate criticisms of Israel’s foundational laws and its policies with Antisemitism? (If completing the form electronically, simply bold and underline the appropriate numeral.)

I would support the use of the Ottawa Protocol on Combating Antisemitism to define Antisemitism in Canada				I would oppose efforts to conflate criticism of Israel with Antisemitism, as prescribed by the Ottawa Protocol on Combating Antisemitism.
1	2	3	4	5

If desired, please type in additional comments:

I belong to a community that has lived through trauma and that continues to experience political injustice. I understand, deeply and personally, the wounds, the agony, the ongoing sense of dislocation and injustice that tears at the heart. Trauma is ongoing and intergenerational. It is not healed by distance, not soothed by the comfort of survivors.

This is why, as Leader of the NDP, I will stand in solidarity with all people who have experienced oppression. This is why I am committed to pursuing a real nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous peoples of Canada. This is why I deplore the resurgence of anti-Semitism and this is why I stand for Palestinians’ right to

²⁰ “Parliament Unanimously Condemns Rise of Anti-Semitism,” The Canadian Jewish News, Feb. 26, 2015,

<http://www.cjnews.com/news/canada/parliament-unanimously-condemns-rise-anti-semitism> accessed June 14, 2017

²¹ Csillag, Ron, “Ontario Passes Motion Rejecting BDS Campaign Against Israel,” The Canadian Jewish News, Dec. 1, 2016,

<http://www.cjnews.com/news/canada/ontario-passes-motion-rejecting-bds-campaign-against-israel> accessed June 14, 2017

²² White, Ben, “Discredited definition of anti-Semitism no longer in use, says BBC,” Electronic Intifada, Oct. 30, 2013,

<https://electronicintifada.net/blogs/ben-white/discredited-definition-anti-semitism-no-longer-use-says-bbc> accessed June 14, 2017

freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development. It is important that we hold states accountable for their actions and for the human rights violations they visit upon those under their control, and that we bear in mind that to criticize a state is not to criticize a people. As such, I have consistently voiced my criticism of states such as India, Sri Lanka, and indeed the Trudeau government in Canada -- particularly against our First Nations -- for human rights violations. Anti-Semitism in any form is appalling: let us not conflate criticism of the State of Israel with anti-Semitism.

10 Views on the charitable status of the Jewish National Fund of Canada

The Jewish National Fund (JNF) is a quasi-governmental organization in Israel that owns 13% of land in the state. The JNF's properties are secured for Jewish-only lease and ownership, despite Israel's High Court ruling that the JNF's practices of barring Palestinians from leasing or purchasing their properties amounts to discrimination.²³ The U.S. State Department and the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights have expressed concerns over what they deem is the JNF's institutionalized discrimination against Palestinian citizens of Israel.^{24 25}

Much of the property belonging to displaced Palestinians came under the ownership of the JNF following Israel's birth. The JNF proceeded to cover over the sites of dozens of depopulated and demolished Palestinian villages with parks and forests.²⁶ In the words of JNF official Michal Katorza, "... a large portion of JNF parks are on lands where Palestinian villages used to stand, and the forests are intended to camouflage this."²⁷

The JNF has a fundraising branch in Canada called JNF Canada, whose flagship project, "Canada Park", was established in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, covering over the ruins of depopulated and demolished Palestinian villages from June 1967.²⁸ Several other JNF Canada-sponsored projects go over the "Green Line", appropriating lands within the Occupied Palestinian Territories.²⁹ Recently, *NDP Youth, Les Jeunes néo-démocrates du Québec* and *Courage* endorsed a statement calling on the Canadian government to ensure that Canadians no longer subsidize these activities.

As leader of the NDP, on a scale from 1 to 5 below, would you welcome efforts led by progressive Jewish Canadians to have the Minister of National Revenue initiate the review of JNF Canada's charitable status, to ensure that Canadian taxpayers do not subsidize discrimination? (If completing the form electronically, simply bold and underline the appropriate numeral.)

²³ Popper, Nathaniel, "In Watershed, Israel Deems Land-use Rules of Zionist Icon 'Discriminatory'," Forward, Feb. 4, 2005, <http://forward.com/news/2854/in-watershed-israel-deems-land-use-rules-of-zionist/> accessed June 14, 2017

²⁴ "Israel 2012 Human Rights Report," United States Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, p. 24, <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/204575.pdf> accessed June 14, 2017; and <https://unispal.un.org/DPA/DPR/unispal.nsf/0/0BC7883100A95730852569AF00575179>

²⁵ "CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER ARTICLES 16 AND 17 OF THE COVENANT: Concluding observations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: ISRAEL," United Nations COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, Dec. 4, 1998, <https://unispal.un.org/DPA/DPR/unispal.nsf/0/0BC7883100A95730852569AF00575179> accessed June 14, 2017

²⁶ Bronstein Aparicio, Eitan, "Most JNF - KKL forests and sites are located on the ruins of Palestinian villages," Zochrot, April, 2014, <http://www.zochrot.org/en/article/55963> accessed June 14, 2017

²⁷ Kadman, Noga (2015). "Erased from Space and Consciousness: Israel and the Depopulated Palestinian Villages of 1948". Bloomington: Indiana University Press, p. 43.

²⁸ Rosenfeld, Jesse, "Grass stains on Canada's hands," Now Toronto, Dec. 20, 2007, <https://nowtoronto.com/news/grass-stains-on-canadas-hands/> accessed June 14, 2017

²⁹ "JNF Canada sponsored projects seizing land in the Occupied Palestinian Territories," <http://bit.ly/2rcpVJO>



I would not welcome efforts to have JNF Canada's charitable status reviewed.			I would support efforts to have JNF Canada's charitable status reviewed.	
1	2	3	4	5

If desired, please type in additional comments:

I would support efforts to have any charity's status reviewed if there was just cause and concern.