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Ontario NDP Caucus · Caucus du NPD de l'Ontario

August 21, 2020

**Interim Chief James Ramer
Toronto Police Service
40 College Street
Toronto, ON M5G 2J3**

Dear Interim Chief James Ramer,

We are writing to you regarding the incidents of hate crime and vandalism that have taken place at the two Masjid Toronto locations in downtown Toronto over the last three months. **We urge the Toronto Police Service to recognize these incidents as hate crimes, investigate them accordingly, and prevent further attacks from taking place.**

As representatives for the downtown Toronto ridings in which Masjid Toronto is located, we are deeply concerned about these hateful attacks and the alarming frequency with which they are taking place.

People in our community deserve to feel safe to attend their places of worship and practice their faith. These attacks threaten the safety of our Muslim community members and Masjid Toronto staff, and public safety on the adjacent streets.

The Muslim Association of Canada (MAC) and Masjid Toronto have requested the Toronto Police Service take steps to protect the community and prevent further attacks. We urge you to act on these requests and to share with us and community members what additional steps are being taken to address these concerns.

The investigation of the attacks should be considered collectively, rather than as individual crimes. We have heard from constituents that the incidents at the Adelaide Street East location and the Dundas and University location are being investigated by different Toronto Police detachments. While these crimes took place at different locations, they target a shared faith-based community. We ask that the detachments work together on the investigation of these attacks.

We are concerned to hear that despite the similarities and frightening rate of these attacks, the arrest in relation to the fifth attack was determined to be mischief. We are concerned that the intention of these attacks goes far beyond mischief. Masjid Toronto is clearly being targeted. It is apparent that these incidents are motivated by hate and Islamophobia. **These attacks should be investigated as hate crimes and we strongly encourage the Toronto Police to conduct a thorough investigation of these attacks as acts of hate.**

Ontario NDP Caucus Services

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To prevent further attacks, we urge the Toronto Police to provide added protection at the Masjid Toronto locations. We cannot risk the safety of our community members. Without immediate action it is very likely that another attack will occur. We are asking for additional resources to ensure the safety of both locations and prevent further damage.

As a community, we must work collectively against Islamophobia. We look forward to working with the Toronto Police on this critical matter – together, we can stop these attacks against the Muslim community.

Thank you for your service to our community. Please do not hesitate to contact our offices if you have any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suze Morrison".

Suze Morrison, MPP
Toronto Centre

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica Bell".

Jessica Bell, MPP
University-Rosedale