

ANNUAL AUDIT OF ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS 2016



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



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BRITH
CANADA**



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Special thanks to Jana Minikovich and Sara McCleary for their help in gathering local reports and corroborating data. Special appreciation is extended to our law enforcement partners across the country.

THE AUDIT

B'nai Brith Canada and the League for Human Rights are uniquely positioned to provide a contextual, longitudinal approach to examining antisemitism in Canada, via *The Annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents*. *The Audit* has been conducted every year since 1982, and is the result of close cooperation with the public, local police forces and other community organizations across the country. As the definitive study on antisemitism in Canada, *The Audit* has been cited by a variety of governmental, academic and advocacy organizations, such as the US State Department, the Stephen Roth Institute, and Statistics Canada, among others. Data from *The Audit* was also used to inform the findings of the Canadian Parliamentary Coalition to Combat Antisemitism in 2009. In this context, *The Annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents* is more than just a snapshot of the intensity of incidents against the Jewish community; it serves as the barometer of the level of racism in Canada as a whole.

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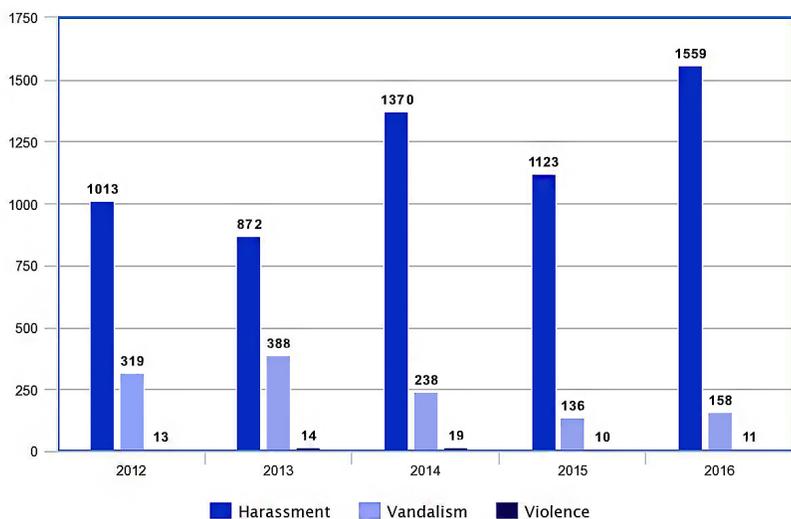
1,728 INCIDENTS

2016 FEATURED 1,728 RECORDED INCIDENTS OF ANTISEMITISM IN CANADA.

26% INCREASE

THIS MARKS A DRAMATIC 26% INCREASE OVER 2015, AND MAKES 2016 THE WORST YEAR ON RECORD FOR ANTISEMITISM IN CANADA. INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN ALL THREE CATEGORIES OF INCIDENTS: HARASSMENT, VANDALISM AND VIOLENCE.

FIVE YEAR TREND



TOTAL FIGURES BY REGION

ONTARIO: 490
QUEBEC & ATLANTIC: 249
ALBERTA AND BC: 121
PRAIRIES: 74

HOLOCAUST DENIAL

HOLOCAUST DENIAL ACCOUNTED FOR 20% OF ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS IN 2016, AS OPPOSED TO JUST 5% IN 2015.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2016 WAS A RECORD-BREAKING YEAR FOR ANTISEMITISM IN CANADA. WITH AN INCREASE OF 26% OVER 2015, AND 6% OVER THE PREVIOUS HIGH IN 2014, ANTISEMITISM SPIKED DRAMATICALLY.

INTRODUCTION

The year 2016 marks the 35th iteration of B'nai Brith's annual *Audit of Antisemitic Incidents*, where our advocacy arm – The League for Human Rights – tracks and analyzes trends in hatred directed toward members of Canada's Jewish community.

Unfortunately, in the more than three decades that we have been recording data, the necessity for our report has not diminished, nor has the number of antisemitic incidents in Canada.

Last year was one of turmoil for the international Jewish community, with the U.S. presidential election acting as a catalyst for discussions about global anti-Jewish sentiment. The dominant rhetoric in the press and social media is that the election of U.S. President Donald Trump resulted in a surge of antisemitism, almost overnight. While this makes a good sound bite, it's not based in fact, and as our longitudinal data shows, antisemitism has actually been on the rise for over a decade – and over the past five years, dramatically so. In fact, the months surrounding and immediately following the U.S. election, which are traditionally the months with the highest activity, actually showed a decrease in antisemitic acts in Canada, relative to previous years.

So why, if the data does not support the position that Trump's election resulted in a sudden surge of antisemitic sentiment, are we seeing that message repeated over and over again, in publications, blogs and media outlets spanning the breadth of the political spectrum?

The rise of antisemitism is something that B'nai Brith has been monitoring for years, but without a corresponding explanation. No one, despite many scholarly efforts, has been able to offer a satisfactory explanation as to *why*. Why the Jews? Why, when the Jewish community makes up less than one per cent of Canada's total population, is it consistently the most targeted for hate crimes?

The answer to that question is complex, and says something about human nature that would make most of us uncomfortable. It's a lot more reassuring to suggest that the influence of one individual can be responsible for swaying the hearts and minds of otherwise moral and decent people. To point a finger at one person, and to have a clear and simple explanation as to why antisemitism is rampant, is comforting. It allows us to believe that once Trump is out of office, so too will antisemitism be a problem of the past.

The difficulty with this line of thinking is that B'nai Brith has been documenting a rise in antisemitic sentiment for years. By blaming President Trump, we're ignoring any of the real causal elements, thus refusing to address them (and by proxy, antisemitic prejudice). 2016 was the worst year on record for antisemitism in Canada, but anyone paying attention to historic data should have been able to predict that outcome. This year's record did not come out of nowhere; the past 10 years (with only two exceptions) have seen higher reported figures of antisemitic incidents than the years before. And given the lack of an effective and engaged response from government, law enforcement and policy makers, how could we expect anything else? If we don't change how we respond to antisemitism, then how do we expect to eliminate it?

AMANDA HOHMANN
NATIONAL DIRECTOR
THE LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



RESEARCH JEW WORLD ORDER

The J E W S control our water supply, our food supply, our medical supply, our media, our armed forces, our police, they have all our money and all of the most horrifying weapons on earth. Do you see anything wrong yet?

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 adapted from the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC). 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, historically, Semitic people included both Jews and Arabs, today the term 'antisemitism' is meant as being directed only at Jewish people. Supporters of the BDS movement often use this linguistic fact to point out that calling them an 'anti-Semite' isn't accurate because Arabs are Semitic people too. This sort of semantic exercise is circumvented by the choice not to hyphenate the word. 'Antisemitism' thus becomes its own linguistic term, and does not allow for such false rhetoric and distractionary tactics.

EUMC - WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM

The European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) was established on June 2nd, 1997 with a view to providing the Community and its Member States with objective, reliable and comparable data at the European level on racism, xenophobia and antisemitism in order to help them take measures or formulated courses of action within their respective spheres of competence.

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.

In addition, 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.

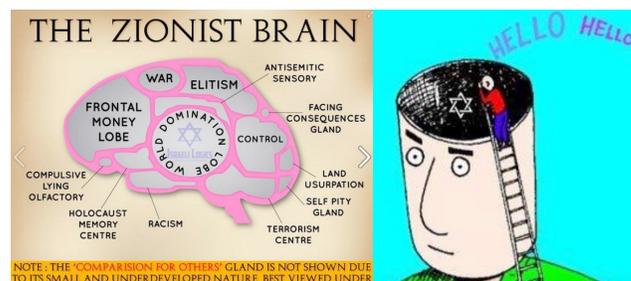
Contemporary examples of antisemitism in *public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere* could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- 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 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 wrongdoings 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 and 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, which would 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 to the State of Israel by requiring or demanding behaviour not expected 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 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 not 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, arson.

VIOLENCE

Refers to the physical use of force against a person or group of persons. It 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.

"Many believe that antisemitism is not that big of a problem in our society, stating, 'Well if it's such an issue then why didn't I hear it on the news?' As a first responder to our Anti-Hate Hotline calls, I can assure you that this is not the case and those reporting the incidents choose to stay anonymous out of fear. Antisemitism is a growing problem and most of it hides under the anonymity of social media and on university campuses where it rears its ugly head among students under the guise of social justice."

- JANNA MINIKOVICH, B'NAI BRITH CANADA, QUEBEC REGION



THE ONLY REPORT OF ITS KIND IN CANADA

Now in its 35th year, B'nai Brith's annual *Audit of Antisemitic Incidents* is the only report of its kind in Canada. Unlike other documents that measure antisemitism in Canada, the *Audit* explores a wide variety of types pertaining to antisemitic incidents, 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 crime reports from police and law enforcement agencies.

This is significant because the vast 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 involving the wilful promotion of 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 which 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.





2016: THE DATA

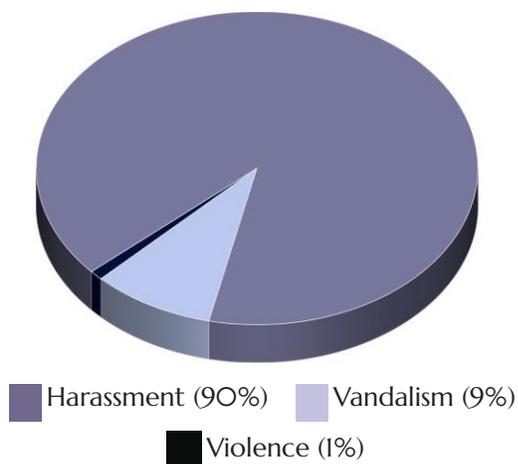
2016: THE DATA

FIVE YEAR TREND

INCIDENT TYPE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Harassment	1013	872	1370	1123	1559
Vandalism	319	388	238	136	158
Violence	13	14	19	10	11
TOTAL	1345	1274	1627	1277	1728

2016 WAS A RECORD-BREAKING YEAR FOR ANTISEMITISM IN CANADA. WITH AN INCREASE OF 26% OVER 2015, AND 6% OVER THE PREVIOUS HIGH IN 2014, ANTISEMITISM SPIKED DRAMATICALLY.

INCIDENT TYPE BREAKDOWN



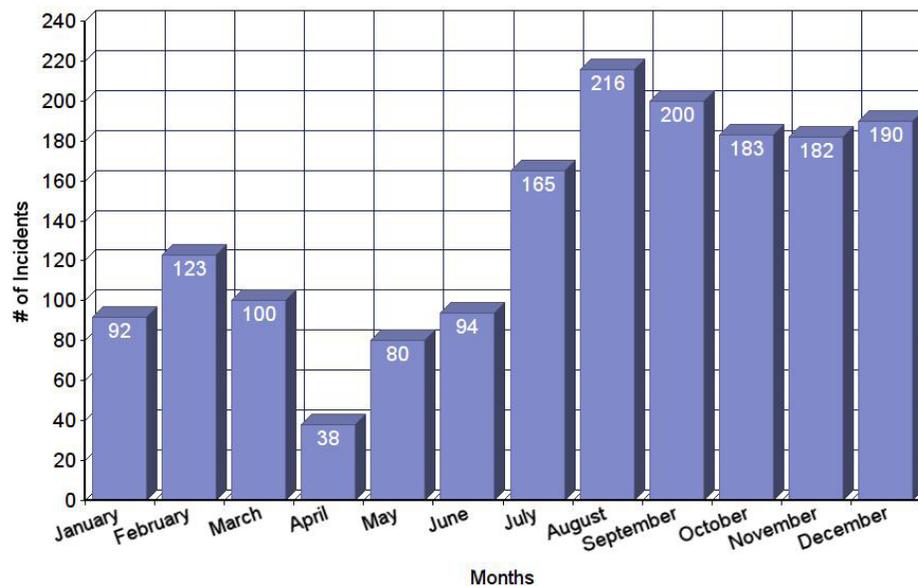
Antisemitism has remained on a steady increase for more than a decade, with the most dramatic numbers seen in the past five years.

Harassment continues to be the most common form of antisemitism experienced in Canada. Proportionally, vandalism and violence made up a smaller percentage of incidents than they have in previous years, while harassment has grown as a percentage of incidents.

The decrease in incidents of vandalism makes sense, when one looks at the fact that it has a direct correlation to the rise of social media-based cases of antisemitism. Such online platforms have become more accessible and convenient outlets to express antisemitism rather than engaging in physical or “hard-copy-type” incidents of vandalism.

YEAR	VANDALISM INCIDENTS	TOTAL # OF INCIDENTS	VANDALISM AS % OF TOTALS
2012	319	1345	24%
2013	388	1274	30%
2014	238	1627	15%
2015	136	1277	11%
2016	158	1728	9%

INCIDENT BREAKDOWN BY MONTH



The latter half of 2016 was dominated by discussions pertaining to American politics, focusing on the impact of the U.S. election on antisemitism and racism. Surprisingly though, relative to other years, incidents declined during the months of September to December, when election rhetoric and accusations of antisemitism were at their highest. And, unlike in previous years, December was not the month with the highest reported number of incidents (in 2016, that honour went to August – which typically has reported one of the lowest frequencies of incidents).

JANUARY (92 INCIDENTS)

A man carrying a knife is arrested outside of a Toronto synagogue after throwing objects at congregants as they left the building.

FEBRUARY (123 INCIDENTS)

A student at the University of Toronto finds Nazi-apologist literature as part of suggested readings for a course.

MARCH (100 INCIDENTS)

A woman repeatedly has her mezuzah stolen from her apartment door.

APRIL (38 INCIDENTS)

A boy in Alberta is harassed at school for being Jewish.

MAY (80 INCIDENTS)

A man is assaulted at an anti-Israel rally in Toronto.

JUNE (94 INCIDENTS)

A man is arrested for threatening the Jewish community in Southern Ontario.

JULY (165 INCIDENTS)

Swastikas and the number '88' (an abbreviation of the Nazi salute 'Heil Hitler') are spray-painted on a billboard on the side of Highway 69 in Ontario.

AUGUST (216 INCIDENTS)

An Israeli construction worker is pushed and sworn at by a homeowner who repeatedly called him a 'dirty Jew.'

SEPTEMBER (200 INCIDENTS)

A Montreal yeshiva student is approached by an older man who shouts at him that Jews are not 'the chosen people' and throws his black hat into traffic, where it is run over by several vehicles.

OCTOBER (183 INCIDENTS)

A Winnipeg family walking home from synagogue has antisemitic slurs yelled at them from a passing car.

NOVEMBER (182 INCIDENTS)

An Ottawa rabbi finds a swastika painted on her front door.

DECEMBER (190 INCIDENTS)

Swastikas accompanied by the phrase 'the end is near' and other antisemitic slogans are spray-painted at a park in Burlington, Ont.

BREAKDOWN BY REGION

REGION	HARASSMENT	VANDALISM	VIOLENCE	TOTAL
Quebec & Atlantic	219	27	3	249
Ontario	393	89	8	490
Prairies	56	18	0	74
Alberta & BC	98	23	0	121

For the purposes of the *Audit*, the League tracks incidents by region, rather than by province. The divisions are: Quebec and the Atlantic provinces, Ontario, the Prairie provinces, and Alberta/BC.

As has been the case in previous years, Ontario was home to the majority of incidents with 490, or 28 per cent of the total. Quebec and the Atlantic provinces dropped proportionally, hosting 14 per cent of the total incidents, compared to 21 per cent in 2015. The Prairie provinces saw a dramatic increase in 2016, going from a mere 11 incidents in 2015 to 74 this year. Alberta & BC also saw a dramatic rise, with their total number of incidents nearly doubling, at 121 incidents compared to 64 in 2015. The remaining incidents were online incidents, either crossing multiple regions (e.g., a perpetrator in one province with a target in another) or with an entirely digital nature, preventing proper categorization (e.g., a comment on a news website's comment section).

QUEBEC & ATLANTIC CANADA

In 2016, Quebec and the Atlantic provinces saw a return to a more typical proportion of incidents, following a year of particularly high levels of antisemitism in that region. Historically, Quebec has been home to approximately 15 per cent of the national total, and this year's total is more in line with historical averages. As in other years, however, Quebec was home to an inordinately high percentage of violent incidents, with 27 per cent of the national total occurring there. This may be because Quebec hosts a disproportionate number of public rallies and demonstrations (both pro and anti-Israel), and rallies tend to be the site of more violent clashes than any other setting.

ONTARIO

Given that Ontario is home to the majority of Canada's Jewish population, it makes sense that most antisemitic incidents would occur there. The Jewish community is predominantly situated in the Greater Toronto Area, and most of the region's incidents correspondingly occur there.

In 2016, there was a tremendous amount of campus-related incidents reported in Ontario, ranging from professors and staff engaging in antisemitism and anti-Zionism to rallies, demonstrations, and antisemitic speakers. This trend is further explored in the campus section of the *Audit*.

PRAIRIES

The Prairie region saw a remarkable increase in antisemitism in 2016, going from 11 incidents in 2015 to 74 in 2016. It should be noted, however, that this is probably due more to an increased reporting mechanism and an awareness campaign about our hotline than to an actual corresponding increase in antisemitic incidents. Numbers in the Prairie region had been down from historic norms for a number of years, and this year's *Audit* sees a return to more typical results.

ALBERTA & BC

This region was very active in 2016, with some of the highest profile cases of antisemitism taking place there. Anthony Hall, a University of Lethbridge professor suspended for his antisemitic and anti-Israel views, Monika Schaefer, a former Green Party candidate turned Holocaust-denier, and author Arthur Topham, the first person to be convicted in Canada of wilfully promoting hatred against Jews in recent memory, are only some of the high-profile examples.



Arthur Topham shared his post.

October 1 at 10:39pm



Arthur Topham

October 1 at 10:38pm

A graphic description of B'nai Brith Canada and the League for 'Human Rights' of B'nai Brith Canada.



Terrorizm, Wahhabism, Zionism

Conference

Aug 12 2016 13:00 - 15:30

Islam is the religion of mercy and civilization.
Islamic culture alien to Wahhabi fundamentalism terrorists
They are mercenaries of Saudi in the service of world Zionism-capitalism
They cooperate for Islamophobia by demonization of Islamic spirituality
They cooperate for misrepresentation, by accuse Palestinian freedom fighters by terrorism and legitimization crimes of fundamentalist regime in Israel

BEYOND THE NUMBERS

TOP: A FACEBOOK POST BY ARTHUR TOPHAM, CONVICTED OF WILFULLY PROMOTING HATRED AGAINST JEWS IN 2015. TOPHAM POSTED THIS IN OCTOBER 2016 WHILE AWAITING AN APPEAL HEARING. HE LOST THE APPEAL IN NOVEMBER.

MIDDLE: A MURAL OF A PALESTINIAN-ARAB HOLDING STONES, HANGING IN ONE OF THE ENTRANCE FOYERS AT THE YORK UNIVERSITY CAMPUS STUDENT CENTRE. YORK REFUSED TO HAVE IT REMOVED EVEN THOUGH IT PROMOTES VIOLENCE AGAINST ISRAELIS.

BOTTOM: A SCREENGRAB OF THE "TERRORISM, WAHABBISM, ZIONISM" WORKSHOP EVENT PAGE AT THE 2016 WORLD SOCIAL FORUM IN MONTREAL. B'NAI BRITH LEARNED THAT THE CONFERENCE WAS BEING FUNDED BY TAXPAYER DOLLARS.

HOLOCAUST DENIAL, DISTORTION, & ANTISEMITISM

Perhaps the most shocking change in the landscape of antisemitism in 2016 was the dramatic rise in incidents involving Holocaust denial. In 2015, Holocaust denial only made up five per cent of total antisemitic incidents. In 2016, however, the number soared to 20 per cent. What was once a fringe belief held only by those on the margins of society is now being positioned as a legitimate source of debate and discussion, even in academic circles. 2016 saw the suspension of University of Lethbridge professor Anthony Hall for promoting what he describes as ‘open debate’ on the Holocaust, with a host of other characters rising in support, including a former federal politician, a self-proclaimed Buddhist meditation teacher, and an Ontario teenager with a zealous online following.

In defining Holocaust denial, it is important to understand that all authorities on the subject define Holocaust denial in uniform and clear terms. It is not, as many people (well-meaning ones included) tend to believe, simply limited to the outright ‘denial’ of the entirety of the Holocaust, but, rather, also includes the deliberate distortion or questioning of established historical fact surrounding the Holocaust. According to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), of which Canada is a signatory, the definition of Holocaust denial is as follows:

- Discourse and propaganda that deny the historical reality and the extent of the extermination of the Jews by the Nazis and their accomplices during World War II, known as the Holocaust or the Shoah. Holocaust denial refers specifically to any attempt to claim that the Holocaust/Shoah did not take place.
- Publicly denying or calling into doubt the use of principal mechanisms of destruction (such as gas chambers, mass shooting, starvation and torture) or the intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people.
- Blaming the Jews for either exaggerating or creating the Shoah for political or financial gain as if the Shoah itself was the result of a conspiracy plotted by Jewish people. Anti-Zionists particularly promote the notion that Jews conspired to create the Holocaust in order to establish the modern State of Israel.

Distortion of the Holocaust refers to:

- Intentional efforts to excuse or minimize the impact of the Holocaust or its principal elements, including collaborators and allies of Nazi Germany;
- Gross minimization of the number of the victims of the Holocaust in contradiction to reliable sources;
- Attempts to blame the Jews for causing their own genocide;
- Statements that cast the Holocaust as a positive historical event. Those statements are not Holocaust denial but are closely connected to it as a radical form of antisemitism. They may suggest that the Holocaust did not go far enough in accomplishing its goal of “the Final Solution of the Jewish Question”;
- Attempts to blur the responsibility for the establishment of concentration and death camps devised and operated by Nazi Germany by putting blame on other nations or ethnic groups.



Screengrabs of Alfred (top) and Monika (bottom) Schaefer from videos where they engage in Holocaust denial. Alfred was later charged with incitement in Germany (where he resides) and Monika was stripped of her Green Party of Canada membership after B'nai Brith uncovered the videos.

As stated by the IHRA, “the goals of Holocaust denial [and distortion] often are the rehabilitation of an explicit antisemitism and the promotion of political ideologies and conditions suitable for the advent of the very type of event it denies.” In other words, Holocaust denial sets the stage for more potent and dangerous forms of antisemitism, by normalizing the alienation, demonization and destruction of the Jewish people.

One of the most common defences used by those who wish to question or diminish the Holocaust is that they should have the right to question or criticize any narrative within a free society. The problem with that position is, as stated above, that Holocaust denial does more than simply and innocently question a narrative. It has the insidious purpose of normalizing genocide against the Jewish people. As Michael Whine explains, deniers ‘use denial, among other means, to rehabilitate Nazism.’

There is no other historical event which is targeted for deliberate obfuscation, because there is no logical or reasonable rationale for questioning the legitimacy of something which has been documented by personal testimony, official documents, first-hand accounts, and material evidence. No rationale, that is, aside from the distrust of Jews as witnesses, and the desire to see further destruction brought against world Jewry.

In Canada, Holocaust denial is being perpetrated by a number of coordinated individuals, otherwise unconnected and from all points on the political spectrum, but united by their mutual hatred of the Jewish people. While Holocaust denial has been the traditional territory of the far right (and neo-Nazi personalities like James Sears and Veronica Bouchard still occupy the space), denial is increasingly coming from the left, from people like Anthony Hall, a globalization studies professor and supporter of the boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel in Alberta, and Monika Schaefer, a former Green Party of Canada candidate and founding member. It is important to note that, for Hall, his assertions that Israel is responsible for terrorism (including the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks) and that historical fact surrounding the Holocaust must be debated are both directly related, and part of a larger campaign that promotes Holocaust denial and other forms of antisemitism under the guise of anti-Zionism.

The dramatic rise in Holocaust denial statistics should then come as no surprise, when we realize that the acceptable landscape for questioning the Holocaust has now spread beyond the realm of underground neo-Nazi clubs and message boards, to post-secondary institutions and an increasingly mainstream audience.



Top: Ontario teen Veronica Bouchard (known as Evalion) has built a large following as a result of her videos, which contain antisemitic messages and racial slurs.

Middle: A screengrab of suspended University of Lethbridge professor Anthony Hall appearing in a video about “open debate” on the Holocaust.

Bottom: A cartoon from Toronto publication Your Ward News.

“The pervasiveness of Holocaust denial is facilitated by the growing popularity of social media, and websites that are often located beyond the reach of responsible authorities. Its proponents are improving their skills to create alternative facts and half-truths to further their antisemitic agenda.”

– ALLAN ADEL, NATIONAL CHAIR OF B’NAI BRITH CANADA’S LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

ANTISEMITISM ON CAMPUS

For more than a decade, since the infamous riot that accompanied then-Israeli leader of the Opposition Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to Concordia University in 2002, Canadian university campuses have been one of the country's most notorious hotspots of antisemitism. This trend accelerated further around 2011, when anti-Israel activists on campus began pushing the BDS movement through student governments. Under the guise of targeting Canadian universities' academic and economic links to Israel, campus BDS promoters have in fact sought to exclude Jewish and pro-Israel students from public life on campus, sparking numerous antisemitic incidents, and causing Jewish students to feel unsafe on campus.

Ironically, 2016 was marked by a series of setbacks for anti-Israel campus groups, who lost battles over BDS at McGill University, the University of Toronto and the University of Waterloo. Nevertheless, the year saw a significant increase in campus antisemitism, largely manifested in three varieties: guest lecturers, academic antisemitism, and student politics.

GUEST LECTURERS

In addition to hosting student courses and academic conferences, universities frequently rent out campus spaces to guest lecturers supported by student clubs or even outside groups. In 2016, these guest lecturers accounted for some of the most outrageous incidents of anti-Jewish hatred.

In March, the BDS Committee of the University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union hosted a guest speaker named Amanda Lickers, a controversial First Nations activist. While her lecture was supposed to be "merely" anti-Zionist in nature, Lickers took the opportunity to repeatedly denigrate Ashkenazi Jews as "Ashke-NAZIS," likening Jews to those who committed genocide against them. Lickers also described Ashkenazi Jews as "inherently racist, fascist and colonialist." The investigation into the incident was stymied by the lack of an independent audio recording, itself the result of an absurd university policy that allows student groups such as the BDS Committee to ban attendees from recording public events.

Shockingly, this pattern repeated itself just a month later when infamous neo-Nazi Ken O'Keefe was allowed to give public lectures at both the University of Toronto and Concordia University, in violation of both

campuses' anti-discrimination policies. The behaviour of Concordia administrators was especially worrying, as they were specifically warned about O'Keefe's appearance by Jewish students but still allowed his hateful monologue to proceed.

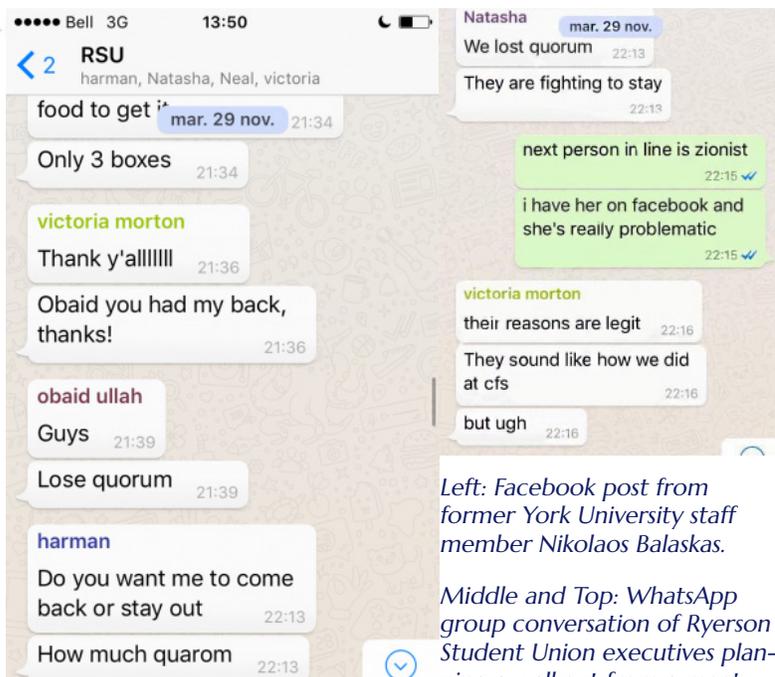
ACADEMIC ANTISEMITISM

2016 also bore witness to a number of troubling incidents in which university faculty attempted to characterize blatant antisemitism as legitimate academic research.

The first salvo came in September, when York University lab technician Nikolaos Balaskas was fired after B'nai Brith drew the administration's attention to hundreds of his antisemitic social media posts, some of which denied the Holocaust, blamed Jews for the Russian Civil War, and described Judaism as "the synagogue of Satan." Shortly afterward, B'nai Brith's efforts led to the suspension of University of Lethbridge professor Anthony Hall, who promoted Holocaust denial and blatantly anti-Israel conspiracy theories in the classroom.

In October, Simon Fraser University in British Columbia organized an academic conference on genocide, which inexplicably omitted the Holocaust from over a dozen genocides examined. Even worse, it included a panel on "Palestinian Genocide" in which two non-academics falsely accused the Jewish State of seeking to exterminate the Palestinians, while using the Holocaust as an excuse for its actions. Despite complaints by B'nai Brith and other organizations, Simon Fraser refused to provide any explanation regarding its decision to host the conference.

Perhaps more disheartening than the original incidents, though, is the reaction in which they've been received from the broader university community. When Balaskas was dismissed, he was defended by members of York's main anti-Israel group, whose meetings he had attended. While the Anthony Hall saga continues, the disgraced academic has been publicly supported not only by his own faculty association but by the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), despite the fact that Hall's support of antisemitic conspiracy theories and Holocaust denial clearly do not constitute legitimate exercises of academic freedom.



STUDENT POLITICS

On a number of campuses in 2016, tensions sparked by the BDS movement manifested themselves as antisemitic incidents in student politics, mirroring the scandals that have rocked the National Union of Students (NUS) in the United Kingdom over the past few years.

At York University, the sole identifiably Jewish candidate in the student union's elections was publicly denigrated as a "Zionist collaborator," despite his lack of public involvement in campus debates about Israel. Ironically, the opposing candidate who ridiculed and discriminated against him went on to win the election as Vice-President for Equity. Around the same time, the York page for Yik Yak, a popular social media application, was defaced with a litany of antisemitic messages.

A particularly bizarre incident took place at McGill University, where a BDS activist publicly demanded that the Jewish community cancel its Purim celebration on the grounds that it illegitimately "appropriated" Iranian culture, failing to appreciate that Judaism has roots in the Middle East, including ancient Persia. The episode conspicuously took place as members of the McGill student union were contemplating whether to support BDS, yet another demonstration that anti-Israel bias on campus directly leads to antisemitism.

Perhaps the most notorious campus antisemitic incident of 2016 occurred in November, when members of the Ryerson chapter of Students for

Left: Facebook post from former York University staff member Nikolaos Balaskas.

Middle and Top: WhatsApp group conversation of Ryerson Student Union executives planning a walkout from a meet-

ing where a motion to commemorate Holocaust Education Week was being presented. (Screengrabs courtesy of *Israellycool* and *The Eyeopener*)

Justice in Palestine (SJP) and the Muslim Students Association (MSA) led a walkout from a student union meeting in order to stop the adoption of a motion to commemorate Holocaust Education Week. It was later revealed that the President of the Ryerson Students' Union had himself helped to coordinate the walkout, despite his earlier denials (see *WhatsApp chat screengrabs above*). This shameful saga serves as an important reminder that the passage of a BDS motion, which occurred at Ryerson in 2014, does not mark an end to campus antisemitism. In fact, it often marks a frightening new beginning.

KEN O'KEEFE'S ANTISEMITISM AT U OF T

"Jews control the corporate world, the bank sector, Hollywood, the mass media, the Supreme Court, the courts system, the financial system and the political system."

"Challenging the 'Holocaust narrative' will make you go to prison."

"Jews assassinated former U.S. President John F. Kennedy because he defied 'the Jewish banking debt,' and Hitler was unfairly maligned for the same reason."

"The 'Holocaust myth' was invented by Jews in order to steal Palestine from the Palestinians."

ANTISEMITISM IN CANADIAN ARABIC MEDIA

2016 saw the emergence of a new and frightening trend in Canadian antisemitism: incitement against Jews in mass media, especially in Arabic-language publications. While B'nai Brith was successful in exposing and removing many of the most egregious examples of antisemitism and support for terrorism, the lack of response from law enforcement and government paints a worrying picture of this phenomenon going forward.

NEWSPAPERS

In March, B'nai Brith raised the alarm concerning *al-Forqan*, an Arabic newspaper from the Windsor area that encouraged terrorism against Israelis and described it as a “sacred duty of jihad.” The chilling nature of these remarks was compounded by the fact that *al-Forqan's* editor, Mohammed Khalife, had recently been hired by the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County to help integrate Syrian refugees. Khalife was suspended without pay and later dismissed by the Council, but Windsor Police declined to lay any charges, and Khalife maintained that he had done nothing wrong.

An even larger firestorm ensued in July, when B'nai Brith uncovered Holocaust denial and virulent antisemitism in a London, Ont. Arabic newspaper after a tip from a Lebanese subscriber. An article published in *al-Saraha* denied the scale of the Holocaust, while simultaneously arguing that the Nazi slaughter of Jews was justified, since the Jews had allegedly spread pornography and homosexuality in Germany. *al-Saraha* was promoted as recommended reading for Arab immigrants by the London and Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership, and contained numerous advertisements from the Ontario Liberal Party and the Ontario NDP. The political parties and the Immigration Partnership immediately distanced themselves from the publication after B'nai Brith's exposé, but police again determined that the article did not warrant a criminal charge.

Finally, in October, B'nai Brith received a tip about *al-Bilad*, yet another Arabic-language London, Ont. newspaper caught in controversy. *al-Bilad* had published problematic cartoons, which insinuated that Jews occupied or controlled Parliament and the Supreme Court, a common antisemitic trope. After B'nai Brith liaised with *al-Bilad's* editors, they ceased publishing the problematic cartoons.

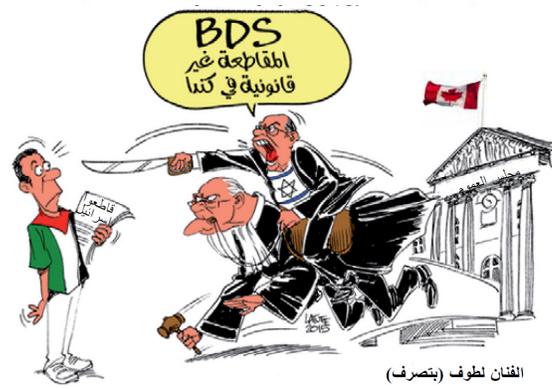
Top: The front cover of the *al-Forqan* newspaper in Windsor with an article entitled, “The Sacred Duty of Jihad,” along with an illustrative photo featuring Palestinian terrorists in Jerusalem.

Middle: An article from the *al-Saraha* newspaper in London, Ont., entitled “The Question Which Everyone Ignores: Why Did Hitler Kill the Jews?” from its June/July 2016 issue.

Bottom: A cartoon that appeared in the *al-Bilad* newspaper in London, Ont., depicting an Israeli/Jewish man riding a judge like a horse and controlling the House of Commons, in order to physically attack a pro-Palestinian figure.



Headline translation: “The Question Which Everyone Ignores: Why Did Hitler Kill the Jews?”
- (*al-Saraha* newspaper, London, ON,



TELEVISION

Antisemitic incitement through mass media in 2016 was not limited to print varieties. In May, an Arabic-language program on Rogers TV, called *AskMirna*, aired an episode following the Palestinian community's commemoration of "Nakba Day," on which Palestinians mourn the establishment of the modern State of Israel and call for its destruction. In the course of the episode, the host interviewed Nazih Khatatba, a Palestinian community leader, who told viewers that, "Canadian society should not believe the fairy tales [claiming] that the Jews suffered oppression," and claimed that Jews committed "worse massacres" than the Holocaust against Palestinians. Other episodes of *AskMirna* showed Palestinian-Canadian children dancing to songs glorifying terrorism against Israelis. Once alerted to the problem by B'nai Brith, Rogers swiftly pulled *AskMirna* from its channel, claiming that it had trusted its few Arabic-speaking staff to alert management to any problems.

The *AskMirna* scandal was not Khatatba's first brush with antisemitism in the media. As the editor-in-chief of *al-Meshwar*, an Arabic newspaper circulated in Mississauga, Khatatba had previously published Holocaust denial, while personally describing a 2014 Jerusalem terrorist attack in which six Israelis were murdered, among them a Canadian citizen, as a "courageous and qualitative operation." Though Khatatba was investigated by CSIS at the time, no charges were ever laid against him.



Bottom: Palestine House leader Nazih Khatatba gives an interview for *AskMirna* on Rogers TV, in which he denies the Holocaust and claims that the Jews have not suffered oppression throughout history.

B'NAI BRITH EXPERTS' VOICES

"The failure of police and prosecutors to lay charges in any of these cases is very puzzling. It's especially difficult to believe that justifying the Holocaust, on the supposed basis that Jews introduced sexual perversion into Western societies, doesn't constitute the offence of wilful promotion of hatred under the Criminal Code. The elements of the offence are all satisfied, and it would clearly be in the public interest to stem the flow of hatred."

- LEO ADLER, TORONTO CRIMINAL DEFENCE LAWYER AND NATIONAL LEGAL COUNSEL FOR B'NAI BRITH

"Holocaust denial and trivialization have become staples of anti-Zionism. A Canadian Arab language paper in 2016 reproduced an Egyptian newspaper article which both attempts to justify the Holocaust, through a sequence of antisemitic stereotypes, and to question the Holocaust, calling the number of six million 'unrealistic and inflated'. The publisher, in response to criticism, claimed ignorance about the number of Holocaust victims, stating 'I don't know'. Yet, group slander should not be that hard to recognize. And the Holocaust is one of history's most documented events. If ignorance really is the problem here, the answer should be education. That education should be directed not just to the publisher, but to the whole Arab-language world. Anti-Zionism needs to be countered first and foremost in the place where it is most virulent, in the Arab language media."

- DAVID MATAS, B'NAI BRITH CANADA SENIOR LEGAL COUNSEL

SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATIONS

One of the most frequent criticisms received by the League for Human Rights is that our *Annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents* tracks incidents that are not classified as hate crimes, and that somehow this leads to an obfuscation of the reality of antisemitism in Canada. On the contrary, given the fact that very few incidents of what is demonstrable and objective antisemitism are treated as hate crimes, it is important to track more than just what the justice system deems to be an easy conviction in this arena. Indeed, the goal of our *Audit* is to act as a barometer of antisemitism and to determine the climate of anti-Jewish sentiment at any given moment. One would be hard-pressed to make the argument that calling someone a 'dirty Jew' isn't an expression of antisemitic or anti-Jewish sentiment, and yet, this sort of incident would not be considered a hate crime by our current legal framework in Canada. It is for that reason that capturing all forms of antisemitism, be they criminal in nature or not, is so important.

It is also for this reason, the question of legitimacy of statistics and the accuracy of statements about the level of antisemitic sentiment, that it is critical that law enforcement and others within the justice system pursue hate crimes appropriately. When only a handful of incidents each year are labelled as hate crimes (with even fewer prosecutions and nearly non-existent convictions), it is very difficult to make a case that antisemitism is a real problem in Canadian society. After all, our critics argue, if it were such an issue, wouldn't we see more people being prosecuted? And yet, B'nai Brith's Anti-Hate Hotline receives thousands of calls every year from people across the country who are facing discrimination and hatred as a result of their Jewish background. Clearly there is a breakdown in the system.

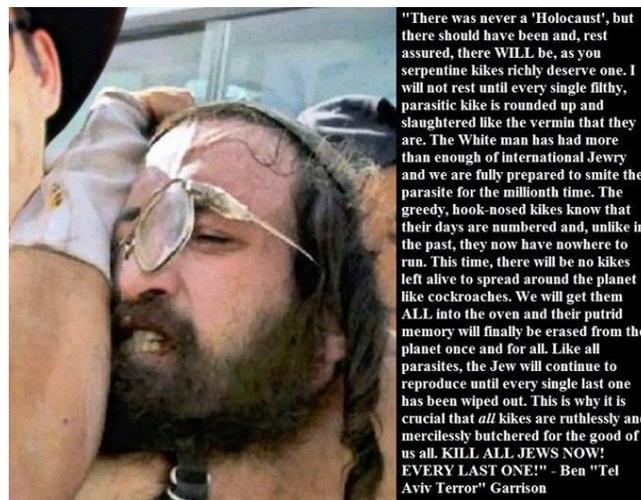
It's important to realize that discussions of antisemitism are not just academic exercises; they have real and concrete consequences. When antisemitism isn't treated seriously by state machinery, it is the Jewish people that are left to pick up the costs of keeping our communities safe. Frequent and ongoing threats to community centres, schools, and synagogues result in substantial security costs. The cost of removing graffiti or fixing vandalized property adds up, and the need for constant vigilance weighs on the mental and emotional health of the targeted individuals.

The findings of this year's *Audit* – that antisemitism has reached a record high in Canada – demonstrate the

need for real, immediate and strong action. It is time to stop hoping that this problem will go away, or take care of itself. It is time to deal real consequences to the purveyors of antisemitism, and to fight back.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO GOVERNMENT & LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Properly investigate all allegations of hate crimes, and lay charges where warranted under the law, with the understanding that a refusal to prosecute those engaging in antisemitic acts only serves to embolden future offenders.
- All levels of the justice system (law enforcement, the judiciary and government) must work more closely together to ensure that crimes are investigated fully, tried where appropriate, and sentenced accordingly.
- In relation to the above, there must be more accountability between all levels of government, to ensure that those perpetrating acts of antisemitism are receiving not only the appropriate legal and judicial sanctions, but that proper education and outreach is being coordinated prior to incidents taking place.
- Create opportunities for dialogue, tolerance training, and cross-community partnerships, to prevent incidents from occurring in the first place.



The following graphic post, which included the remarks, "KILL ALL JEWS NOW!" was posted on the Facebook wall of suspended University of Lethbridge professor Anthony Hall. Initially, Facebook ruled that the post did not violate its Community Standards following a B'nai Brith request to remove it. It was removed a day later after mass outrage and an investigation was launched by Calgary Police into the post.

THE VICTIMS' BILL OF RIGHTS

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED ANTISEMITISM & OTHER HATE ACTIVITY

When one person is singled out for hate, the entire community this person represents is also targeted. For every one of the 1,728 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;
- Consistent sentencing guidelines of perpetrators that reflect the impact of their hate-filled crimes, and will serve as a meaningful deterrent;

- 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 Muslim 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;



- 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.

Have you Experienced Antisemitism?

We can help.

1-800-892-2624

www.bnaibrith.ca/report

At work. On campus. On the street.
Every year, thousands of Canadians are victims of antisemitism.
Our trained staff can help you fight back.

Our *Annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents* is the definitive source on antisemitism in Canada, and is used by law enforcement, governments and researchers around the world. Help to keep it accurate - report all incidents of antisemitism today.

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SOURCES CITING THE LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS *AUDIT OF ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS*

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- STATISTICS CANADA



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