



STANDING UNITED AGAINST ANTISEMITISM

PROTECTING COMMUNITIES AND
STRENGTHENING CANADIAN DEMOCRACY

Report of the Standing Senate Committee
on Human Rights

The Honourable Paulette Senior, Chair
The Honourable Wanda Thomas Bernard, Deputy Chair



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Acknowledgment

The Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights (the committee) extends its sincere gratitude to all witnesses who appeared or submitted written materials for this study. Their experiences, insights, and calls for action were invaluable in shaping the committee's understanding and recommendations. Recognizing the complexity and sensitivity of antisemitism in Canada, the committee is especially appreciative of those who courageously recounted traumatic experiences.

The committee also wishes to acknowledge that it started this study in the First session of the Forty-fourth Parliament. The testimony and materials received then were referred to the committee in the First Session of the Forty-fifth Parliament and are included in this report.

Finally, the committee acknowledges that this report stems from testimony received during a specific period in Canada, without examining the full range of antisemitic experiences lived by communities across the country and elsewhere in the world. This report builds on multiple efforts that aim to understand and address antisemitism in all its forms.

The committee is deeply disturbed by the horrendous antisemitic incidents that have happened since it concluded its study in December 2025.

The Committee Membership

At the time of the adoption of the report by the committee

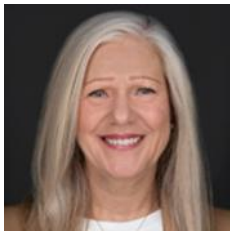


The Honourable
Paulette Senior
Chair



The Honourable
Wanda Thomas
Bernard
Deputy Chair

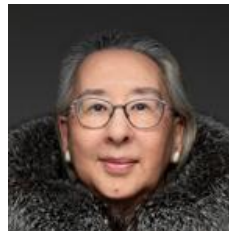
The Honourable Senators



Dawn Arnold



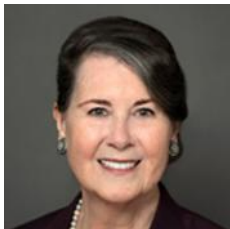
David M. Arnot



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McPhedran



Mary Robinson



Kristopher Wells

Ex officio members of the committee:

The Honourable Pierre Moreau, P.C., or the Honourable Patti LaBoucane-Benson
The Honourable Leo Housakos or the Honourable Yonah Martin
The Honourable Lucie Moncion or the Honourable Joan Kingston
The Honourable Flordeliz (Gigi) Osler or the Honourable Robert Black
The Honourable Brian Francis or the Honourable Judy A. White

Other senators who have participated in the study:

The Honourable Salma Ataullahjan
The Honourable Denise Batters
The Honourable Andrew Cardozo
The Honourable Mary Coyle
The Honourable Percy E. Downe
The Honourable Leo Housakos
The Honourable Flordeliz (Gigi) Osler
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Research and Education, Library of Parliament:

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Robert Mason, Analyst

Senate Committees Directorate:

Caroline Woodward, Committee Clerk
Annie Trudel, Administrative Assistant

Communications, Broadcasting and Publications Directorate:

Chelsea DeFazio, Communications Officer

Order of Reference

Extract from the *Journals of the Senate* of Thursday, September 25, 2025:

The Honourable Senator Senior moved, seconded by the Honourable Senator Surette:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights be authorized to examine and report on antisemitism in Canada;

That the papers and evidence received and taken and work accomplished by the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights during the First Session of the Forty-fourth Parliament as part of its study of such issues as may arise from time to time related to human rights generally be referred to the committee;

That the committee be permitted, notwithstanding usual practices, to deposit its reports on this study with the Clerk of the Senate if the Senate is not then sitting, and that the reports be deemed to have been tabled in the Senate; and

That the committee submit its final report to the Senate no later than December 31, 2026, and that the committee retain all powers necessary to publicize its findings for 180 days after the tabling of the final report.

The question being put on the motion, it was adopted.

Clerk of the Senate

Shaila Anwar

Executive Summary

Antisemitism in Canada has risen sharply in recent years, as demonstrated in hate crime statistics and the lived experiences of Jews across the country. These experiences are traumatic in themselves, while often reopening deep wounds rooted in the collective memory of the Holocaust and other historical forms of oppression.

This pernicious form of hate has existed throughout Canada's history, from exclusionary immigration policies and formal professional restrictions in the past, to contemporary forms of hate on Canadian streets, communities and online, often driven by conspiracy theories and disinformation campaigns from around the world.

In the 1960s, a special committee on hate propaganda recognized the then relatively small and uncoordinated dissemination of hateful materials as a clear and present danger to the functioning of a democratic society. In response, Parliament enacted criminal prohibitions on hate propaganda that remain in place to this day.

While these prohibitions remain a critical guardrail against rising hate, the means by which hatred is spread has evolved, and Canada faces new challenges that demand new solutions.

The committee believes that hate cannot simply be legislated away and that education is the main tool to combat hate. General awareness-raising for Canadians and educating Canada's youth about past and present forms of antisemitism are essential to our social cohesion.

Online spaces are saturated with hate and misinformation that fuel radicalization. Antisemitism in these spaces ranges from shockingly explicit hate material to insidious and subtle forms of manipulation. These flawed media and information systems are pervasive, and too often play a critical role in shaping the minds of young people.

At the same time, the committee heard that antisemitism is growing in various workplaces, with many witnesses highlighting medical professions and academia with particular concern. While Jewish communities share commonalities, they are not all the same, and antisemitism is experienced differently by different people, including based on how antisemitism intersects with other forms of prejudice, such as sexism.

Antisemitism remains a clear and present danger to Canada's free and democratic society. As several witnesses noted, historically antisemitism has often served as the prelude to other forms of hate. The committee is keenly aware of the similarities between antisemitism, sexism, anti-Black racism, Islamophobia, and other forms of

hate, as well as the ways in which individuals can face intersectional discrimination.¹ These prejudices undermine the social fabric of our democracy. Moreover, the possibility that these divisions can be amplified and exploited by foreign adversaries is a threat that Canada must take seriously.

In this context, as outlined in the recommendations of the report, the Government of Canada must take immediate action to confront antisemitism by establishing a federal task force, reinstating the position of a Special Envoy on Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism, establishing a Digital Safety Commission, developing and coordinating initiatives for critical community safety infrastructure and security needs of targeted communities and events. The committee also calls for the Government of Canada to promote education and training programs, strengthen its criminal laws relating to hate and to work with provinces, territories and educational partners to strengthen education relating to democratic citizenship.

¹ Refer to previous work of the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights, such as the following reports: *[Anti-Black Racism, Sexism and Systemic Discrimination in the Canadian Human Rights Commission](#)*, 44th Parliament, 1st Session, December 2023; *[Combatting Hate: Islamophobia and its impact on Muslims in Canada](#)*, 44th Parliament, 1st Session, November 2023. Note that these were adopted by the committee as it existed in the First session of the Forty-fourth Parliament.

List of Recommendations

The committee's recommendations have been arranged here in thematic order, which does not necessarily reflect order of priority.

Recommendation 1

That the Prime Minister reinstate the position of a Special Envoy on Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism, and, under paragraph 127.1 (1)(c) of the *Public Service Employment Act*, appoint the Special Envoy with a mandate to advise the Government of Canada on policy, education initiatives, and international cooperation relating to antisemitism and Holocaust remembrance.

Recommendation 2

That the newly proposed Advisory Council on Rights, Equality and Inclusion include a focus on antisemitism in its mandate and composition; that it be required to report annually to both Houses of Parliament on its activities and outcomes; and that a representative from the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights be included as a member of the Advisory Council.

Recommendation 3

That the Government of Canada continue to review government policies, programs, training, appointments and funding, ensuring they are free of antisemitism and consistent with the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, and to promote safe and inclusive workplaces across the federal public service.

Recommendation 4

That the Government of Canada work with civil society organizations, educational institutions, and professional bodies to develop evidence-based training programs and resources that improve understanding of both historical and contemporary antisemitism in Canada and appropriately resource and equip institutions to respond effectively to incidents of hate.

Recommendation 5

That the Government of Canada work with all federal institutions and federally regulated sectors to ensure that clear and transparent mechanisms exist for reporting and addressing hate, bias, and antisemitic incidents. These

mechanisms should include safeguards against reprisals and should provide individuals with confidence that all complaints will be investigated fairly and promptly.

Recommendation 6

That the Government of Canada support improved research and disaggregated data collection relating to hate, bias, and antisemitism in Canada, including the monitoring of trends across sectors such as education, workplaces, and digital platforms.

Recommendation 7

That the Government of Canada increase funding to the Canada Community Security Program and streamline requests and approval procedures for critical community safety infrastructure and security needs of targeted communities and events.

Recommendation 8

That the Government of Canada close the loophole regarding the charitable and non-profit status of organisations when they are listed as terrorist entities by immediately reviewing their activities in Canada and retracting their statuses.

Recommendation 9

That the Government of Canada immediately establish an interdepartmental task force to address antisemitism. The task force, among other initiatives as it may determine, shall:

-
- determine the nature and impact on antisemitism in Canada;
 - address foreign interference;
 - address misinformation and disinformation affecting Canadian institutions, particularly in federally regulated sectors;
 - create a framework of initiatives to combat antisemitism in Canada;
 - coordinate data collection, policy development, enforcement, and operational responses, particularly in relation to the recommendations of this report;
 - improve cooperation among federal institutions responsible for public safety and social cohesion;

- identify methods of tracking and measuring the success and failures of each initiative; and
 - report annually to Parliament on progress and emerging trends.
-

The task force should include representatives from Public Safety Canada, Canadian Heritage, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, including the Integrated National Security Enforcement Teams, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, Justice Canada, and Canada Revenue Agency. The task force should collaborate with provincial and territorial counterparts as well as municipal police agencies and specialized hate crime units.

Recommendation 10

That the Government of Canada develop and support digital literacy and social media education initiatives, including model materials and funding for programs, that help young Canadians recognize misinformation, disinformation, radicalization, extremist narratives, and online hate.

Recommendation 11

That the Government of Canada collaborate with provincial and territorial governments and community stakeholders to develop a national public awareness campaign aimed at improving understanding of hate and antisemitism as well as reinforcing democratic values of pluralism, equality, and mutual respect.

Recommendation 12

That the Government of Canada work with provincial and territorial ministers of education to strengthen Holocaust education and antisemitism awareness across Canada, including professional development for teachers and the development of evidence-informed curriculum resources. Such efforts should also encourage broader historical literacy regarding racism and discrimination in Canada, including the histories and experiences of 2SLGBTQI+ communities, residential schools, and anti-Black racism.

Recommendation 13

That the Government of Canada work with provinces, territories, and educational partners to strengthen preservice and in-service education relating to hate, bias, and antisemitism, the Holocaust, and democratic citizenship. This work should include enhanced teacher training, access to educational resources, and support

for initiatives that promote historical understanding, literacy, and critical thinking.

Recommendation 14

That the Government of Canada support professional development for educators and administrators at primary, secondary and post-secondary levels. This work should include improved capacity to identify and respond to hate, bias, and antisemitic incidents, greater understanding of historical and contemporary antisemitism, and support for respectful discussion of contentious geopolitical issues consistent with democratic values and Charter protections.

Recommendation 15

That the Government of Canada, with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police as the lead, work with provincial and territorial governments to establish and effectively resource specialized hate crime units in all major cities and regions across Canada, with a focus on education, community outreach, investigation, disaggregated data collection, information sharing, prosecution, and deradicalization efforts.

Recommendation 16

That the Government of Canada support evidence-informed training initiatives for police, prosecutors, and other justice-sector actors at all three levels of government to improve their ability to identify and respond to hate and bias motivated crimes, including antisemitic offences.

Recommendation 17

That the Government of Canada encourage municipalities, provinces and territories to consider narrowly tailored “safe access” or “bubble zone” measures where appropriate to protect access to certain religious institutions, places of worship, and community spaces (such as libraries, recreational facilities, and hospitals) while respecting the Charter-protected freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly.

Recommendation 18

That, in a manner consistent with Supreme Court of Canada jurisprudence and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, the Government of Canada review legislative options to address the display of symbols associated with hate groups, such as Nazi and White supremacist symbols, when used with the intent of willfully promoting hatred against identifiable groups.

Recommendation 19

That the Government of Canada examine legislative measures to address intimidation and obstruction that interferes with access to community spaces associated with identifiable groups, including religious institutions, schools, and cultural centres, while ensuring consistency with constitutional protections.

Recommendation 20

That the Government of Canada review existing *Criminal Code* provisions relating to hate propaganda and hate-motivated offences, with particular regard to Supreme Court of Canada jurisprudence, in order to ensure that the law clearly addresses conduct that promotes the intense and extreme detestation and vilification of identifiable groups.

Recommendation 21

That the Government of Canada introduce legislation to establish a Digital Safety Commission, under the responsibility of the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, with a mandate to address online harms including hate speech and the amplification of identity-based harassment.

Recommendation 22

That the Government of Canada develop policy options to address amplification of hate, prejudice, and identity-based harassment; and develop regulatory mechanisms to improve transparency and accountability of digital platforms that host and disseminate hate-motivated content, including reporting obligations, research access, and mechanisms enabling individuals to seek redress where platforms fail to address unlawful hate related content.

Introduction

Between December 2024 and December 2025, the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights (the committee) undertook a study on antisemitism² in Canada, hearing from 44 witnesses and receiving 36 written briefs.³

It is clear from the committee’s study that antisemitism is a growing threat to Canadian Jews and to Canadian society more broadly. As expressed by Michael Levitt, President and Chief Executive Officer, Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center: “Hate against any one of us is hate against all of us,” and “When hate against one community goes unchecked, it threatens the safety and social cohesion of all Canadians.”⁴

Our country has a long and troubling history with antisemitism. From turning away Jewish refugees fleeing the Holocaust, to a discriminatory immigration system reflecting the view that “none is too many,” antisemitism was once explicit in Canadian policy. In the 1960s, as institutional racism and formal restrictions dissipated, hatred toward Jews remained.

In 1965, a special committee (the Cohen Committee) studied the proliferation of hate propaganda in Canada, much of which targeted Jewish communities. The Cohen Committee recognized the need for *Criminal Code*⁵ amendments, as well as a broader cultural shift centering on education. It warned that “Hate is as old as man and doubtless as durable. This [Cohen] report explores what it is that a community can do to lessen some of man’s intolerance and to proscribe its gross exploitation.”⁶

² For consistency throughout the report, the committee has adopted the spelling “antisemitism”. Note that the Senate transcripts use the hyphenated spelling.

As explained by Ira Robinson, Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the Department of Religions and Cultures of Concordia University, the term antisemitism was “coined in the latter part of the [19th century] in Germany”, but “it was found to be useful in describing much more than the specific [19th century] political movement it was named for”. “All over the world, it rapidly became a common term for expressing negative feelings towards Jews that ranged from the ambivalence about accepting Jews as societal equals to absolute fear and loathing.” The spelling of the word “has evoked debate” and some have argued that it should be written ‘antisemitism’ instead of ‘anti-Semitism’ as there is no ‘Semitism’ entity to oppose. Ira Robinson, *A History of Antisemitism in Canada*, Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2015, p. 3, p. 6, and p. 41.

³ Appendices A and B of this report provide a list of witnesses who appeared before the committee and a list of briefs, respectively.

⁴ Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights (RIDR), *Evidence*, October 20, 2025 (Michael Levitt, President and Chief Executive Officer, Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center).

⁵ *Criminal Code*, R.S.C., 1985, c. C-46.

⁶ Special Committee on Hate Propaganda in Canada, *Report to the Minister of Justice of the Special Committee on Hate Propaganda in Canada*, 1966, p. xiii.

In today's era of social media and immense globalization it is imperative to keep the exploitation of hate to a minimum.

Throughout its study, the committee was troubled by the proliferation of hate speech in Canada and the potential for malicious foreign actors to destabilize Canadian society through online disinformation.

In the wake of the attacks on October 7, 2023, by Hamas, and the ensuing war in Gaza, reported hate crimes in Canada have spiked, and Canadian Jews understandably feel unsafe. The committee was disturbed to hear recent examples of Jewish schools being shot at, synagogues and Holocaust memorials being vandalized, and Jews being harassed and intimidated on campuses, outside synagogues, and in their communities. Such actions are profoundly unacceptable and must be addressed.

This report is divided into five sections. The first provides historical background on the problem of antisemitism in Canada. The report then outlines the current legal and policy context governing hate speech, hate propaganda and hate motivated crimes in Canada. In the third section, the report provides background information on the definition of antisemitism and related testimony from witnesses. Under "Recent Incidents of Antisemitism in Canada", the report outlines youth experiences, intersectional lived experiences, and specific incidents in workplaces and places of worship as well as statistics on antisemitism. Finally, the committee outlines testimony regarding possible solutions relating to education, criminal law, combating online hate and misinformation, and confronting foreign interference and radicalization.

The committee makes a series of recommendations throughout this report. The committee urges the federal government to carefully consider and respond to each of them.

The committee appreciates that this topic can be difficult to discuss. The need to combat antisemitism is too often disrupted by geopolitical concerns that, however important or well-intentioned, shift attention away from the problem at hand.

In that spirit, it is important to be clear about the scope of this report. This report is not an exercise in semantics. Debates about terminology are a distraction from the very real hatred experienced by Canadian Jews.

This report is also not an examination into the actions of Israel or Hamas. The committee is keenly aware of alleged atrocity crimes and human rights violations, as well as the various international investigations stemming from the attacks of October 7, 2023, and the ensuing war in Gaza. While important, these investigations are not the subject of this report. Indeed, the conflation of Canadians with foreign actors based solely on their race or religion is a troubling manifestation of

antisemitism and other forms of hatred that this committee urges all Canadians to avoid.

At the same time, the committee recognizes that the attacks of October 7, 2023, and the ensuing war in Gaza have been deeply traumatic for many and have been a significant factor fueling antisemitism in Canada. That impact is part of our focus.

As stated previously by this committee, specifically in its 2023 reports on Islamophobia in Canada and on anti-Black racism, sexism and systemic discrimination in the Canadian Human Rights Commission,⁷ hate against any community in Canada must not go unchecked. Everyone in Canada deserves to feel safe and to exercise their rights to freedom of religion, association, and expression. This report seeks to contribute to constructive dialogue and tangible solutions to better combat the scourge of antisemitism in Canada.

A Historical Perspective

Jews are an ethno-religious group, encompassing both a peoplehood and a religion. In the 2021 Canadian census,⁸ 282,015 individuals declared themselves as Jewish under the ethnic or cultural origin category, whereas 335,295 declared themselves as Jewish under the religion category.⁹ Together, they represent 1.67% of Canada's overall population as of 2021.

The committee learned that in the first known Canadian census, in 1831, there were “a mere 107 Jews to be resident of Upper and Lower Canada” (what is now known as Ontario and Quebec).¹⁰ By 1901, the census found 16,401 individuals identified as Jews in Canada, representing 0.31% of the total population at that time.¹¹ This population growth mirrored Canada's overall increase, driven by efforts to attract newcomers to its Western provinces. Unfortunately, “[a]s the number of Jews in the

⁷ RIDR, *Combatting Hate: Islamophobia and Its Impact on Muslims in Canada*, 2023; *Anti-Black Racism, Sexism and Systemic Discrimination in the Canadian Human Rights Commission*, 2023. Note that these were adopted by the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights as it existed in the First session of the Forty-fourth Parliament.

⁸ Data from the May 2026 Census of Population will be released by Statistics Canada nearly a year after the census date.

⁹ These two data groups are complementary and not exclusive; a person could have identified as Jew in one or both categories. Statistics Canada, “[Profile table](#),” *Census Profile*, 2021 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001, Ottawa, released November 15, 2023, accessed January 9, 2026.

¹⁰ Ira Robinson, *A History of Antisemitism in Canada*, Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2015, p. 31.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 36.

country increased [at the end of 19th century and at the start of the 20th century], so did the opposition to their presence.”¹²

This section outlines the historical context of antisemitism in Canada and highlights the federal government’s efforts over more than six decades to curb hate propaganda.

Tracing Antisemitism in Canada’s Past

Worldwide, antisemitism dates to ancient times and has taken many forms over the centuries: from the religiously motivated pogroms of the Middle Ages to the geographic and occupational restrictions imposed on Jews in the early modern era to the political antisemitism that has pitted Jews against European nationalist identities and interests -- even after legal and social restrictions on Jews were removed.¹³ Toward the end of the 19th century, anti-Jewish attitudes adopted theories of racial hierarchy to portray Jews as an inferior race. The Nazi Party in Germany built on these ideas to perpetrate the most extreme manifestation of antisemitism in history: the Holocaust.¹⁴

In Canada, antisemitism predates 1867, the year of Canadian confederation. The committee was reminded that “the encounter of Jews with Canada” should be “understood in the context of Jews in the societies and cultures of early modern France and England”,¹⁵ the two colonizing powers that shaped present-day Canada. Indeed, in the 19th century, the Christian heritage¹⁶ of these colonizing powers came with a certain “unexpressed conclusion that becoming Canadian in the fullest sense would necessitate conversion to Christianity.”¹⁷ In addition, over Canada’s history,

¹² Irving Abella, *A Coat of Many Colours: Two Centuries of Jewish Life in Canada*, Key Porter, 1999, p. 103, quoted in Ira Robinson, *A History of Antisemitism in Canada*, Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2015, p. 35.

¹³ United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, [*Antisemitism in History: From the Early Church to 1400*](#); United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, [*Antisemitism in History: The Early Modern Era, 1300–1800*](#); and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, [*Antisemitism in History: The Era of Nationalism, 1800–1918*](#).

¹⁴ United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, [*Antisemitism in History: The Era of Nationalism, 1800–1918*](#); and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, [*Antisemitism in History: Racial Antisemitism, 1875–1945*](#).

¹⁵ Ira Robinson, *A History of Antisemitism in Canada*, Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2015, p. 11.

¹⁶ Ibid, p. 60; refer also to RIDR, [*Evidence*](#), December 9, 2024 (Deidre Butler, Associate Professor, Network of Engaged Canadian Academics); RIDR, [*Evidence*](#), December 1, 2025 (Ivan Kalmar, Professor of Anthropology, University of Toronto, As an Individual).

¹⁷ Ira Robinson, *A History of Antisemitism in Canada*, Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2015, p. 60.

the country has also been shaped by its immigrants coming “with ideas and beliefs from all over the world”,¹⁸ including ideas of antisemitism.¹⁹

To understand the establishment of Jews in Canada and the early modern era of antisemitism, the committee was referred to *A History of Antisemitism in Canada* by Ira Robinson, Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the Department of Religions and Cultures of Concordia University. He explains that:

*[A] basic difference between the French and English colonization with respect to Jews [was that] the French specifically forbade all non-Catholics (including Protestants and Jews) from coming to settle in New France, whereas their settlement in British North American colonies was openly allowed.*²⁰

This difference stems from the fact that Jews born in England²¹ were considered British subjects, whereas Jews in France only gained citizenship after the French Revolution and the adoption of the 1789 *Déclaration des droits de l’homme*.

In the 19th century, Jews established themselves in what is now Canada and were, according to Professor Robinson, “in a fairly enviable position, most certainly in comparison with many other groups.”²² However, expressions of antisemitism were commonly heard in the streets, read in the press, spoken in the halls of legislatures, taught in some schools and spread in some churches.²³ Professor Robinson clarified that, at that time, Jews had limited political rights. For example, in England, there were rules excluding Jews and non-Anglican Christians from political life, whereas in the British colony of Quebec, the Quebec Act of 1774 “gave Catholics along with Protestants equality of political rights but was essentially silent with respect to Jews.”²⁴ That “changed in 1832 through the adoption by the Legislative Assembly of Lower Canada of ‘An Act to declare persons professing the Jewish religion entitled to all the rights and privileges of the other subjects of His Majesty in this Province’.”²⁵

¹⁸ RIDR, [Evidence](#), December 9, 2024 (Deidre Butler).

¹⁹ RIDR, [Evidence](#), October 27, 2025 (Sheryl Saperia, Chief Executive Officer, Secure Canada).

²⁰ Ira Robinson, *A History of Antisemitism in Canada*, Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2015, p. 25.

²¹ The naturalization of Jews coming to England was briefly legalized in 1753 before the legislation was rescinded due to public outcry. For more information, refer to Ira Robinson, *A History of Antisemitism in Canada*, Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2015, p. 20.

²² Ira Robinson, *A History of Antisemitism in Canada*, Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2015, p. 32.

²³ Irving Abella, Erin James-Abra, and Clay Ma, “[Anti-Semitism in Canada](#),” *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, December 19, 2025.

²⁴ Ira Robinson, *A History of Antisemitism in Canada*, Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2015, p. 29.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 30.

By the 20th century,

Jewish immigrants to Canada, largely fleeing persecution in their countries of origin, were often met with suspicion and bigotry, encountering barriers to employment, housing, and social integration. Between the 1930s and 1940s, the Government of Canada enacted immigration policy that prevented entry to Canada for peoples that were seen to be unassimilable, which included Jews.²⁶

Professor Robinson described, in his book, numerous instances of antisemitism and discrimination against Jews in Canada between the two world wars, including barriers to education at all levels, restrictions on entering professions such as medicine, and boycotts of Jewish businesses.²⁷ He also recounted the public outcry and institutional barriers against a new synagogue in Québec city in May 1944 that was subject to arson the day before its dedication.²⁸

The committee recalls the most infamous example of Canada's antisemitism: the Canadian government under Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King turned away, in 1939, Jewish refugees aboard the ship *MS St. Louis*.²⁹ This was emblematic of one of the worst humanitarian records of any Western country in terms of providing sanctuary to Jews escaping the Holocaust. Indeed, Canada admitted only 5,000 Jewish refugees between 1933 and 1947.³⁰ By 1947, with its amended immigration policy, Canada started welcoming Holocaust survivors, with approximately 40,000 who resettled across the country after the war.³¹

²⁶ Government of Canada, "[Antisemitism in Canada](#)," *Canadian Handbook on the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism*.

²⁷ Ira Robinson, *A History of Antisemitism in Canada*, Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2015, pp. 61-81.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 82.

²⁹ The committee acknowledges that, in 2018, then Prime Minister Justin Trudeau delivered a formal apology to the Jewish refugees Canada turned away in the *MS St. Louis* as well as their families and relatives, and Jewish communities in Canada and around the world. Prime Minister of Canada, [Prime Minister delivers apology regarding the fate of the passengers of the MS St. Louis](#), Press release, 7 November 2018 [page archived].

³⁰ Irving Abella, Erin James-Abra, and Clay Ma, "[Antisemitism in Canada](#)," *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, December 19, 2025; and Adara Goldberg and Andrew McIntosh, "[Canada and the Holocaust](#)," *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, 1 June 2020.

³¹ Government of Canada, [History of Canada and the Holocaust](#); Adara Goldberg and Andrew McIntosh, "[Canada and the Holocaust](#)," *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, 1 June 2020.

Professor Robinson explained to the committee that:

in the 1950s and especially into the 1960s [there] was the discrediting of institutional racism in Canada. There was certainly not just racism against Jews — Asian Canadians, Black Canadians, First Nations, it need not be said — but starting in the 1950s and into the 1960s, institutionalized racism such as segregated schools or segregated neighbourhoods become illegal and were looked upon not merely as illegal but immoral. The quieting down of antisemitism in Canada in the 1950s and into the 1960s is part of a larger story and a larger evolution of Canadian society.³²

Indeed, in the aftermath of the Second World War and the horrors of the Holocaust, international law and domestic laws sought to better safeguard human rights and prohibit discrimination. At the international level, this was exemplified by Article 20(2) of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, which provides that “[a]ny advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence shall be prohibited by law.”³³

The Cohen Committee

The negotiation of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* coincided with efforts in Canada to address the problem of hate propaganda. In 1965, a special advisory committee on hate propaganda (the Cohen Committee) completed its report for the Minister of Justice. As explained in its preface, the report was:

a study in the power of words to maim, and what it is that a civilized society can do about it. Not every abuse of human communication can or should be controlled by law or custom. But every society from time to time draws lines at the point where the intolerable and impermissible coincide.³⁴

Unlike today, the Cohen Committee was dealing with the relatively contained problem of hate pamphlets that were being physically distributed by approximately

³² RIDR, *Evidence*, December 9, 2024 (Ira Robinson, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Department of Religions and Cultures, Concordia University, As an Individual).

³³ *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, art. 20(2). See also article 4 of the *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination*.

³⁴ Special Committee on Hate Propaganda in Canada (1966), p. xiii.

fourteen small networks of neo-Nazi and other extremist groups.³⁵ These materials targeted Black and Jewish communities, with Jews in particular being “made the special target of the whole hate program.”³⁶ The Cohen Committee emphasized that despite the small scale of these activities, “the individuals and groups promoting hate in Canada constitute ‘a clear and present danger’ to the functioning of a democratic society.”³⁷

The Cohen Committee warned against “giving [hate promoters] a mass platform as if what they had to say was normal debate on real issues” because “in times of social stress such ‘hate’ could mushroom into a real and monstrous threat to our way of life.”³⁸

The report cited efforts in classroom education as “among the most hopeful and effective measures” at combating prejudice.³⁹ While a full examination of the power of education to combat prejudice was beyond the scope of the Cohen Committee’s study, the report stated that “we must direct more attention to these questions in a multi-ethnic Canadian society”, adding that “[t]he idea of a healthy acceptance and accommodation as between all groups in Canada is indispensable to the future well-being of Canadian Society.”⁴⁰

The Cohen Committee’s recommendations were to enact hate propaganda offences in the *Criminal Code* (the Code). Current sections 318 to 320.1 of the Code closely reflect the draft legislative language included in these recommendations.

Though it predated the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, the Cohen Committee’s approach of balancing rights and placing reasonable limits on freedom of expression remained influential in post-*Charter* Supreme Court of Canada jurisprudence,⁴¹ and remains relevant today.

Sixty years after the Cohen Committee report, Canada is more diverse than ever before. At the same time, social media is accelerating polarization and deepening divisions. We are no longer dealing with pamphlets distributed by small networks of radicals – hate speech can spread faster than ever, often anonymously and at a global scale. Nevertheless, the core problem mirrors that which the Cohen Committee faced sixty years ago: the Jewish community remains a “special target”⁴²

³⁵ Ibid., p. 14.

³⁶ Ibid., p. 59.

³⁷ Ibid., p. 24.

³⁸ Ibid, pp. 24-25.

³⁹ Ibid., p. 32.

⁴⁰ Ibid., p. 33.

⁴¹ For example, the Cohen Committee report is quoted extensively in *R. v. Keegstra*, [1990] 3 SCR 697.

⁴² Special Committee on Hate Propaganda in Canada (1966), p. 59.

of hate, malicious actors are operating with impunity, and – more optimistically – the power of education remains an underexplored area of promise.

Legal and Policy Context

Canadian Legal Framework Governing Hate

In 1970, Parliament amended the *Criminal Code* to essentially enact the recommendations of the Cohen Committee. Prohibitions against advocating genocide (section 318), publicly inciting hatred (section 319(1)) and wilfully promoting hatred (section 319(2)) remain the core hate speech provisions in the Code to this day. In 2022, Parliament added section 319(2.1), which explicitly prohibits promoting antisemitism by condoning, denying or downplaying the Holocaust.

In addition, any crime that is committed based on hatred toward an identifiable group is subject to stricter sentencing. Specifically, section 718.2(a)(i) provides that any offence "motivated by bias, prejudice or hate based on race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression, or on any other similar factor" should be considered an aggravating circumstance for sentencing.

Together, these provisions of the Code seek to deter and denounce hate speech and hate crimes in Canada.

Charter Jurisprudence

In the 1980s, the coming into force of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* (the Charter) changed the country's legal landscape. All laws became subject to Charter scrutiny, with the rights and freedoms set out within it "subject only to such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society." These rights include freedom of conscience and religion (section 2(a)), freedom of expression (section 2(b)), freedom of peaceful assembly (section 2(c)), and the right to equal protection and benefit of the law without discrimination (section 15). In addition, section 27 provides that the Charter "shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with the preservation and enhancement of the multicultural heritage of Canadians."

In the 1990 case of *R. v. Keegstra*, the Supreme Court of Canada determined that the Code's prohibition on wilfully promoting hatred (section 319(2)) was constitutionally sound. Although the provision infringes on the right to freedom of expression, the

Court found that this is a reasonable limit that is justified in a free and democratic society.⁴³

The case arose from the conviction of James Keegstra, a high school teacher in Alberta who communicated antisemitic views to his students and reflected these views in his exams.

In upholding section 319(2) of the Code, the Court found that the Charter's guarantee of equality (section 15) and the directive to preserve and enhance multiculturalism (section 27) weighed in favour of prohibiting hate propaganda. It also found that the scope of the provision was appropriately limited, as it does not capture private conversation, it requires a mental element (i.e. "wilful" promotion) and has a number of defences set out in section 319(3).

The Court noted that in the context of these provisions, the term "'hatred' connotes emotion of an intense and extreme nature that is clearly associated with vilification and detestation."⁴⁴ The views expressed by Mr. Keegstra were found to have little connection to the values underpinning the right to freedom of expression, and could justifiably be limited "[g]iven the importance of Parliament's purpose in preventing the dissemination of hate propaganda."⁴⁵

Subsequent Supreme Court jurisprudence drew similar conclusions in non-criminal cases. For example, in the 1990 case of *Canada (Human Rights Commission) v. Taylor*, the Court upheld a Canadian Human Rights Tribunal decision under former section 13 of the *Canadian Human Rights Act*⁴⁶ that certain antisemitic telephone messages amounted to a "discriminatory practice," which could require a remedy.⁴⁷ In this context, the Court found that "hatred" referred to "unusually strong and deep-felt emotions of detestation, calumny and vilification."⁴⁸

In the 2013 case of *Saskatchewan (Human Rights Commission) v. Whatcott*, the Court dealt with a freedom of expression challenge to *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code*,⁴⁹ this time arising from hate publications targeting the 2SLGBTQI+⁵⁰

⁴³ *R. v. Keegstra*, [1990] 3 SCR 697.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ *Canadian Human Rights Act*, R.S.C., 1985, c. H-6.

⁴⁷ Section 13 of the CHRA was repealed in 2013.

⁴⁸ *Canada (Human Rights Commission) v. Taylor*, [1990] 3 SCR 892.

⁴⁹ *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code*, SS 1979, c S-24.1.

⁵⁰ Acronym [used by the Government of Canada](#) to refer to this Canadian community. 2S: at the front, recognizes Two-Spirit people as the first 2SLGBTQI+ communities; L: Lesbian; G: Gay; B: Bisexual; T: Transgender; Q: Queer; I: Intersex, considers sex characteristics beyond sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression; +: is inclusive of people who identify as part of sexual and gender diverse communities, who use additional terminologies.

community. In this context, the Court described hatred in slightly different terms, stating that “‘detestation’ and ‘vilification’ aptly describe the harmful effect that [*The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code*] seeks to eliminate. Representations that expose a target group to detestation tend to inspire enmity and extreme ill-will against them, which goes beyond mere disdain or dislike.”⁵¹

The common thread in these cases is an acknowledgement that while anti-hate speech laws do have an impact on freedom of expression, they can also promote equality rights, multiculturalism, and other core values of a free and democratic society. This balance reflects the fact that diversity and pluralism are foundational to Canadian society. Though rights can be in conflict, the Charter provides a safety net to ensure that legislative efforts do not unreasonably favour certain rights over others. Consistent with this balance, Canada must protect vulnerable communities from hate, including by protecting their right to freedom of religion and equality, while also upholding the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly.

Legislative Reform

Hate has evolved both online and offline, which necessitates new tools and strategies to address it, especially as specific minority communities are being targeted with increasing frequency and ferocity. The committee is concerned that hate in Canada has evolved faster than the legislative framework to address it. This needs to change.

One possible approach is Bill C-9, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (hate propaganda, hate crime and access to religious or cultural places), which was introduced in the House of Commons in September 2025.⁵² While the committee was not authorized to study Bill C-9, it heard comments from witnesses on Bill C-9 and other legislative efforts to combat hate, which will be discussed further in Section E, under “Combatting Antisemitism in Canada”.

Policy Framework to Address Hate

Beyond the legislative framework, the federal government has sought to combat antisemitism and other forms of hate through various policy frameworks and strategies.

In particular, the committee learned about Canada’s Anti-Racism Strategy, Canada’s Action Plan on Combatting Hate, the Community Security Program, the Community Resilience Fund, and the establishment of the position of Canada’s Special Envoy on

⁵¹ [*Saskatchewan \(Human Rights Commission\) v. Whatcott*, 2013 SCC 11, para 41.](#)

⁵² [Bill C-9, An Act to amend the Criminal Code \(hate propaganda, hate crime and access to religious or cultural places\)](#), 45th Parliament, 1st Session.

Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism. In addition, “[i]n 2010, Canada led the development of the Ottawa Protocol on Combating Antisemitism and became the first country to sign the Protocol in 2011. This international action plan [aims to] help nations measure their progress in the fight against antisemitism.”⁵³

Chad Westmacott, Public Safety Canada, Director General, Community Safety, Corrections and Criminal Justice, emphasized that the federal government’s efforts to combat antisemitism are ongoing. He noted, for example, that the federal government hosted a National Forum on Combatting Antisemitism⁵⁴ in March 2025, which convened Jewish community organizations; federal, provincial and municipal government officials; law enforcement; and prosecutors.⁵⁵ The Government of Canada and several other attendees endorsed a statement of intent which recognized the “urgent need to strengthen our collective efforts to combat hate crimes in all its forms, including to address the public safety threat of antisemitism.”⁵⁶

In January 2026, the federal government released its National Commitments to Combat Antisemitism, which tracks federal, provincial, territorial and municipal efforts relating to law enforcement, legislative reform, education and awareness, community support and engagement, and other components needed to combat antisemitism. The document also includes a commitment to publish a progress report on a semi-annual basis.⁵⁷

Canada’s Anti-Racism Strategy

Building on Canada’s first anti-racism strategy, which was in effect from 2019 to 2022, the current iteration is entitled *Changing Systems, Transforming Lives: Canada’s Anti-Racism Strategy 2024-2028*.⁵⁸ The strategy seeks to better align, design, and implement new and existing federal initiatives to address inequalities. It identifies four priority areas: promoting economic, social, and cultural empowerment; advancing racial equity in immigration, health, and housing systems; driving justice, law enforcement, intelligence, and public safety systems reform; and

⁵³ Government of Canada, *History of Canada and the Holocaust*.

⁵⁴ The committee notes that the Canadian Anti-Racism Secretariat also organized a [National Summit on Antisemitism](#) in 2021.

⁵⁵ RIDR, *Evidence*, October 27, 2025 (Chad Westmacott, Director General, Community Safety, Corrections and Criminal Justice, Public Safety Canada).

⁵⁶ Public Safety Canada, [Statement of Intent on Combatting Antisemitism](#), March 6, 2025.

⁵⁷ Public Safety Canada, [National Commitments to Combat Antisemitism](#), January 26, 2026.

⁵⁸ Government of Canada, [Changing Systems, Transforming Lives: Canada’s Anti-Racism Strategy 2024-2028](#).

using international engagement to inform advancement on racial equity and inclusion at home.

With respect to antisemitism specifically, one of the commitments made in the strategy was to develop a Canadian handbook on the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism. Both the handbook and the definition are discussed further in the section entitled “Defining Antisemitism” below. In addition, Andrew Brown, Associate Deputy Minister, Canadian Heritage explained that as part of this strategy, “over the last three fiscal years, the department has invested \$5 million in funding to Jewish-led or focused organizations across Canada for projects focused on Jewish communities or antisemitism.”⁵⁹

Canada’s Action Plan on Combatting Hate

In September 2024, the Government of Canada launched *Canada’s Action Plan on Combatting Hate*, which includes commitments to increase research and data gathering and build partnerships to promote safety and inclusion.⁶⁰ The Action Plan brings several new and existing initiatives together to foster greater coordination and collaboration among six federal organizations. Budget 2024 provided \$273.6 million over six years, starting in 2024–2025, and \$29.3 million ongoing to support the action plan.⁶¹

Mr. Westmacott explained that the action plan includes Public Safety Canada’s updated Canada Community Security Program (formerly the Security Infrastructure Program), which “provides financial assistance to not-for-profit organizations that serve communities at risk of being targeted by hate-motivated crime. Funding is provided to enhance the security of their community gathering spaces, helping to deter minor and violent attacks.”⁶²

In its 2023 report on Islamophobia in Canada, this committee recommended that the federal government “enhance the Security Infrastructure Program, including by simplifying and providing additional support during the application process, considering a rebate-based system to ensure that communities have timely access to funding, and reducing the 50% cost-sharing requirement.”⁶³

The committee is gratified to hear that the Canada Community Security Program now funds up to 70% of eligible project expenses, compared to 50% under the

⁵⁹ RIDR, *Evidence*, December 1, 2025 (Andrew Brown, Associate Deputy Minister, Canadian Heritage).

⁶⁰ Government of Canada, *Canada’s Action Plan on Combatting Hate*.

⁶¹ RIDR, *Evidence*, October 27, 2025 (Chad Westmacott).

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ RIDR, *Combatting Hate: Islamophobia and Its Impact on Muslims in Canada*, 2023. Note that this report was adopted by the committee as it existed in the First session of the Forty-fourth Parliament.

previous program. This change is in alignment with part of the committee’s previous recommendation, though further examination of this program is needed.

To that end, Budget 2025 announced that the Minister of Public Safety “will engage with the impacted communities to develop a comprehensive and equitable approach, including through reforms to the Canada Community Security Program, to ensure Canadians are no longer afraid because of who they are, how they worship, or where they gather. More details to be announced in due course.”⁶⁴ The committee welcomes these efforts and hopes to see further actions from the Government of Canada to implement its past recommendations.⁶⁵

In addition to the Community Security Program, Mr. Westmacott highlighted the Government of Canada’s Community Resilience Fund, which funds research and community interventions to address radicalization to hate. He explained that this complements efforts through The National Crime Prevention Strategy, which provides around \$45 million a year to crime prevention initiatives.⁶⁶

Another significant piece of the action plan that relates specifically to antisemitism is support for the construction of the Montréal Holocaust Museum, as well as funding of \$5 million over two years and \$2 million ongoing for Canadian Heritage to create a National Holocaust Remembrance Program, “which will support projects that preserve the memory of the Holocaust and help improve Canadians’ understanding and awareness towards the Holocaust and antisemitism.”⁶⁷

Canada’s Special Envoy on Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism

In 2020, the federal government created the position of Special Envoy on Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism, as part of its commitment to reinforce national and international efforts to preserve the memory of the Holocaust and the stories of its survivors; combat antisemitism, hatred, and racism; and promote and defend democracy, pluralism, inclusion, and human rights.

Canada’s Anti-Racism Strategy explains the role of the Special Envoy, stating:

⁶⁴ Government of Canada, *Canada Strong: Budget 2025*, p. 194.

⁶⁵ The committee acknowledges that on March 11, 2026, the Minister of Public Safety “announced a dedicated investment of up to \$10M to be provided to eligible organizations through the Canada Community Security Program (CCSP), that will assist Jewish communities in enhancing the security of their gathering spaces, including schools, day cares, overnight camps, and places of worship.” The committee supports continued investments to the CCSP. For more information, refer to the Public Safety Canada, *Government of Canada supports Jewish communities to protect themselves against hate-motivated crimes*, News release, March 11, 2026.

⁶⁶ RIDR, *Evidence*, October 27, 2025 (Chad Westmacott).

⁶⁷ Government of Canada, *Canada’s Action Plan on Combatting Hate*.

The mandate of the Special Envoy has both an international and a domestic role. Domestically, the Special Envoy provides guidance and advice to advance the federal government's efforts to combat antisemitism and hatred. She also works with Canadian institutions and stakeholders, promotes public awareness and understanding of Jewish communities in their diverse and intersectional identities in Canada, promotes Holocaust education, remembrance, and research, and encourages the adoption and implementation of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism. Internationally, the Special Envoy is the head of the Canadian delegation to IHRA, a role through which she reinforces Canada's leading role in combatting antisemitism and hatred abroad. She also works with international partners to strengthen and promote Holocaust education, remembrance, and research worldwide, and advocates for a broader international adoption of the IHRA working definition of antisemitism.⁶⁸

Budget 2022 provided \$5.6 million over five years, and \$1.2 million ongoing, to support the Special Envoy on Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism.

At the start of its study, the committee heard from Deborah Lyons, who then served as the Special Envoy on Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism. The committee notes with concern that the Special Envoy position was replaced on February 4, 2026 with a new Advisory Council on Rights, Equality and Inclusion.⁶⁹ The committee shares the new council's goal of combatting all forms of racism and hate, but questions whether it will be able to adequately continue the specialized work of the Special Envoy. The structure and composition of the council remain unknown to the committee at the time of the publication of this report.

As such, the committee recommends:

That the Prime Minister reinstate the position of a Special Envoy on Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism, and, under paragraph 127.1 (1)(c) of the *Public Service Employment Act*, appoint the Special Envoy with a mandate to advise the Government of Canada on policy, education

⁶⁸ Government of Canada, *Changing Systems, Transforming Lives: Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy 2024-2028*.

⁶⁹ For more information, please refer to Canadian Heritage, *Government of Canada launches new Advisory Council on Rights, Equality and Inclusion*, February 4, 2026.

initiatives, and international cooperation relating to antisemitism and Holocaust remembrance.

That the newly proposed Advisory Council on Rights, Equality and Inclusion include a focus on antisemitism in its mandate and composition; that it be required to report annually to both Houses of Parliament on its activities and outcomes; and that a representative from the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights be included as a member of the Advisory Council.

Defining Antisemitism

Prejudice, discrimination, and violence against Jews are significant and growing problems in Canadian society. Academics and witnesses with lived experience of antisemitism had various perspectives on its precise definition but universally agreed that the underlying phenomenon is a problem that needs to be confronted.

In 2019, Canada adopted the IHRA's⁷⁰ non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism as part of its Anti-Racism Strategy.⁷¹ The IHRA definition states that:

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.⁷²

The definition goes on to provide examples of conduct that may be considered antisemitic, including certain forms of conduct in relation to the state of Israel. It states that “[m]anifestations [of antisemitism] might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic.”⁷³

As explained by Noah Lew, Director and Special Advisor to the Honourable Irwin Cotler at the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights, the first half of the IHRA

⁷⁰ The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) is an international institution founded in 1998 devoted to the education, remembrance and research of the Holocaust and genocide of the Roma. It has 35 member countries, including Canada which joined in 2009, and nine observer countries.

⁷¹ Canadian Heritage, *Building a Foundation for Change: Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy 2019–2022*, 2019, p. 22.

⁷² IHRA, *Working definition of antisemitism*.

⁷³ Ibid.

definition's examples focus on "more classical examples of antisemitism," while the latter half relate more to "what is considered contemporary forms of antisemitism."⁷⁴ These generally relate to "targeting the State of Israel as sort of the new iteration of the Jewish collective. In ways that Jewish communities were previously targeted, now we see the State of Israel as a representation of that Jewish collective being targeted."⁷⁵

In 2024, the federal government and the office of Canada's Special Envoy on Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism launched the *Canadian Handbook on the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism*. The Canadian Handbook "is intended to be an evergreen, guiding resource that, in the words of Prime Minister [Justin] Trudeau, will 'support the adoption, understanding, and practical use of the [IHRA] definition across Canada.'"⁷⁶

In testimony to the committee, Deborah Lyons, then Canada's Special Envoy on Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism explained that "the definition [of IHRA] is meant to help people understand antisemitism in its present-day form, the various manifestations of it and how it has mutated and changed over time. The definition, with its 11 examples, helps to scope out how one can identify antisemitism."⁷⁷ She noted that the Canadian Handbook was informed by "consultations with over 150 Canadians and organizations, as well as 8 federal departments," and is intended as a "guide for governments at all three levels, educators, law enforcement and civil society. The IHRA definition was a global collaboration that took 16 years to develop and [as of 2024 was] endorsed by 43 countries and most of our provincial governments."⁷⁸

The Canadian Handbook notes that "[w]hile other definitions of antisemitism exist, the IHRA Definition is the most authoritative, comprehensive, and representative definition of antisemitism in the world today."⁷⁹

The Canadian Handbook emphasizes that the definition is non-legally binding, and that its adoption by the federal government does not criminalize any expression or behaviour. Moreover, it underscores that in applying the definition, it is crucial to

⁷⁴ RIDR, *Evidence*, November 24, 2025 (Noah Lew, Director, Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights and Special Advisor to the Honourable Irwin Cotler).

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ Government of Canada, *Canadian Handbook on the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism*.

⁷⁷ RIDR, *Evidence*, December 9, 2024 (Deborah Lyons, Special Envoy, Office of the Special Envoy on Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism, Canadian Heritage, As an Individual).

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Government of Canada, *Canadian Handbook on the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism*.

“tak[e] into account the overall context” of expression or behaviour, since what “would be antisemitic in some contexts would not be in others.”⁸⁰

Nevertheless, several witnesses were critical of the IHRA definition and the Canadian Handbook, arguing that the IHRA definition creates confusion about what types of criticism of Israel are acceptable. They drew the committee’s attention to other definitions that they argued provide more clarity.⁸¹

Joshua Sealy-Harrington, Associate Professor and Chair, Palestinian Human Rights in Canada stated that the IHRA definition has chilled teaching and scholarship, preventing academics such as Marianne Hirsch – the daughter of Holocaust survivors – and Rashid Khalidi from teaching or assigning key Holocaust and political texts. He described the use of the IHRA definition as a missed opportunity for everyone to have a better understanding of antisemitism and other forms of racism.”⁸²

However, other witnesses, such as Belle Jarniewski, Executive Director, Manitoba Institute to Combat Antisemitism, argued that such concerns mischaracterize the nature of the IHRA definition, which is intended as a non-binding tool.⁸³

Richard Robertson, Director, Research and Advocacy, B'Nai Brith Canada stated “that efforts to ensure the wide application of the IHRA definition and its illustrative examples require the federal government to invest in ensuring that Canada’s future leaders are familiar with the nuances of the definition and how its examples can function as a tool and guide for identifying and confronting contemporary antisemitism.”⁸⁴

To summarize, witnesses’ views on the IHRA definition ranged from those who wished to see the government “disendorse” the definition to those who wanted to see the government “enforce” it.⁸⁵

The committee wishes to underscore that the various definitions provided to the committee are tools for understanding the phenomenon of antisemitism, not rules

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ See for example, RIDR, *Evidence*, November 3, 2025 (Joshua Sealy-Harrington, Associate Professor and Chair, Palestinian Human Rights in Canada, As an individual), and *Evidence*, December 1, 2025 (Mira Sucharov, Professor, Carleton University, As an individual).

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ RIDR, *Evidence*, October 20, 2025 (Belle Jarniewski, Executive Director, Manitoba Institute to Combat Antisemitism).

⁸⁴ RIDR, *Evidence*, October 20, 2025 (Richard Robertson, Director, Research and Advocacy, B'Nai Brith Canada).

⁸⁵ For example, RIDR, *Evidence*, November 3, 2025 (Corey Balsam, National Coordinator, Independent Jewish Voices) and RIDR, *Evidence*, November 24, 2025 (Talia Klein Leighton, President, Canadian Women Against Antisemitism).

to be enforced. Regardless of one's preferred definition, the underlying reality of antisemitism remains the same, as do the legal standards for hate speech and discrimination.

Moreover, like all forms of hatred, antisemitism has evolved over time, and will, unfortunately, continue to evolve. As such, no definition can permanently encompass all of its possible manifestations and boundaries. As Artur Wilczynski, Senior Fellow, Graduate School of Public & International Affairs, University of Ottawa, underscored, the IHRA definition uses “many conditional words,... separates the core definition from a list of illustrative examples, and then implores those who use it to use good judgment and good sense” when interpreting it or applying it to a given policy question.⁸⁶ Others similarly highlighted that “IHRA is non-binding, educational, and consistent with the Charter’s balance between freedom of expression (s. 2(b)) and reasonable limits (s. 1).”⁸⁷

Excessive focus on defining antisemitism can be counterproductive. Definitions, whatever their source, do not protect Jewish people from harassment, violence or exclusion in Canada. While terminology can be important, semantic debates must not distract from the urgent need to effectively address the very real hostility that Jews encounter in Canadian society.

Recent Incidents of Antisemitism in Canada

While the committee was informed that studies show “most Canadians do not harbour antisemitic views,” as explained by Shimon Fogel, then Chief Executive Officer, Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, many Canadians neither understand antisemitism nor recognize that Jews are experiencing it. He emphasised the need to clearly explain what antisemitism looks like, how it feels and “how it manifests itself” in practice.⁸⁸

Rising antisemitism has led some Jewish Canadians to actively conceal their Jewish identity in public. For example, Mark Berlin, Professor, Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University shared that: “For years, I wore my

⁸⁶ RIDR, *Evidence*, December 1, 2025 (Artur Wilczynski, Senior Fellow, Graduate School of Public & International Affairs, University of Ottawa, As an individual).

⁸⁷ RIDR, *Brief*, November 21, 2025 (The Honourable Harry Laforme and Karen Restoule, As Individuals).

⁸⁸ RIDR, *Evidence*, December 2, 2024 (Shimon Fogel, Chief Executive Officer, Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs).

Magen David — my Star of David — quite openly at work, at leisure time, at the gym. I never took it off. Now when I go out in public, I conceal it.”⁸⁹

Throughout its study, the committee heard multiple testimonies of antisemitic incidents affecting numerous Canadian Jews, summarized in this section, which also presents statistics on antisemitism.

Youth experiences

The committee learned that antisemitic incidents have become part of the daily life of many young Canadians, especially since the events of October 7, 2023.

The Jewish Parents of Ottawa Students Association summarized these incidents in their brief:

*Jewish students opt to conceal their identity rather than confront the distressing realities of derogatory name-calling, character assassinations, isolation, and peer rejection. In more extreme circumstances, children as young as seven years old have encountered harassment, intimidation, physical assault, threats of both physical and sexual violence, and even death threats. In some reported incidents, teachers and administrators have further compounded the problem by sharing their own antisemitic and anti-Israeli views, or by trivializing or outright dismissing the concerns raised by Jewish students and families who have reported Jew-hate.*⁹⁰

Similar testimony was heard about experiences at universities. As explained by Pe’er Krut, President, Canadian Union of Jewish Students, antisemitism is present throughout campuses in Canada. The mere fact of being Jewish is enough to target students; “You’re the Jewish student, expected to justify, defend and respond for an entire people.”⁹¹ Professor Sucharov has seen, on her university campus, antisemitic examples of “social shunning and social ostracization, feeling very uncomfortable in their skin as Jews on campus.”⁹²

Justin Hebert, a former student and a former president of the Jewish Law Students Association at the University of Windsor, shared that:

⁸⁹ RIDR, *Evidence*, December 1, 2025 (Mark Berlin, Professor, Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University, As an Individual).

⁹⁰ RIDR, *Brief*, November 16, 2025 (Tamara Taub, Jewish Parents of Ottawa Students Association).

⁹¹ RIDR, *Evidence*, October 20, 2025 (Pe’er Krut, President Canadian Union of Jewish Students).

⁹² RIDR, *Evidence*, December 1, 2025 (Mira Sucharov).

After October 7, universities were simply not prepared for what was to come. Jewish students were suddenly being singled out, whether in hallways or in classrooms, and labelled colonizers and genocide supporters. Reports of sexual violence against Israeli women were openly mocked or belittled. When these issues were raised, the de facto response was often that universities exist to foster “uncomfortable conversations.” But I ask: How can I be expected to have a meaningful conversation with the student who told me the murder of Israelis is always justified while Israeli students are actively enrolled at the school, or that rape is a legitimate form of resistance, or that babies can be taken hostage if their parents are colonizers?

[...]

What we are witnessing on campuses today is, in fact, the attempted erasure of Jewish culture, tradition and history. This is not just a matter of political disagreement.⁹³

For Jewish youth, these incidents have impacted their social, emotional, psychological, and physical wellbeing.⁹⁴ More specifically, as shared by Rachel Cook, Student, University of Alberta, Jewish students express growing fear about whether Canada will remain a safe place for them in the future. Seeing peers chant exclusionary slogans – such as not wanting Zionists⁹⁵ here – makes Jewish students question whether they can securely build their lives and raise families in their own country.⁹⁶ In 2024, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights tabled a report on the rise of antisemitism on university campuses, proposing a number of solutions that remain important for the Government of Canada to consider.⁹⁷

The committee was troubled to hear that antisemitic hate is often perpetrated by young Canadians – many of whom deny the existence of the Holocaust and are disinformed or radicalized by social media.⁹⁸ The committee learned that “on November 13th, 2025, the Director of CSIS [Canadian Security Intelligence Service],

⁹³ RIDR, [Evidence](#), October 20, 2025 (Justin Hebert, As an Individual).

⁹⁴ RIDR, [Brief](#), November 24, 2025 (Allied Voices for Israel).

⁹⁵ As explained by Belle Jarniewski, Executive Director, Manitoba Institute to Combat Antisemitism, while the word “Jew” is often replaced by “Zionist,” the hateful ideas and imagery are the same today as they were decades ago. RIDR, [Evidence](#), October 20, 2025 (Belle Jarniewski).

⁹⁶ RIDR, [Evidence](#), November 24, 2025 (Rachel Cook, Student, University of Alberta, As an Individual).

⁹⁷ House of Commons, Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights, [Heightened Antisemitism in Canada and How to Confront It](#), 44th Parliament, 1st Session, December 2024.

⁹⁸ RIDR, [Evidence](#), October 20, 2025 (Richard Robertson).

Dan Rogers, reported that one in ten terrorism investigations at CSIS now includes at least one subject of investigation under the age of 18.”⁹⁹ The Jewish Parents of Ottawa Students Association shared that two Ottawa youth were arrested on charges of terrorism in early 2024.¹⁰⁰

Talia Klein Leighton, President, Canadian Women Against Antisemitism, deplored the politicization of classrooms¹⁰¹ – meaning that individuals in positions of authority at schools bring in their activist ideas without proper curriculum and teaching resources, creating group labels and an “us” versus “them” mentality.

Intersectional experiences

The committee also heard the lived experiences of Jewish women. In a written brief, Revi Mula, Vice-President Canadian Women Against Antisemitism, explained that “Jewish women face a unique and compounding vulnerability in Canada. They are targeted as Jews and as women. Their safety is threatened not only in public, but inside spaces that exist to protect women from violence.” For example, the committee heard that some “rape crisis centres, shelters, and women’s organizations have” refused Jewish women due to their identity being equated with the actions of Israel. She added that “Jewish women also face gendered antisemitism. They are subjected to slurs” and “explicit threats of rape.” She emphasized that “[t]he goal is dehumanization and intimidation.”¹⁰²

Committee members were interested in learning about the reality of the intersection between antisemitism, anti-Black racism and gender and they were fortunate to hear from Rivka Campbell, Executive Director of Beth Tikvah Synagogue and Co-Founder of Jews of Colour Canada. She is a “Black Jewish woman, carrying a complex duality.”¹⁰³ She explained that she faces antisemitic comments whether her Jewish identity is visible or not.

She stressed that “Jewish identity is not a monolith. It is a global, multicultural and multi-ethnic identity” and that the “persistent framing of Jews as White also erases ‘Jews of Colour’ and minimizes the racialized nature of the antisemitic hate itself.” She advocated for Canada to stop all “hate at its source through education, enforcement and leadership.”¹⁰⁴

⁹⁹ RIDR, *Brief*, November 16, 2025 (Tamara Taub, Jewish Parents of Ottawa Students Association).

¹⁰⁰ Ibid.

¹⁰¹ RIDR, *Evidence*, November 24, 2025 (Talia Klein Leighton).

¹⁰² RIDR, *Brief*, November 22, 2025 (Revi Mula, Canadian Women Against Antisemitism).

¹⁰³ RIDR, *Evidence*, October 20, 2025 (Rivka Campbell, Executive Director of Beth Tikvah Synagogue and Co-Founder of Jews of Colour Canada).

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

Other witnesses called on the committee to consider antisemitism as part of the larger anti-racism lens.¹⁰⁵ When speaking about her Jewish and Black identities, Ms. Campbell explained that:

Both are persecuted peoples and continue to be so. Both are branches of the same tree of hate and make natural allies. Especially in the Black community, when we continue to frame Jews as being of a certain hue, we're missing that opportunity to show how we walk in the same path and how we can actually hold hands and walk together to combat hate in general.¹⁰⁶

Karen Mock, Human Rights Consultant and Chair, Enhancing Social Justice Education Group; former Executive Director of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, and of the League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada, agreed. She added, “[w]e have always said there should be no hierarchy of oppression.” However, more recently, she noticed that “rather than working together as we once did, there seemed to be more polarization, separation, competition for funds and attention, and even vitriol and violence between groups.”¹⁰⁷

Workplaces

The committee heard allegations of antisemitism in various workplaces and unions, particularly in academic and medical fields.

According to the Jewish Academic Alliance Society of British Columbia, “Universities’ repeated claim to support equity, diversity, and inclusion gaslights Jewish faculty who feel targeted, unwelcome, and at times unsafe on campus.”¹⁰⁸ They further noted the financial and psychological burden of frequently needing professional security services – based on the recommendations of campus security – for events featuring Israeli speakers, even on uncontroversial topics that have no bearing on geopolitical events. They highlighted that the “need for security can be both costly

¹⁰⁵ RIDR, *Evidence*, December 9, 2024 (Deidre Butler); RIDR, *Evidence*, November 3, 2025 (Corey Balsam) and (Joshua Sealy-Harrington); RIDR, *Brief*, November 17, 2025 (Hillel BC); RIDR, *Brief*, November 17, 2025 (Alex Paterson, Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East).

¹⁰⁶ RIDR, *Evidence*, October 20, 2025 (Rivka Campbell).

¹⁰⁷ RIDR, *Evidence*, December 2, 2024 (Karen Mock, Human Rights Consultant and Chair, Enhancing Social Justice Education Group; former Executive Director of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, and of the League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada, As an Individual).

This polarization is also referenced in the briefs submitted by the Canadian Women Against Antisemitism. RIDR, *Brief*, November 22, 2025 (Revi Mula, Canadian Women Against Antisemitism); *Brief*, November 22, 2025 (Talia Klein Leighton, Canadian Women Against Antisemitism).

¹⁰⁸ RIDR, *Brief*, November 20, 2025 (Jewish Academic Alliance Society of British Columbia).

and intimidating for speakers and hosts — and illustrates the climate faced by Jewish, Israeli, and affiliated scholars.”¹⁰⁹

The committee heard that Jewish academics frequently face harassment and other forms of intimidation. For example, the Jewish Physicians Association of Manitoba shared the example of an online harassment campaign targeting the “top 6 Zionists at the University of Manitoba.”¹¹⁰ Professor Robinson informed the committee that some faculty members at the University of Toronto actively try to hide their Jewish identities for fear of antisemitic targeting.¹¹¹

Rabbi Andrew Rosenblatt from the Congregation Schrara Tzedek lamented that those who wish to advance in academia, the arts, and other sectors feel that they need to conceal synagogue affiliations or associations with Israel or face discrimination.¹¹² In a similar vein, the Network of Engaged Canadian Academics wrote that “when Jewish people speak up and defend their identity, they are often treated as social pariahs based on the libels, disinformation, and misinformation promoted by antizionists.”¹¹³

The committee heard that antisemitism is a growing concern among healthcare professionals.¹¹⁴ In a written brief, Doctors Against Racism and Antisemitism cited the example of staff physicians at a major children’s hospital being told to remove pins expressing solidarity with civilians held by Hamas in Gaza, but that pins expressing opposition to Israel were not restricted in the same way. The organization also cited examples of medical residents refusing to work with their Jewish colleagues, and of movements to boycott Israeli-produced pharmaceuticals, “compromis[ing] patient care and professional ethics.”¹¹⁵

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰ RIDR, *Brief*, November 29, 2025 (Dr. Charles N. Bernstein, Jewish Physicians Association of Manitoba).

¹¹¹ RIDR, *Evidence*, December 9, 2024 (Ira Robinson).

¹¹² RIDR, *Brief*, October 20, 2025 (Rabbi Andrew Rosenblatt, Congregation Schara Tzedek).

¹¹³ RIDR, *Brief*, November 19, 2025 (Network of Engaged Canadian Academics). For context, the Network of Engaged Canadian Academics describes antizionism as relying on “on libel and distortion to claim that the Jewish collective, Israel, rather than the individual Jew, is uniquely evil. It further asserts that Jews, who have thousands of years of history in this place, are fabricating a legitimate claim to their ancestral homeland. By erasing this history, antizionists dismiss Jews as nefarious settlers who have usurped the rights of the true indigenous people, Palestinians. Antizionism claims that Israel, exceptionally, is the one state that must be eradicated.”

¹¹⁴ RIDR, *Brief*, November 17, 2025 (Dr. Larry Barzelai, Jewish Medical Association of B.C.); RIDR, *Brief*, November 16, 2025 (Dr. Deron Brown, Jewish Medical Association of Ontario); RIDR, *Brief*, November 17, 2025 (Association des Médecins Juifs du Québec); RIDR, *Brief*, November 21, 2025 (Jewish Healthcare Association of Alberta); RIDR, *Brief*, November 29, 2025 (Dr. Charles N. Bernstein, Jewish Physicians Association of Manitoba).

¹¹⁵ RIDR, *Brief*, November 13, 2025 (Dr. Karine Toledano, Doctors Against Racism and Antisemitism).

Unions can serve an important function in protecting against discrimination in professional settings. Unfortunately, the committee heard examples of unions failing to support members facing antisemitism.

For example, Carrie Silverberg recounted her experiences advocating for the inclusion of antisemitism in union discussions about discrimination. She described being yelled at while speaking at a convention, stating that it was “demoralizing to be in that atmosphere, knowing these are supposed to be the people standing up for me, fighting for my rights, and they are the first ones to scream at me and want me to go away just because I’m a Jew and standing up for my people.”¹¹⁶ She described being so exhausted by the hate and discrimination she faces that she often wants to quit her job so that she no longer has to be affiliated with her union. Instead, she stated that she has filed a discrimination complaint against CUPE Ontario.¹¹⁷

Several other witnesses raised concerns about the normalization of antisemitism in unions.¹¹⁸ According to Kim Kazur, Canadian Jewish Labour Committee, “antisemitism is pervasive throughout unions – often masked as Palestinian support.”¹¹⁹ She informed the committee that three unions currently have complaints against them at the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal for antisemitism, arguing that this is because “dozens of members in these unions reported their experiences to their unions and were ignored or dismissed.”¹²⁰ She suggested that other mechanisms are needed to ensure union leaders behave appropriately when dealing with matters unrelated to their relationships with employers. In her words, “If unions are going to continue to step outside their lane, then that lane needs some guardrails.”¹²¹

In a written brief, Revi Mula underscored how union rhetoric can shape “youth spaces, classrooms, public-sector culture, and university activism.”¹²²

Community centres and places of worship

For many Jewish communities across Canada, this current, heightened period of antisemitism is bringing not only fear, but also direct threats to their synagogues and community centres —spaces meant to be safe, communal, and sacred.

¹¹⁶ RIDR, *Evidence*, October 20, 2025 (Carrie Silverberg, As an Individual).

¹¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁸ RIDR, *Evidence*, October 20, 2025 (Ginaya Peters, Teacher, BC Teachers Against Antisemitism); RIDR, *Brief*, November 15, 2025 (Lauren Frenkel and Ori Freiman, as individuals).

¹¹⁹ RIDR, *Brief*, November 19, 2025 (Kim Kazur, Canadian Jewish Labour Committee).

¹²⁰ *Ibid.*

¹²¹ *Ibid.*

¹²² RIDR, *Brief*, November 22, 2025 (Revi Mula, Canadian Women Against Antisemitism).

Since October 7, 2023, the committee has learned that synagogues have been directly targeted as sites for protests related to the actions of the Israeli government and the war in Gaza. Ms. Campbell informed the committee that her synagogue has been targeted repeatedly, and highlighted that:

*these incidents leave a lasting fear. Congregants are traumatized, and some will not attend synagogue because of that fear. A synagogue is not just a building, it's a spiritual home, and when that home becomes a target, it shakes the foundation of our community.*¹²³

Rabbi Rosenblatt shared a similar story of rising antisemitic incidents. The committee was troubled to learn that his synagogue was the target of an arson attack while community members “were either still in the building or just exiting the premises.”¹²⁴

Other witnesses shared that they saw an increase in vandalism or intimidation at their places of worship and community centers.¹²⁵ They also shared that increased security does not necessarily deter or reduce antisemitic incidents. For example, Stacey Leavitt-Wright, Chief Executive Officer, Jewish Federation of Edmonton, shared that:

*[d]uring an announcement and outdoor gathering for our new Jewish community centre this past month [in September 2025], we were subjected to sustained harassment, undeterred even by police presence. While free speech is protected, targeted intimidation is not.*¹²⁶

In another instance, in Montreal, the committee learned that “the Jewish community centre was under siege, with people not able to go out for hours and then finally being escorted by police through the backdoor.”¹²⁷

¹²³ RIDR, [Evidence](#), October 20, 2025 (Rivka Campbell).

¹²⁴ RIDR, [Brief](#), October 20, 2025 (Rabbi Andrew Rosenblatt, Congregation Shara Tzedek).

¹²⁵ RIDR, [Evidence](#), December 2, 2024 (Shimon Fogel); RIDR, [Evidence](#), December 9, 2024 (Deidre Butler); RIDR, [Evidence](#), October 20, 2025 (Stacey Leavitt-Wright, Chief Executive Officer, Jewish Federation of Edmonton); RIDR, [Brief](#), 2 December 2024 (Alliance of Canadians Combatting Antisemitism); RIDR, [Brief](#), November 22, 2025 (Revi Mula, Canadian Women Against Antisemitism).

¹²⁶ RIDR, [Evidence](#), October 20, 2025 (Stacey Leavitt-Wright).

¹²⁷ RIDR, [Evidence](#), December 2, 2024 (Shimon Fogel).

As stated by Mr. Levitt, “Jewish Canadians, like all Canadians, should never have to think twice about their safety when sending their children to school or attending synagogue.”¹²⁸

As such, the committee recommends:

That the Government of Canada increase funding to the Canada Community Security Program and streamline requests and approval procedures for critical community safety infrastructure and security needs of targeted communities and events.

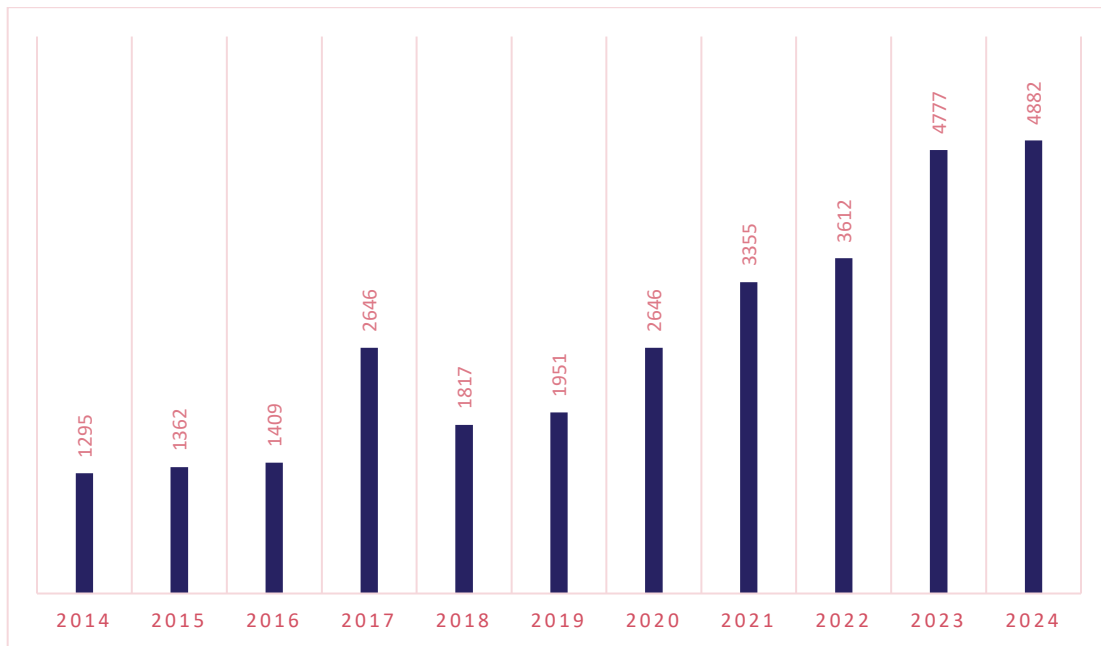
Data and its limitations

Canadians have reported to the police an increasing number of criminal incidents that were motivated by hate. In 2024, there were 4,882 incidents of police-reported hate crime. This is a significant increase from 2019, when 1,951 incidents were recorded, and from 2014, when 1,295 incidents were recorded. Figure 1, below, reproduces the values recorded by Statistics Canada between 2014 and 2024. It is important to bear in mind that these numbers only include incidents of hate crimes reported to and recorded by police and that not all incidents are reported.¹²⁹

¹²⁸ RIDR, *Evidence*, October 20, 2025 (Michael Levitt).

¹²⁹ Statistics Canada *clarifies*, under the definition section, that “police-reported hate crime data are drawn from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, a census of all criminal incidents known to police services in Canada.” “Police data on hate crimes reflect only the incidents that come to the attention of police and are classified as hate crimes. Police determine whether a crime was motivated by hatred. They indicate the type of motivation based on information gathered during the investigation and common national guidelines for record classification. Hate crime counts include both confirmed and suspected hate crime incidents.”

Figure 1 – Total Number of Police-reported Hate Crime Incidents in Canada, 2014–2024



Source: Figure prepared using data obtained from Statistics Canada, “[Police-reported hate crime in Canada](#),” Police-reported Information Hub, Hate crime in Canada, data accessed January 19, 2026.

More specifically, Public Safety Canada informed the committee that, based on Statistics Canada’s data

hate crimes targeting religious groups increased over the years, peaking in 2023 at 1,345 incidents—a 75% increase from 2022. In 2024, the number of hate crimes targeting religious groups (1,342 incidents) remained relatively stable compared to 2023. The number of religion-motivated hate crimes targeting the Jewish community peaked in 2023 (959 incidents—an 82% increase from 2022), but decreased by 4% in 2024 (920 incidents).

[...]

In the past few years, hate crimes targeting religious groups represented the second largest proportion of all reported hate crime incidents (27% in 2024; 28% in 2023). Among religion-based hate crimes, the majority

targeted the Jewish community (69% in 2024; 71% in 2023), followed by the Muslim community (17% in 2024; 16% in 2023).¹³⁰

At the time of the study, only preliminary quarterly data was available for 2025. The department indicated that:

Looking at the year-to-date figures (January to June), there were overall fewer police-reported hate crimes in the first two quarters of 2025 (2,231) than in the same period in 2024 (2,384). This trend was also found for religion-motivated hate crimes (495 in 2025 compared to 637 in 2024), particularly those targeting Jewish communities (343 in 2025 compared to 419 in 2024) and Muslim communities (79 in 2025 compared to 112 in 2024). This suggests that the cumulative trend for 2025 so far remains downward compared to 2024.¹³¹

The committee understands that victims of crime may choose to report – or not to report – an incident to police for a wide range of reasons.

Another way to look at data regarding hate crimes is through Statistics Canada's General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety, which aims to better understand with self-reported data how Canadians, in all provinces and territories, perceive crime and the justice system and to capture information on their experiences of victimization.¹³² The GSS specifically asks whether a criminal incident was reported, as well as reasons for reporting or not reporting an incident. The most recent version available is from 2019.¹³³ However, Statistics Canada reported that:

Due to a smaller number of respondents in 2019, it was not possible to analyze reasons for reporting or not reporting self-reported hate crime incidents. It was, however, possible to analyze overall crime incidents. In 2019, most criminal incidents were not reported, with about three in ten (29%) coming to the attention of police. [...] Generally speaking, household victimization incidents were more likely than violent incidents to have been brought to the attention of the police (35% versus 24%). Women were half as likely as men to have reported an incident of violent

¹³⁰ RIDR, [Brief](#), November 28, 2025 (Tricia Geddes, Public Safety Canada).

¹³¹ Ibid.

¹³² For more information, refer to Statistics Canada, [General Social Survey - Canadians' Safety \(GSS\)](#).

¹³³ Up until 2025, the General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety data was published every five years. However, as of 2025, with funding under the Canada Action Plan on Combatting Hate, the GSS on Canadians' Safety will run every three years for more timely data.

victimization to police (18% versus 36%). [...] Younger victims of violent crime were less likely than their older counterparts to have reported the incident to police. Among those under 35 years of age, 16% indicated that the incident had been brought to the attention of police, compared to 38% among those 35 or older. These groups were equally likely to have reported household victimization to police, however.¹³⁴

The committee asked for more information about the victim characteristics in police-reported violent hate crime and cyber-related violent hate crime between 2018 and 2024. Statistics Canada responded that victim information is only collected for violent violations in the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey,¹³⁵ which “represents all crimes that come to the attention of police services across the country”.¹³⁶

For violent hate crimes reported by police between 2018 and 2024 (10,388 total victims), 62% of victims were men and 38% were women. That ratio was different for police-reported violent hate crimes with a cyber component from 2018 to 2024 (849 total victims); 52% were men and 48% were women. Statistics Canada added:

This shows there is a more even distribution between men and women victims compared to total hate crimes. This differed somewhat for selected motivation types. For example, cyber hate crimes targeting a sexual orientation were more often men, with 58% men and 42% women victims, and cyber hate crimes targeting the Muslim population were 61% men and 39% women.¹³⁷

Statistics Canada also reported that “[t]he median age of victims involved in cyber hate crimes targeting a religion tended to be older, with a median age of 43 versus 33 for total hate crimes. Victims of cyber hate crimes targeting the Jewish (median age 47 years) and Muslim (36 years) populations were older than for total cyber hate crime victims (33 years).”¹³⁸

Stacey Leavitt-Wright asked that the federal government improve its hate crime data collection, with consistent national standards to capture the true scope of antisemitism and to craft effective policy responses.¹³⁹ Gayatri Jayaraman, Director

¹³⁴ RIDR, *Brief*, December 10, 2025 (Statistics Canada).

¹³⁵ For more information, refer to Statistics Canada, *Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR)*.

¹³⁶ RIDR, *Evidence*, December 1, 2025 (Gayatri Jayaraman, Director General, Social, Justice and Indigenous Statistics, Statistics Canada).

¹³⁷ RIDR, *Brief*, December 10, 2025 (Statistics Canada).

¹³⁸ *Ibid.*

¹³⁹ RIDR, *Evidence*, October 20, 2025 (Stacey Leavitt-Wright).

General, Social, Justice and Indigenous Statistics, Statistics Canada, explained that police reported crime data is gathered according to a set of national classification guidelines with strict legal criteria that has been substantiated through investigation.¹⁴⁰

Mohammed Hashim, Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Race Relations Foundation informed the committee that:

*The biggest gap we have for statistics is that we don't know how many hate crimes have happened. We know police-reported hate incidents or crimes, but we have zero data that is cumulative or definitive about convictions. Of all the biggest data gaps we have, I think that's the one that needs to be fixed most urgently.*¹⁴¹

The committee asked the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) for information or data on the number of convictions in relation to antisemitism. The RCMP noted that it “does not have readily available statistics related to charges, prosecutions, or convictions.”¹⁴² It referred the committee to Statistics Canada’s general data on adult and youth court cases.¹⁴³ However, the data is not broken down into specific offences. The apparent failure of the RCMP, Statistics Canada, or any other body to collect comprehensive, disaggregated data on hate crimes is a serious concern that hampers progress on confronting antisemitism and all forms of hate in Canada.

Deidre Butler, Associate Professor, Network of Engaged Canadian Academics, told the committee that better data is needed to be able to understand “the different hatreds and the different experiences of minority groups and vulnerable populations.” She underscored that “we also have to listen to the distinct narratives and scholarship that helps us understand these experiences.”¹⁴⁴

David Janzen, Executive Director, Strategic Oversight and Integration, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, noted another limitation of hate crime data, which is that “Many communities that are impacted by hate crimes traditionally have not had the

¹⁴⁰ RIDR, [Evidence](#), December 1, 2025 (Gayatri Jayaraman).

¹⁴¹ RIDR, [Evidence](#), December 1, 2025 (Mohammed Hashim, Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Race Relations Foundation).

¹⁴² RIDR, [Brief](#), February 10, 2026 (Royal Canadian Mounted Police).

¹⁴³ For more information, refer to Statistics Canada, [Integrated Criminal Court Survey: Interactive Dashboard on Annual Key Indicators](#).

¹⁴⁴ RIDR, [Evidence](#), December 9, 2024 (Deidre Butler).

level of trust in policing to be able to go to report,” highlighting the need for police to build relationships of trust with marginalized communities.¹⁴⁵

While there are limitations to the available data and the precise conclusions that can be drawn from them, the statistics are nevertheless striking. As summarized by Ms. Lyons:

*our Jewish community comprises only 1% of the population but endures now 70% of all religiously motivated hate crimes and now tops the charts as the target for overall hate crimes, well ahead of LGBTQ, anti-Black and anti-Muslim hate. Canada has seen this huge uptick in antisemitism, but I would argue that we are also one of the most active countries in combatting it.*¹⁴⁶

As such, the committee recommends:

That the Government of Canada support improved research and disaggregated data collection relating to hate, bias, and antisemitism in Canada, including the monitoring of trends across sectors such as education, workplaces, and digital platforms.

Combatting Antisemitism in Canada

This section outlines many of the recommendations, received during the committee’s study, under four sub-headings: criminal law, education, online hate and foreign interference.

Before unpacking each of these categories, the committee agrees with Professor Robinson that human rights are a cornerstone of our society, yet antisemitism is resurfacing from a distorted “idea that the Jews are responsible for denial of, for instance, Palestinian human rights.”¹⁴⁷ Such generalization, or group labeling as explained by Annie Ohana, Equity Department Head and Anti Oppression Curriculum

¹⁴⁵ RIDR, *Evidence*, October 27, 2025 (David Janzen, Executive Director, Strategic Oversight and Integration, Royal Canadian Mounted Police).

¹⁴⁶ RIDR, *Evidence*, December 9, 2024 (Deborah Lyons).

¹⁴⁷ RIDR, *Evidence*, December 9, 2024 (Ira Robinson).

Specialist, can foster hostility and hate.¹⁴⁸ It is important to avoid assigning collective blame to entire ethnic or religious groups.

Sheryl Saperia, Chief Executive Officer, Secure Canada, told the committee: “Antisemitic and extremist rhetoric have grown so commonplace in Canada that they no longer provoke outrage. We must actively resist this instinct to normalize antisemitism.”¹⁴⁹ The Network of Engaged Canadian Academics expressed its view that “demonizing the Jewish collective through ideological accusation and conspiratorial framing is not dialogue—it is egregious perversion, and it is discriminatory.”¹⁵⁰ The committee agrees with witnesses who emphasized the value of robust dialogue that respects each other’s personhood, especially during difficult conversations¹⁵¹, including about “Israel, Israeli politics, the conduct of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Government of Israel.”¹⁵²

Brian Bronfman, President and Co-founder, Peace Network for Social Harmony, highlighted a positive practice in this regard, in which McGill students were given the opportunity to dialogue around difficult and divisive issues, such as the war in Gaza. He explained that:

*While there have been moments of pain, discomfort and tears, these conversations have inevitably created the kinds of relationships among students that are based in deeper understanding, greater empathy and increased connection, all of which are sorely needed in these times of division and polarization.*¹⁵³

The committee also agrees with a concern raised by Kenneth Stern, Director, Bard Center for the Study of Hate about the state of our democracy, namely that:

our ability to fight hate, including antisemitism, is directly related to the strength of our democratic institutions. Jews have been particularly

¹⁴⁸ RIDR, [Evidence](#), December 1, 2025 (Annie Ohana, Equity Department Head and Anti Oppression Curriculum Specialist, As an Individual).

¹⁴⁹ RIDR, [Evidence](#), October 27, 2025 (Sheryl Saperia).

¹⁵⁰ RIDR, [Brief](#), November 19, 2025 (Network of Engaged Canadian Academics).

¹⁵¹ RIDR, [Evidence](#), December 2, 2024 (Mark Sandler, Chair, Alliance of Canadians Combatting antisemitism) and (Karen Mock); RIDR, [Evidence](#), October 20, 2025 (Pe’er Krut) and (Justin Hebert); RIDR, [Evidence](#), November 24, 2025 (Noah Lew); RIDR, [Evidence](#), December 1, 2025 (Mira Sucharov,) and (Annie Ohana); RIDR, [Brief](#), November 19, 2025 (Network of Engaged Canadian Academics).

¹⁵² RIDR, [Brief](#), November 19, 2025 (Network of Engaged Canadian Academics).

¹⁵³ RIDR, [Evidence](#), November 24, 2025 (Brian Bronfman, President and Co-founder, Peace Network for Social Harmony, As an Individual).

*vulnerable during times when free speech, academic freedom and due process were under duress.*¹⁵⁴

Other witnesses were similarly concerned about the state of Canada’s democracy,¹⁵⁵ with the normalization of antisemitism, of “right-wing and left-wing extremism”¹⁵⁶, and of the beliefs that Jews are “the scapegoat for all of the world’s problems”¹⁵⁷. As summarized by Mr. Levitt, “[s]tanding up to antisemitism is not just about protecting one community; it’s about safeguarding the moral foundation of our democracy.”¹⁵⁸ For that reason, echoing the words of Professor Sucharov, the committee urges everyone to push “back together against all oppression, so that everybody’s basic rights are honoured.”¹⁵⁹

Peter Larson from the Ottawa Forum on Israel/Palestine went even further – he recommended that “the Government of Canada should make it clear that supporting Zionism or opposing it are equally protected by free speech.”¹⁶⁰

The committee wishes to underscore the importance of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* in upholding and furthering democracy and the rule of law in Canada. Ensuring that all laws and policies adhere to the Charter is of utmost importance, and the committee reaffirms its commitment to these basic rights for everyone in Canada.

Criminal Law

As the Cohen Committee recognized more than sixty years ago, some forms of hate are so egregious that criminal law responses are not only appropriate, but necessary. In the midst of rising levels of antisemitism, several witnesses contended that *Criminal Code* amendments are needed to better protect Canadian Jewish communities and others affected by hate. With the introduction of Bill C-9 in

¹⁵⁴ RIDR, [Evidence](#), December 1, 2025 (Kenneth Stern, Director, Bard Center for the Study of Hate, As an Individual).

¹⁵⁵ RIDR, [Evidence](#), December 2, 2024 (Shimon Fogel); RIDR, [Evidence](#), October 20, 2025 (Belle Jarniewski); RIDR, [Evidence](#), October 27, 2025 (Sheryl Saperia); RIDR, [Evidence](#), November 24, 2025 (Noah Lew) and (His Excellency Iddo Moed, Ambassador, Embassy of Israel to Canada, As an Individual); RIDR, [Brief](#), November 17, 2025 (Independent Jewish Voices); RIDR, [Brief](#), November 21, 2025 (The Honourable Harry Laforme and Karen Restoule, As Individuals).

¹⁵⁶ RIDR, [Evidence](#), December 2, 2024 (Karen Mock).

¹⁵⁷ RIDR, [Evidence](#), November 24, 2025 (Noah Lew).

¹⁵⁸ RIDR, [Evidence](#), October 20, 2025 (Michael Levitt).

¹⁵⁹ RIDR, [Evidence](#), December 1, 2025 (Mira Sucharov).

¹⁶⁰ RIDR, [Brief](#), November 18, 2025 (Peter Larson, Ottawa Forum on Israel/Palestine).

September 2025, it appears that the federal government shares this view.¹⁶¹ While the committee was not authorized to study Bill C-9, elements of the bill were discussed by witnesses as they relate to antisemitism in Canada.

Bill C-9 includes several key features which were supported in principle by most witnesses. Bill C-9 would create a new overarching hate crime offence that applies when any other offence is motivated by hate, essentially raising the maximum sentence for hate-motivated crimes. It adds a *Criminal Code* definition of hatred as “an emotion of an intense and extreme nature that is clearly associated with vilification and detestation.”¹⁶² It would create a new offence of promoting hatred through the display of certain terrorism and hate symbols, adding greater specificity to the existing offence of promoting hatred. Finally, it would create new prohibitions relating to intimidation, obstruction or interference with access to places of worship – such as synagogues – and certain other cultural and religious social infrastructure.

Mr. Westmacott emphasized that Bill C-9 “addresses some of the concerns that have been raised by the policing community and other communities, like the Jewish community, to actually take action” in cases that are currently not being adequately addressed.¹⁶³

Mr. Janzen referred the committee to the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police statement on Bill C-9, which is supportive of the bill.¹⁶⁴ Specifically, the statement argues from a policing perspective that providing a clear definition of hatred will reduce ambiguity and better enable police to lay charges when behaviour crosses the line into criminality. Similarly, it argues that the new intimidation and obstruction offences are necessary to help deter hate-motivated individuals and groups.¹⁶⁵

The Toronto Police Service Hate Crime Unit was also broadly supportive of Bill C-9, but highlighted potential areas for amendment or further study, including expanding the offence of public incitement of hatred “to include the public display of paraphernalia – such as flags – associated with a terrorist group, as defined by the *Criminal Code*, as an additional element of the offence.” Their brief also noted that “the obstruction or interference with access offence would apply to every person,

¹⁶¹ [Bill C-9, An Act to amend the Criminal Code \(hate propaganda, hate crime and access to religious or cultural places\)](#), 45th Parliament, 1st Session.

¹⁶² *Ibid.*

¹⁶³ RIDR, [Evidence](#), October 27, 2025 (Chad Westmacott).

¹⁶⁴ RIDR, [Evidence](#), October 27, 2025 (David Janzen).

¹⁶⁵ Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, [Canada’s Police Chiefs Welcome Bill C-9: Combatting Hate Act](#), October 8, 2025.

and not just to a member of the targeted identifiable group. Therefore, this offence is broader than what was suggested.”¹⁶⁶

Most witnesses expressed support for the objectives of Bill C-9. For example, Mr. Robertson highlighted elements of the bill that B’Nai Brith has been advocating for, including banning the use of terror symbols and Nazi iconography to willfully promote hate, and the amendments relating to intimidation and obstruction of houses of worship and related infrastructure. He stated:

*The legislation requires some revision, but, in general, we think that it’s strong in that we hope the government will take the opportunity to work with stakeholders in committee to perfect the legislation so that, as expeditiously as possible, we can have amendments made to the Criminal Code that will help strengthen our ability to protect our communities at a time when they truly need it.*¹⁶⁷

Similarly, Mr. Levitt described Bill C-9 as having “some very important elements,” but also emphasized the importance of further training and commitment by police and prosecutors to use both new and existing tools to address criminal incidents.¹⁶⁸ To that end, Mohammed Hashim highlighted the promising practice of training prosecutors using a database of case law on section 718.2(a)(i) of the Code.¹⁶⁹ In its written response to committee, the RCMP noted that it requires its employees to complete two mandatory online courses relating to antisemitism, namely *Cultural Awareness and Humility* and *United Against Racism*. The “RCMP is also piloting a course on foundational hate crimes concepts, entitled *Training on Hate Crimes and Incidents for Frontline Police Officers in Canada*, launched in March 2025, which is also available on the Canadian Police Knowledge Network to police services across Canada.”¹⁷⁰

Ms. Saperia also expressed support for Bill C-9 in principle, but argued that amendments were needed to retain the requirement of Attorney General consent for the prosecution of hate propaganda offences in provinces with a mechanism for private prosecutions, and that “the definition of hatred needs to be absolutely consistent with the *Keegstra* decision.”¹⁷¹ Since Ms. Saperia’s testimony, the House

¹⁶⁶ RIDR, *Brief*, November 14, 2025 (Toronto Police Service Hate Crime Unit).

¹⁶⁷ RIDR, *Evidence*, October 20, 2025 (Richard Robertson).

¹⁶⁸ RIDR, *Evidence*, October 20, 2025 (Michael Levitt).

¹⁶⁹ RIDR, *Evidence*, December 1, 2025 (Mohammed Hashim).

¹⁷⁰ RIDR, *Brief*, February 10, 2026 (Royal Canadian Mounted Police).

¹⁷¹ RIDR, *Evidence*, October 27, 2025 (Sheryl Saperia).

of Commons amended both of these elements of Bill C-9 in a manner consistent with her recommendations.

While most witnesses were broadly supportive of Bill C-9 and its objectives, some witnesses expressed concerns about its potential impact on the rights to freedom of expression and assembly.

For example, Professor Sealy-Harrington stated that it is a misleading piece of legislation for combatting hate. He noted that “37 civil society organizations, including the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, Independent Jewish Voices Canada and the Black Legal Action Centre, signed a joint letter, urging the government to reverse course on Bill C-9 because it threatens constitutionally protected expression and, with profound irony, threatens marginalized groups’ abilities to protest outside of their own institutions.”¹⁷²

Similarly, Corey Balsam, National Coordinator, Independent Jewish Voices, expressed concern that it targets only certain types of hate symbols, and not, for example, the Confederate flag, the noose, or Ku Klux Klan symbols.¹⁷³

Several witnesses compared Bill C-9 to municipal “bubble zone” bylaws, which emerged in the 1990s to protect access to abortion clinics. For example, Mark Sandler, Chair, Alliance of Canadians Combatting antisemitism, suggested that, given some of these existing examples, there is scope for federal, provincial and municipal governments to create bubble zone laws that “give communities an added sense of security and safety without preventing people from exercising their free speech.”¹⁷⁴ He noted bylaws from British Columbia and the City of Vaughan as examples.

Shimon Fogel explained that such laws provide:

*a sense of security that allows people to access places that are important for their identity, and their cultural or religious expression. It sends a signal to those who would put that under threat that there are limits beyond which they’re not permitted to go. That, too, sends the kind of signal that is almost like a non-verbal cue that forces people to reflect upon what it is they’re doing, and what the consequences and implications are for others.*¹⁷⁵

¹⁷² RIDR, [Evidence](#), November 3, 2025 (Joshua Sealy-Harrington).

¹⁷³ RIDR, [Evidence](#), November 3, 2025 (Corey Balsam).

¹⁷⁴ RIDR, [Evidence](#), December 2, 2024 (Mark Sandler).

¹⁷⁵ RIDR, [Evidence](#), December 2, 2024 (Shimon Fogel).

The committee notes that “bubble zone” bylaws to protect certain social infrastructure have recently been enacted in several Canadian cities, including Brampton, Oakville, Toronto and Vaughan. While the British Columbia Court of Appeal has upheld similar restrictions in the context of abortion clinics,¹⁷⁶ there is limited jurisprudence on these types of laws. The committee supports the objectives of these laws, while noting that restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression and assembly must be carefully tailored to the harms they seek to prevent.

While the committee did not study Bill C-9, many of the committee’s recommendations align with its objectives. Firstly, the addition of a stand-alone hate crime offence is consistent with this committee’s previous recommendation.¹⁷⁷ Secondly, defining hatred in the *Criminal Code* would provide important clarity to police and should enable more consistent charging decisions for hate propaganda and hate-motivated offences. Thirdly, while willful promotion of hatred has been an offence in the Code since shortly after the Cohen Committee’s recommendations, adding explicit prohibitions on using terror symbols and Nazi iconography may assist law enforcement in better recognizing when such offences are occurring. Finally, the committee supports adding prohibitions on intimidation and obstruction of religious and social infrastructure, so long as these appropriately balance the rights of worshipers with the rights of protestors.

In addition to these specific legislative changes, federal and provincial governments should work to ensure clear reporting pathways for hate incidents, better data collection and analysis, and enhanced coordination between law enforcement and community organizations. Several witnesses highlighted the value that specialized hate crime units can have in achieving these objectives.¹⁷⁸

Finally, the committee wishes to emphasize that everyone in Canada has a right to express offensive ideas. Criminal law is an important tool in combatting antisemitism when it crosses a line that a free and democratic society cannot permit. More nuanced approaches are required to address antisemitism that falls short of that threshold, as outlined elsewhere in this report.

With these considerations in mind, the committee recommends:

That the Government of Canada review existing *Criminal Code* provisions relating to hate propaganda and hate-motivated offences, with particular regard

¹⁷⁶ *R. v. Spratt*, 2008 BCCA 340.

¹⁷⁷ RIDR, *Combating Hate: Islamophobia and Its Impact on Muslims in Canada*, 2023, recommendation 4. Note that this report was adopted by the committee as it existed in the First session of the Forty-fourth Parliament.

¹⁷⁸ See for example RIDR, *Evidence*, December 2, 2024 (Shimon Fogel); and RIDR, *Evidence*, December 1, 2025 (Mohammed Hashim).

to Supreme Court of Canada jurisprudence, in order to ensure that the law clearly addresses conduct that promotes the intense and extreme detestation and vilification of identifiable groups.

That the Government of Canada examine legislative measures to address intimidation and obstruction that interferes with access to community spaces associated with identifiable groups, including religious institutions, schools, and cultural centres, while ensuring consistency with constitutional protections.

That, in a manner consistent with Supreme Court of Canada jurisprudence and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, the Government of Canada review legislative options to address the display of symbols associated with hate groups, such as Nazi and White supremacist symbols, when used with the intent of willfully promoting hatred against identifiable groups.

That the Government of Canada encourage municipalities, provinces and territories to consider narrowly tailored “safe access” or “bubble zone” measures where appropriate to protect access to religious institutions, places of worship, and community spaces (such as libraries, recreational facilities, and hospitals) while respecting the Charter-protected freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly.

That the Government of Canada support evidence-informed training initiatives for police, prosecutors, and other justice-sector actors at all three levels of government to improve their ability to identify and respond to hate and bias motivated crimes, including antisemitic offences.

That the Government of Canada, with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police as the lead, work with provincial and territorial governments to establish and effectively resource specialized hate crime units in all major cities and regions across Canada, with a focus on education, community outreach, investigation, disaggregated data collection, information sharing, prosecution, and deradicalization efforts.

Education

The committee believes, as stated by Mr. Bronfman, that hate cannot simply be legislated away. It is important to

bridge the gap between education and experience, which is incredibly valuable since experience is where real change occurs, not just in the mind but in the heart. ... You need to find concrete ways based in

*experience that affect the individual at their core and lead to personal change.*¹⁷⁹

Throughout its study, the committee heard about the critical role of education to address antisemitism in Canada. These educational initiatives were discussed first for children in primary and secondary schools, but the committee also heard of the need to educate all age groups.¹⁸⁰ Karen Mock believes this public awareness is especially important since “we are in a systemically racist society and there’s systemic antisemitism, and people [don’t] even understand their own complicity in that because it’s just part of the air that we live and breathe.”¹⁸¹

To maintain Canada’s democracy, witnesses argued that across all levels of governments there should be investments in education and awareness-raising about past and present forms of antisemitism in Canada.¹⁸²

With respect to awareness, the committee heard about Canada’s efforts in terms of educating the public about the Holocaust and antisemitism, starting in the late twentieth century, with “Holocaust museums in Montreal, Vancouver and across this country. These are not mere museums; they have in their mission statements to bring in as many students, whether primary or secondary.”¹⁸³ However, the committee also learned that “Canada was the last country in the Western world to erect a national Holocaust memorial monument.”¹⁸⁴ Today, there are two monuments commemorating the Holocaust. The first one is at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 in Halifax since 2011. It is called *The Wheel of Conscience*, and it commemorates the MS *St. Louis* refugees. The second is the *Landscape of Loss, Memory and Survival*, the National Holocaust Monument that was unveiled in Ottawa on 27 September 2017. It recognizes the Holocaust and its Jewish survivors’ contributions to Canada.

While these elements of awareness are important, they do not reach everyone in the country. Shimon Fogel suggested that all levels of government should be educating the general population about antisemitism through ads and videos in a

¹⁷⁹ RIDR, *Evidence*, November 24, 2025 (Brian Bronfman).

¹⁸⁰ RIDR, *Evidence*, December 2, 2024 (Karen Mock); RIDR, *Evidence*, December 9, 2024 (Deborah Lyons); RIDR, *Evidence*, October 20, 2025 (Stacey Leavitt-Wright) and (Ginaya Peters).

¹⁸¹ RIDR, *Evidence*, December 2, 2024 (Karen Mock).

¹⁸² RIDR, *Evidence*, December 2, 2024 (Shimon Fogel) and (Karen Mock); RIDR, *Evidence*, October 20, 2025 (Michael Levitt); RIDR, *Evidence*, October 20, 2025 (Ginaya Peters) and (Eyal Daniel, President, Holocaust and Antisemitism Educators Association).

¹⁸³ RIDR, *Evidence*, December 9, 2024 (Ira Robinson).

¹⁸⁴ Adara Goldberg and Andrew McIntosh, “[Canada and the Holocaust](#),” *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, 1 June 2020.

“sustained, continuous, consistent” manner to ensure broad public awareness.¹⁸⁵ This method was used in Ontario and Quebec, as well as other provinces, for school-aged children and it had a successful impact.

Concerning education, committee members were told to start with educators,¹⁸⁶ because many are not knowledgeable about antisemitism. As stated by Mr. Levitt:

*It’s incredibly important that educators are aware, because in many cases it can be ignorance and not hate that fuels what we’re seeing on the front lines [today. T]he ability to ground students in what it means to be Canadian, to build that pride and identity and that comfort level of them interacting with our institutions of government. [W]e do have vast differentials in what type of education is available province-to-province, with some doing much more in depth, and it’s very important that antisemitism is part of that discussion. Holocaust and antisemitism education must not be an optional enrichment; it must be a national priority.*¹⁸⁷

The committee heard that if educators and others interacting with children are aware of antisemitism and its impacts, they should be able to make safe spaces for them.¹⁸⁸ However, in a written brief, Rabbi Rosenblatt pointed to a decision by the BC Teachers Federation to reject a proposed specialist association for Holocaust and antisemitism education. Eyal Daniel, President, Holocaust and Antisemitism Educators Association, explained that his organization sought this status to address the “growing need for comprehensive educational materials and professional development opportunities for teachers about the Holocaust and antisemitism.”¹⁸⁹ He managed to get a non-profit status and created those resources with a group of Jewish and non-Jewish educators who volunteered their time and knowledge.¹⁹⁰ The committee applauds their dedication.

To uphold trust in government and in one another,¹⁹¹ witnesses told the committee that civic education is needed to cultivate citizenship competencies, such as

¹⁸⁵ RIDR, [Evidence](#), December 2, 2024 (Shimon Fogel).

¹⁸⁶ RIDR, [Evidence](#), October 20, 2025 (Carrie Silverberg); (Eyal Daniel); (Ginaya Peters); and (Michael Levitt).

¹⁸⁷ RIDR, [Evidence](#), October 20, 2025 (Michael Levitt).

¹⁸⁸ RIDR, [Evidence](#), October 20, 2025 (Stacey Leavitt-Wright).

¹⁸⁹ RIDR, [Evidence](#), October 20, 2025 (Eyal Daniel).

¹⁹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁹¹ RIDR, [Evidence](#), November 24, 2025 (Noah Lew).

empathy and ethical thinking.¹⁹² David Fisher, Executive Director Concentus Citizenship Education Foundation, explained to the committee that:

*Citizenship education is the study, understanding and application of the rights and duties we have to each other as citizens in local, provincial, national and global communities. ... Concentus citizenship education is an inoculant to hate. It confronts and prevents racism and discrimination at their fundamental levels. Our resources cover a student's continual learning career from kindergarten to grade 12. In today's multi-ethnic, multi-theistic, multi-social classroom, it is essential that the pluralist and multicultural nature of Canada is purposefully taught. By reaching students in their formative years, we prevent barriers of such hate as antisemitism from enduring, and as students mature, they bring these essential values and critical thinking skills into their communities and into the workforce. In the ongoing confrontation of antisemitism, this is the goal and gift of citizenship education.*¹⁹³

Some witnesses also argued that across all jurisdictions in Canada there must be an intentional “commitment to Holocaust education, a commitment to teaching about residential schools [and] a commitment to teaching about the history of anti-Black racism in Canada.”¹⁹⁴ For example, Independent Jewish Voices argued that

*antisemitism should never be taught in isolation, nor privileged above other forms of racism and discrimination. It must always be situated within a broader commitment to anti-racism, decolonization, and solidarity among communities facing discrimination. That is how education can truly address antisemitism: by fostering understanding, empathy, and collective liberation for all.*¹⁹⁵

Finally, the committee also heard that this type of education and awareness about antisemitism should also happen in government and be shared with government

¹⁹² RIDR, [Evidence](#), November 24, 2025 (David Fisher, Executive Director Concentus Citizenship Education Foundation). Refer also to RIDR, [Brief](#), December 26, 2025 (Mark Berlin); RIDR, [Evidence](#), December 1, 2025 (Annie Ohana); RIDR, [Evidence](#), October 27, 2025 (Sheryl Saperia); RIDR, [Evidence](#), October 20, 2025 (Stacey Leavitt-Wright).

¹⁹³ RIDR, [Evidence](#), November 24, 2025 (David Fisher).

¹⁹⁴ RIDR, [Evidence](#), December 9, 2024 (Deidre Butler). Refer also to RIDR, [Evidence](#), December 2, 2024 (Karen Mock); RIDR, [Evidence](#), November 3, 2025 (Corey Balsam) and (Joshua Sealy-Harrington); RIDR, [Brief](#), November 17, 2025 (Hillel BC).

¹⁹⁵ RIDR, [Brief](#), November 17, 2025 (Independent Jewish Voices).

stakeholders. Ms. Lyons noted that the federal government is reviewing “government policies, programs, training, appointments and funding to ensure they are free of antisemitism and ensure the safety and well-being of all employees.”¹⁹⁶

As such, the committee recommends:

That the Government of Canada continue its work to review government policies, programs, training, appointments and funding, ensuring they are free of antisemitism and consistent with the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, and to promote safe and inclusive workplaces across the federal public service.

That the Government of Canada work with civil society organizations, educational institutions, and professional bodies to develop evidence-based training programs and resources that improve understanding of both historical and contemporary antisemitism in Canada and appropriately resource and equip institutions to respond effectively to incidents of hate.

That the Government of Canada work with all federal institutions and federally regulated sectors to ensure that clear and transparent mechanisms exist for reporting and addressing hate, bias, and antisemitic incidents. These mechanisms should include safeguards against reprisals and should provide individuals with confidence that all complaints will be investigated fairly and promptly.

That the Government of Canada collaborate with provincial and territorial ministers of education to strengthen Holocaust education and antisemitism awareness across Canada, including professional development for teachers and the development of evidence-informed curriculum resources. Such efforts should also encourage broader historical literacy regarding racism and discrimination in Canada, including the histories and experiences of 2SLGBTQI+ communities, residential schools, and anti-Black racism.

That the Government of Canada collaborate with provincial and territorial governments and community stakeholders to develop a national public awareness campaign aimed at improving understanding of hate and antisemitism as well as reinforcing democratic values of pluralism, equality, and mutual respect.

That the Government of Canada support professional development for educators and administrators at primary, secondary and post-secondary levels. This work should include improved capacity to identify and respond to hate, bias, and antisemitic incidents, greater understanding of historical and contemporary

¹⁹⁶ RIDR, *Evidence*, December 9, 2024 (Deborah Lyons).

antisemitism, and support for respectful discussion of contentious geopolitical issues consistent with democratic values and Charter protections.

That the Government of Canada work with provinces, territories, and educational partners to strengthen preservice and in-service education relating to hate, bias, and antisemitism, the Holocaust, and democratic citizenship. This work should include enhanced teacher training, access to educational resources, and support for initiatives that promote historical understanding, literacy, and critical thinking.

Online Hate

Online spaces present unique challenges for combatting antisemitism. The committee heard that on many social media and gaming platforms, anonymous users can spread hate content with impunity. Even for those users without malicious intent, communicating from behind a phone or computer screen can remove the humanity from human interactions, weakening social harmony and norms. Content that is controversial can be rewarded by computer algorithms that may stoke outrage for profit, driving a downward spiral of polarization and radicalization. This in turn has consequences offline. Antisemitism is at the forefront of online hate, often serving as a gateway to other forms of radicalization and hate.

Ms. Lyons informed the committee that “hate and atrocity denialism online have exploded in recent years,” prompting her to form a task force of international special envoys like herself “to force the accountability of social media platforms as a global imperative.”¹⁹⁷ She noted the importance of the Canadian handbook and the IHRA definition of antisemitism in discussions with social media platforms as a tool for identifying and responding to antisemitism online.¹⁹⁸

Denis Beaudoin, Chief Superintendent, National Security, Federal Policing, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, explained that even in the past two years, the online space has changed significantly. He warned that people can increasingly cultivate hate from the comfort of their homes, that hate is not siloed to specific communities, and that the online space fuels radicalization. He explained that because the RCMP “will never be able to monitor all the online forums,” it is working closely with national and international partners to identify violent threats.¹⁹⁹

Often at the root of these threats are radicalizing algorithms that spread antisemitism and other forms of hate with impunity. Imran Ahmed, Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Center for Countering Digital Hate, provided an overview of

¹⁹⁷ RIDR, *Evidence*, December 9, 2024 (Deborah Lyons).

¹⁹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁹ RIDR, *Evidence*, October 27, 2025 (Denis Beaudoin, Chief Superintendent, National Security, Federal Policing, Royal Canadian Mounted Police).

how antisemitism has “been breathed new life by modern technology which systematically advantages hate and lies through distortive, perverse platform design.”²⁰⁰ He explained that the distribution and amplification of antisemitism online is not because of the random choices of users, “but the direct result of choices made by major social media companies operating here in Canada and worldwide.”²⁰¹ He explained that “hate and lies about Jews are actually profitable for social media companies. They create controversies that actually increase engagement, make people stay on platforms.”²⁰²

Ms. Jarniewski described some of this content, stating that:

*We are seeing tropes of blood libel, conspiracy theories and religious antisemitism. Other examples include Holocaust denial and inversion, Nazi imagery, depictions of Jews as vermin and holding Jews responsible for everything that goes wrong. The attacks come as much from the political left as from the political right extremes of our Canadian society.*²⁰³

Most of those conspiracy theories “are inextricably interlinked to hate, whether it’s the blood libel 2,000 years ago, the protocols of the elders of Zion that underpinned Hitler’s ideology, or the great replacement theory in the 21st century.”²⁰⁴

Shimon Fogel noted that “younger cohorts in particular receive most of their information through various social media channels. What they learn from the hate that has just exploded on these social media platforms is that it’s okay.”²⁰⁵

Deidre Butler shared similar concerns, noting that the current generation of students is particularly vulnerable to online misinformation and hate because social media serves as a key component of both their social lives and how they understand the world.²⁰⁶

²⁰⁰ RIDR, [Evidence](#), October 27, 2025 (Imran Ahmed, Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Center for Countering Digital Hate).

²⁰¹ Ibid.

²⁰² Ibid.

²⁰³ RIDR, [Evidence](#), October 20, 2025 (Belle Jarniewski).

²⁰⁴ RIDR, [Evidence](#), October 27, 2025 (Imran Ahmed).

²⁰⁵ RIDR, [Evidence](#), December 2, 2024 (Shimon Fogel).

²⁰⁶ RIDR, [Evidence](#), December 9, 2024 (Deidre Butler).

Mr. Robertson warned that: “We are also losing the battle against Holocaust denial. Statistics are demonstrating that, amongst Canadian youth, the rates of Holocaust denial and disinformation are increasing.”²⁰⁷

To address these issues, it is important to first recognize that these forms of radicalization are neither normal nor inevitable. As explained by Mr. Ahmed, the recent surge in antisemitism and other forms of hate is the result of financial incentives that fuel hate content online, with toxic communication “the product of the social media business model that rewards it.”²⁰⁸ This business model, he argued, needs regulation and accountability.

A brief submitted by the Center for Countering Digital Hate (CCDH) referred to several studies that supported this analysis. For example, in a study entitled *Hate Pays*, “CCDH showed how social media accounts used the Israel-Gaza conflict to grow and profit. The platform seemingly rewarded these accounts for producing controversial, sensational, and engaging content with turbocharged follower growth, visibility, and, where revenue sharing is permitted, increased revenues.”²⁰⁹

Similarly, Mr. Fogel emphasized that: “The business model of social media platforms not only thrives on the most extreme, most intense, most aggressive and most provocative; it requires it if it’s going to be successful because that is what generates hits, likes, shares and so forth.”²¹⁰ He and several other witnesses suggested a social media literacy program to help students, parents and educators address this threat.²¹¹

While important, the committee heard that education and reporting pathways alone are not sufficient. The committee was referred to a report entitled *Failure to Protect*, which provided analysis indicating “that Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Twitter and YouTube failed to act on 84% of posts containing anti-Jewish hatred when reported to them.”²¹² This was backed up by the lived experiences heard by the committee, including with online harassment, death threats and rape threats that continue despite efforts to block and report bad actors on social media.²¹³

Regulation is needed to change these incentive structures. Mr. Ahmed argued that “if it’s profitable for the producers and distributors, you have to create costs when they are causing harm to individuals, their psychology, our kids and our

²⁰⁷ RIDR, [Evidence](#), October 20, 2025 (Richard Robertson).

²⁰⁸ RIDR, [Evidence](#), October 27, 2025 (Imran Ahmed).

²⁰⁹ RIDR, [Brief](#), October 27, 2025 (Imran Ahmed, Center for Countering Digital Hate).

²¹⁰ RIDR, [Evidence](#), December 2, 2024 (Shimon Fogel).

²¹¹ Ibid; RIDR, [Evidence](#), October 20, 2025 (Michael Levitt); RIDR, [Evidence](#), November 24, 2025 (David Fisher).

²¹² RIDR, [Brief](#), October 27, 2025 (Imran Ahmed).

²¹³ RIDR, [Brief](#), November 17, 2025 (Hillel BC).

communities. That means either having regulatory costs or allowing causes of action and litigation.” He pointed to legislative examples in the European Union, the United Kingdom, and Australia as possible models, including Australia’s eSafety Commissioner.²¹⁴

The committee is also aware of Australia’s recent social media ban for minors, the outcomes of which are worthy of further study. One way or another, the amplification of dehumanizing content must be stopped. The committee recommends:

That the Government of Canada introduce legislation to establish a Digital Safety Commission, under the responsibility of the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, with a mandate to address online harms including hate speech and the amplification of identity-based harassment.

That the Government of Canada develop and support digital literacy and social media education initiatives, including model materials and funding for programs, that help young Canadians recognize misinformation, disinformation, radicalization, extremist narratives, and online hate.

That the Government of Canada develop policy options to address amplification of hate, prejudice, and identity-based harassment; and develop regulatory mechanisms to improve transparency and accountability of digital platforms that host and disseminate hate-motivated content, including reporting obligations, research access, and mechanisms enabling individuals to seek redress where platforms fail to address unlawful hate related content.

Foreign Interference

While the committee did not examine world events, such as the actions of Israel or Hamas since October 2023, it heard from several witnesses that believe antisemitism in Canada is in part fuelled by foreign involvement, impacting Canadian society at large. Witnesses concurred that “by using antisemitism and other disinformation campaigns”²¹⁵ malign actors aim to break “down social cohesion in Canada and other Western countries [as] a strategic objective.”²¹⁶ Ms. Saperia argued that:

²¹⁴ RIDR, *Evidence*, October 27, 2025 (Imran Ahmed). For context, refer to the Australian Government, “[What we do](#),” *eSafety Commissioner*.

²¹⁵ RIDR, *Evidence*, November 24, 2025 (Noah Lew).

²¹⁶ RIDR, *Evidence*, December 1, 2025 (Artur Wilczynski). Refer also to RIDR, *Brief*, 2 December 2024 (Alliance of Canadians Combatting Antisemitism).

*We are living in a post-truth era in a battle of narratives. Secure Canada's research shows that antisemitic, anti-Western and anti-democratic narratives now move together. Confronting antisemitism is, therefore, not an act of special pleading; it is a fight for the physical, moral and civic health of Canada itself.*²¹⁷

Indeed, Mr. Levitt stated that global antisemitic movements gain traction in Canada through online platforms that amplify hate speech and spread misinformation.²¹⁸ Ivan Kalmar, Professor of Anthropology, University of Toronto, also spoke about foreign interference through online platforms, especially in regard to conspiracy theories about the great replacement theory, which are not confined to Canada's borders.²¹⁹ The committee heard as well from His Excellency Iddo Moed, Ambassador, Embassy of Israel to Canada that "Israel's Foreign Minister, Gideon Sa'ar, similarly recently warned about the resurgence of global antisemitism, fuelled by modern blood libels and anti-Israel narratives."²²⁰

More specifically, the Canadian Women Against Antisemitism believed that "the primary driver of antisemitism in Canada is antizionism," which was presented as "an imported ideology advanced through terror-aligned propaganda networks, foreign-backed infrastructure, and extremist organizations operating through registered charities, NGOs [nongovernmental organizations], unions, and student bodies."²²¹

While "Canada already has laws prohibiting terror propaganda, foreign interference, and support for listed entities," the Canadian Women Against Antisemitism was of the opinion that "[t]hese laws are currently inadequate."²²² They called for the committee to consider "the criminalization of the wilful promotion of terrorist groups or terrorist activities" to ensure public safety, women's rights, and democratic stability.²²³

Ms. Cook, a University of Alberta student, also spoke to the committee about her concerns of foreign interference on campus. She explained her research through freedom of information requests at her institution, which indicated that some "tuition-funded but definitely not part of the [University of Alberta] groups" were

²¹⁷ RIDR, [Evidence](#), October 27, 2025 (Sheryl Saperia).

²¹⁸ RIDR, [Evidence](#), October 20, 2025 (Michael Levitt).

²¹⁹ RIDR, [Evidence](#), December 1, 2025 (Ivan Kalmar).

²²⁰ RIDR, [Evidence](#), November 24, 2025 (His Excellency Iddo Moed, Ambassador).

²²¹ RIDR, [Brief](#), November 22, 2025 (Revi Mula, Canadian Women Against Antisemitism). Refer also to RIDR, [Evidence](#), November 24, 2025 (Talia Klein Leighton).

²²² RIDR, [Brief](#), November 22, 2025 (Revi Mula, Canadian Women Against Antisemitism).

²²³ Ibid.

organizing very quickly after October 7, 2023, to “to rally in support of Gaza” before “Israel had done anything”. She asked the committee “to investigate the source of funding of some of these programs and to understand why these protests sprung up so quickly after the horrific events of October 7.” She called for action to address “the harassment of Jewish people on campus by foreign actors.”²²⁴

Other witnesses called on the committee to request more scrutiny and transparency in relation to the corporate ownership and funding of organizations in Canada’s non-profit sector, such as NGOs, charities and civil-advocacy organizations. These calls aim to ensure that investments by foreign actors are not undermining Canada’s national security with illicit purposes,²²⁵ and that Canadian taxpayer-supported funds do not contribute to activities that contravene either Canadian or international law.²²⁶ The committee notes that the federal government has put safeguards in place to counter illicit activities through the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act*, the *Income Tax Act* as well as the *Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act*.²²⁷ The RCMP also noted to the committee that several organizations with known antisemitic views have been listed under Canada’s Terrorism Listing regime, managed by Public Safety Canada.²²⁸ However, the committee learned that, in some instances, a non-profit organization can lose its charitable status automatically when it is listed as a terrorist entity, but not lose its non-profit status.²²⁹ This loophole needs to be closed.

While antisemitism crosses borders and is, in some cases, organized by malicious actors, it is important not to assign blame collectively to entire ethnic or religious groups. The committee reaffirms that everyone in Canada has a right to their political opinions and expression, even when their views are offensive, and that such expression does not necessarily indicate funding or influence by foreign actors. Moreover, blaming Canadian Jews for the actions of foreign actors, such as the state of Israel, or the Israel Defense Forces, is antisemitic and often hateful.²³⁰ The committee calls on all Canadians to firmly oppose such prejudice.

²²⁴ RIDR, [Evidence](#), November 24, 2025 (Rachel Cook).

²²⁵ RIDR, [Evidence](#), October 27, 2025 (Sheryl Saperia); RIDR, [Brief](#), 2 December 2024 (Alliance of Canadians Combatting Antisemitism).

²²⁶ RIDR, [Brief](#), 18 November 2025 (CAPE for Palestine).

²²⁷ For more information, refer to the Government of Canada, [Statutory review of the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act Minister's Report October 2021](#), November 23, 2021.

²²⁸ For example, antisemitism is noted as a reason for the listing of four organizations. For more information, refer to Public Safety Canada, [Currently listed entities](#).

²²⁹ RIDR, [Evidence](#), October 27, 2025 (Sheryl Saperia); RIDR, [Brief](#), 18 November 2025 (CAPE for Palestine).

²³⁰ RIDR, [Evidence](#), December 2, 2024 (Mark Sandler).

In discussing concerns about foreign interference, the committee found that Mr. Bronfman offered a clear summary of the broader issue:

There has been a normalization and empowerment of divisive voices and the use of divisive politics in order to gain power and maintain power in multiple states around the world. That has raised voices and made people less hesitant or fearful to express various types of racism, including, of course, antisemitism.²³¹

The committee acknowledges that on March 13, 2026, the Minister of Public Safety announced a new Foreign Influence Transparency Commissioner. However, details about establishment of the Commissioner's office, including a public registry of foreign influence activities in Canada are not yet outlined.²³² Nevertheless, the committee recommends:

That the Government of Canada close the loophole regarding the charitable and non-profit status of organisations when they are listed as terrorist entities by immediately reviewing their activities in Canada and retracting their statuses.

That the Government of Canada immediately establish an interdepartmental task force to address antisemitism. The task force, among other initiatives as it may determine, shall:

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- **determine the nature and impact of antisemitism in Canada;**
 - **address foreign interference;**
 - **address misinformation and disinformation affecting Canadian institutions, particularly in federally regulated sectors;**
 - **create a framework of initiatives to combat antisemitism in Canada;**
 - **coordinate data collection, policy development, enforcement, and operational responses, particularly in relation to this report;**
 - **improve cooperation among federal institutions responsible for public safety and social cohesion;**

²³¹ RIDR, *Evidence*, November 24, 2025 (Brian Bronfman).

²³² For more information, refer to the Public Safety Canada, *Minister Anandasangaree names proposed Foreign Influence Transparency Commissioner*, News release, March 13, 2026.

- identify methods of tracking and measuring the success and failures of each initiative; and
 - report annually to Parliament on progress and emerging trends.
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The task force should include representative from Public Safety Canada, Canadian Heritage, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, including the Integrated National Security Enforcement teams, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, Justice Canada, and Canada Revenue Agency. The task force should collaborate with provincial and territorial counterparts as well as municipal police agencies and specialized hate crime units.

Conclusion

Canada has a long and troubling history of antisemitism that both mirrors global patterns of hatred and reflects dynamics unique to Canada's social, cultural and political context. The committee chose to look at antisemitism in Canada with a historical perspective to better understand and situate recent incidents of antisemitism that were brought to the committee's attention through this study.

Following the Cohen Committee's report more than sixty years ago, efforts to combat antisemitism and other forms of hate through legislation established important safeguards, such as prohibiting hate propaganda. However, they have failed to adequately adapt to the evolving nature of antisemitism in the 21st century. Existing legal and policy tools often struggle to respond effectively to the speed, scale, and anonymity with which hate now spreads.

Globalized, online communities of hate pose a serious and growing threat not only to Jewish Canadians, but to Canadian democracy and social cohesion more broadly. These networks amplify disinformation, radicalize individuals, and normalize extremist ideologies. In short, antisemitism and other forms of hate are ultimately antithetical to democratic values.

Antisemitism in Canada has reached an inflection point. Meaningful progress will require renewed legislative attention, and sustained investment in education that builds historical understanding, digital literacy, and resilience against hate. As outlined in the recommendations of this report, the Government of Canada must take concerted and decisive action to ensure that its legal, educational, and institutional frameworks are equipped to meet the realities of contemporary antisemitism.

Appendix A – Witnesses

44th Parliament, 1st Session

Monday, December 2, 2024

Shimon Fogel, Chief Executive Officer, Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs

Karen Mock, Human Rights Consultant and Chair, Enhancing Social Justice Education Group; former Executive Director of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, and of the League for Human Rights of B’nai Brith Canada - As an Individual

Mark Sandler, Chair, Alliance of Canadians Combatting Antisemitism

Monday, December 9, 2024

Deidre Butler, Associate Professor, Network of Engaged Canadian Academics

Deborah Lyons, Special Envoy, Office of the Special Envoy on Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism, Canadian Heritage - As an Individual

Ira Robinson, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Department of Religions and Cultures, Concordia University - As an Individual

Pamela Walker, Professor, Network of Engaged Canadian Academics

45th Parliament, 1st Session

Monday, October 20, 2025

Rivka Campbell, Executive Director, Beth Tikvah Synagogue; Co-Founder, Jews of Colour Canada

Eyal Daniel, President, Holocaust and Antisemitism Educators Association

Justin Hebert - As an Individual

Belle Jarniewski, Executive Director, Manitoba Institute to Combat Antisemitism

Pe’er Krut, President, Canadian Union of Jewish Students

Stacey Leavitt-Wright, Chief Executive Officer, Jewish Federation of Edmonton

Michael Levitt, President and Chief Executive Officer, Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center

Ginaya Peters, Teacher, BC Teachers Against Antisemitism

Richard Robertson, Director, Research and Advocacy, B'Nai Brith Canada

Carrie Silverberg - As an Individual

Monday, October 27, 2025

Imran Ahmed, Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Center for Countering Digital Hate

Denis Beaudoin, Chief Superintendent, National Security, Federal Policing, Royal Canadian Mounted Police

David Janzen, Executive Director, Strategic Oversight and Integration, Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Greg Kenney, Assistant Deputy Minister, Programs, Public Safety Canada

Douglas May, Acting Director General, Programs, Public Safety Canada

Sheryl Saperia, Chief Executive Officer, Secure Canada

Chad Westmacott, Director General, Community Safety, Corrections and Criminal Justice, Public Safety Canada

Monday, November 3, 2025

Corey Balsam, National Coordinator, Independent Jewish Voices

Rabbi David Mivasair, Member, Independent Jewish Voices

Joshua Sealy-Harrington, Associate Professor and Chair, Palestinian Human Rights in Canada - As an Individual

Monday, November 24, 2025

Brian Bronfman, President and Co-founder, Peace Network for Social Harmony - As an Individual

Rachel Cook, Student, University of Alberta - As an Individual

David Fisher, Executive Director, Centus Citizenship Education Foundation

Talia Klein Leighton, President, Canadian Women Against Antisemitism

Noah Lew, Director, Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights and Special Advisor to the Honourable Irwin Cotler

His Excellency Iddo Moed, Ambassador, Embassy of Israel to Canada - As an Individual

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mark Berlin, Professor, Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University - As an Individual

Andrew Brown, Associate Deputy Minister, Canadian Heritage

Mohammed Hashim, Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Race Relations Foundation

Gayatri Jayaraman, Director General, Social, Justice and Indigenous Statistics, Statistics Canada

Ivan Kalmar, Professor of Anthropology, University of Toronto - As an Individual

Lucie Léonard, Director, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Social, Justice and Indigenous Statistics, Statistics Canada

Annie Ohana, Equity Department Head and Anti Oppression Curriculum Specialist - As an Individual

Kenneth Stern, Director, Bard Center for the Study of Hate - As an Individual

Mira Sucharov, Professor, Carleton University - As an Individual

Erica Tao, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Multiculturalism and Anti-racism Canadian Heritage

Artur Wilczynski, Senior Fellow, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Ottawa - As an Individual

Appendix B – Briefs and Supplementary Evidence

44th Parliament, 1st Session

Mark Sandler, Alliance of Canadians Combatting Antisemitism

45th Parliament, 1st Session

Rabbi Andrew Rosenblatt, Congregation Schara Tzedek

Imran Ahmed, Center for Countering Digital Hate

Dr. Karine Toledano, Doctors Against Racism and Antisemitism

Katherine Stephenson, Toronto Police Service

Ori Freiman and Lauren Frenkel - As Individuals

Tamara Taub, Jewish Parents of Ottawa Students Association

Dr. Deron Brown, Jewish Medical Association of Ontario

Dr. Larry Barzelai, Jewish Medical Association of B.C.

Hillel BC

Association des Médecins Juifs du Québec

Alex Paterson, Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East

Independent Jewish Voices

Peter Larson, Ottawa Forum on Israel/Palestine

CAPE for Palestine

Mark Sandler, Alliance of Canadians Combatting Antisemitism

Kim Kazur, Canadian Jewish Labour Committee

The Network of Engaged Canadian Academics

United Against Antisemitism Association

Jewish Academic Alliance Society of British Columbia

Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs

Jewish Healthcare Association of Alberta

The Honourable Harry Laforme and Karen Restoule - As Individuals

Talia Klein Leighton, Canadian Women Against Antisemitism

Revi Mula, Canadian Women Against Antisemitism

Joshua Sealy-Harrington, Associate Professor and Chair - As an Individual

Allied Voices for Israel

Brian Bronfman, President and Co-founder - As an Individual

Tricia Geddes, Public Safety Canada

Dr. Charles N. Bernstein, Jewish Physicians Association of Manitoba

Canadian Heritage

Kenneth Stern, Director - As an Individual

Statistics Canada

Annie Ohana, Equity Department Head and Anti Oppression Curriculum Specialist - As an Individual

Mark Berlin, Professor, Institute for the Study of International Development - As an Individual

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Briefs are available online at sencanada.ca/en/committees/RIDR



sencanada.ca

