

## **Written Notice of Motion for Consideration (Trustees Laskin and Chernos Lin)**

From: Denise Joseph-Dowers, Senior Manager, Governance and Board Services

In accordance with Board Bylaws 5.15.45, notice of the following motion was provided at the September 20, 2023 meeting of the Planning and Priorities Committee and is therefore submitted for consideration at this time.

5.15.45 Motions must first be introduced as a Notice of Motion to provide advance notification of a matter, ...

5.15.51 A Notice of Motion submitted to a Committee, will be considered at a subsequent Committee meeting.

## **Support for the Ontario Human Rights Commission's Request for a Provincial Anti-Hate Strategy**

Whereas, on April 26, 2023, Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) Chief Commissioner Patricia DeGuire published an [Opinion Editorial on TVO.org: Anti-hate](#), calling for a *“well-resourced province wide anti-hate strategy that will galvanize and support public action”*; and

Whereas, last month, the OHRC repeated the urgent need for a *“comprehensive, province-wide anti-hate strategy to address the significant rise in hate”*; and

Whereas, on September 12, 2023, the OHRC issued a statement - [No Room for Hate in Schools](#) which states in part: *“Hate is incompatible with a free, just and peaceful society where values of compassion, belonging, and respect are the norm. The OHRC reiterates its call for a province-wide anti-hate strategy and remains steadfast in its unwavering commitment to promoting and advancing human rights in Ontario”*; and

Whereas, on February 13, 2023, the Federal government produced a Fact Sheet providing an overview of Canada's new [Anti-Racism Strategy and Canada's first ever Action Plan on Combatting Hate](#) (CAPCH); and

Whereas, in response to incidents of hate within our schools, the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) over the next two years is in the process of actively and intentionally creating an [Anti-Hate and Anti-Racism Strategy](#) that takes intersectional and systemic approaches with student success as the primary focus; and

Whereas, understanding the lived experiences of students and community members is an important principle behind the development of the strategy and as such, TDSB will engage communities, students and staff in the creation of specific action plans to address the most prevalent forms of hate; and

Whereas, how the TDSB addresses specific forms of hate, racism, and discrimination needs coherency, community partnership, and cross collaboration within the diverse groups impacted;

Therefore, be it resolved:

- a) That the Chair write to Hon. Minister Michael D Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism of Ontario, affirming the Toronto District School Board's support for the Ontario Human Rights Commission's request for a province-wide, well-resourced anti-hate strategy;
- b) That in developing the strategy, the province initiate a review of all policy, regulatory and legal mechanisms for identifying, defining and addressing hate so it reflects the most recent current evidence, practices, and human rights policies;
- c) That this multi-faceted approach, as per the OHRC ask, involve government, public sector institutions and civil society alike;
- d) That the province initiate the development of the strategy without delay and consult with the OHRC and other qualified experts in human rights and anti-hate, as well as school boards and professional associations in education (e.g., CODE, OPC, OCT, OPSBA), municipalities (e.g., AMO), law enforcement agencies and community organizations;
- e) That the Ontario Human Rights Commission, City of Toronto, Ontario School Boards Association and all MPPs be copied on the letter;
- f) That the letter include a request for a reply by October 27, 2023.

OHRC Statement: No Room for Hate in Schools

**Ontario  
Human Rights Commission**  
**Commission ontarienne des  
droits de la personne**

Ontario Human Rights Commission**OHRC Statement: No Room for Hate in Schools**

September 12, 2023

A new school year heralds a world of possibilities and fresh starts. The Ontario Human Rights Commission's (OHRC) extends a warm and enthusiastic welcome to all students, educators, parents and guardians as they embark on this new school year – a journey that paves the way for a brighter future. Your dedication and hard work are truly commendable. With a new curriculum geared to enhance literacy and math skills, the OHRC believes that the next few years in Ontario's schools will help more students reach their potential.

But we also recognize that our students' future requires more than academic excellence.

The need for school environments that are free from hate cannot be overstated.

As the school year begins, we must actively and intentionally work to end the scourges of hate and violence in our education systems and communities. The rise in hate has a toxic impact and is severely detrimental to students' mental health and well-being. Specifically, 2SLGBTQIA+, Indigenous, Black, and other racialized students face the brunt of hatred and racism. At the end of the last school year, we **called on the province to protect these students**—to afford them the opportunity to learn in safe, supportive and affirming school environments, from K-12 to post-secondary. Educators and staff should also be able to teach in an environment devoid of racism, hatred, and discrimination.

Across Canada, police-reported hate crime continues to increase, rising 7 per cent overall from 2021 to 2022.[i] Black, Jewish, and 2SLGBTQIA+ are the most frequently targeted communities. Black and 2SLGBTQIA+ communities each experienced a 12 per cent increase in hate crimes since 2021[ii], and in nearly half of reports of discrimination, race or ethnicity was cited as the reason.[iii]

One of the OHRC's strategic focuses is promoting and strengthening a human rights culture in Ontario. Fundamental to this culture is the recognition that everyone, regardless of their background, deserves the chance to flourish in an environment free from hate, discrimination, and racism. Education is the cornerstone upon which this culture is built. Therefore, the OHRC stresses the importance of anti-discrimination and human rights training to shape the values and

attitudes of educators and future generations, and to protect vulnerable students, educators, and allies against the harmful impacts of hate in all its forms.

Hate is incompatible with a free, just and peaceful society where values of compassion, belonging, and respect are the norm. The OHRC reiterates its call for a province-wide **anti-hate strategy** and remains steadfast in its unwavering commitment to promoting and advancing human rights in Ontario.

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[i] [The Daily — Police-reported crime statistics in Canada, 2022 \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#)

[ii] [Police-reported hate crimes, by detailed motivation, Canada, 2020 to 2022 \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#)

[iii] [Discrimination before and since the start of the pandemic \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#)

## Supporting Material

### [Ontario Human Rights Commission](#)

The OHRC repeats the urgent need for a comprehensive, province-wide anti-hate strategy to address the significant rise in hate.

Ontario's new Anti-Hate Security and Prevention Grant offers funding to eligible organizations to help community spaces remain safe from hate-motivated incidents. Eligible applicants must host regular gatherings of religious, spiritual or cultural significance.

Applications are due Sept 12: <https://lnkd.in/epsamMSg>

### [Ontario Human Rights Commission](#)

Every student and educational professional has the right to a learning environment free from discrimination, harassment, or other expressions of hatred, where everyone feels safe to learn, thrive, and be themselves.

Read the OHRC's statement: [bit.ly/43DI4jt](https://bit.ly/43DI4jt)

A safe workplace or learning environment for students, educators, and administrators is paramount to upholding Ontarians' human rights.

The OHRC is committed to building awareness about the consequences of hate on people's right to be free from discrimination and harassment and will continue to hold duty-holders accountable to protect those rights.

The OHRC encourages everyone to support work aimed at recognizing people's right to be free from discrimination, harassment, and hate in schools.

### [OHRC Statement on Anti-Hate June 2023](#)



**Ontario  
Human Rights Commission**  
**Commission ontarienne des  
droits de la personne**

## OHRC Statement on Anti-Hate

June 13, 2023

As this school year ends, the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) takes this opportunity to reflect on what it heard concerning the challenges faced by students, parents, educators, and administrators in Ontario's public education system.

The Ontario *Human Rights Code* (*Code*) protects **everyone** from discrimination and harassment based on numerous grounds, including disability, gender identity and expression, race, and religion. In schools, following the *Code* means that every student has the right to a learning environment free from discrimination, harassment, or other expressions of hatred — an environment where everyone feels safe to learn, thrive, and be themselves. It is essential that all children — including, 2SLGBTQIA+ children, children with disabilities, Black children, Indigenous children, Jewish children and Muslim children, for instance — feel that their school is a place of inclusion, belonging, and support.

Similarly, all educators and administrators, including elected officials in the education system are entitled to those same rights. Not only should they feel safe and supported in their roles, but these individuals are duty-bound by the *Code* to uphold these principles and work to create this environment in schools.

Education professionals work tirelessly every day to create an environment of safety and inclusion essential to learning and well-being. The OHRC has learnt that educators have faced many violent incidents this year, significantly impacting learning environments and classroom management. A recent [survey](#) conducted by the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) revealed that more than three-quarters of ETFO members have personally experienced violence or witnessed violence against another staff person, and members are reporting that the severity and number of violent incidents have increased since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council of Directors of Education has also [noted](#) that in recent months, administrators who have supported the rights and freedoms of 2SLGBTQIA+ people have been targeted during public board meetings. These incidents are deeply concerning and harmful, and underscore the systemic issues and gaps within Ontario's publicly funded education system.

The OHRC sees a safe workplace and learning environment for students, educators, and administrators as paramount to upholding Ontarians' human rights. So, it encourages parents, community organizations, and members of the public to support work aimed at recognizing everyone's right to be free from hate, discrimination, and harassment in schools.

The OHRC remains committed to building awareness about the consequences of hate on people's right to be free from discrimination and harassment and will continue to hold duty-holders accountable to protect those rights and create this environment.

The OHRC reminds every Ontarian of their responsibility to treat one another the way they wish to be treated. That means every Ontarian is accountable for conducting themselves responsibly in everything they do. That is the core of human rights values.

Let us use the summer as a time for reflection on how we can take action to ensure our children can attend schools free from hate, our educators are safe to teach acceptance and inclusion, and everyone, including the administrators is safe to uphold the Ontario *Human Rights Code*. Have a safe and happy summer.

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**Ontario  
Human Rights Commission**  
**Commission ontarienne des  
droits de la personne**

## Taking action to build awareness and challenge hate in Ontario

As part of *Human Rights First: Strategic Plan 2023-25*, the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) is committed to work with other institutions to challenge and address the increase in hate expression and help ensure public institutions, individuals and groups know how to use the human rights system to respond to hate.

The OHRC aims to build awareness about the real consequences of hate on people's right to be free from discrimination. Promoting a climate of understanding and mutual respect so everyone feels welcome in our community is what Ontario's *Human Rights Code* (the *Code*) is all about. In recent years, Ontario has seen a rise in hate activities against individuals and groups based on colour, ethnicity, race, creed, gender, and sexual orientation, among other grounds.

The Supreme Court of Canada said that hatred involves vilification and detestation of identifiable groups, implying that individuals are to be despised, scorned, denied respect, and subjected to ill treatment based on their group affiliation. Hatred thrives on insensitivity, bigotry, and destruction of both the target group and of the values of our society.

The rise in hate activities is a critical issue that requires a multi-faceted approach involving government, public and private sector organizations and civil society alike.

## Linked Contents

### Questions and Answers on anti-hate in Ontario

1. [What is hate speech?](#)
2. [Does Ontario's Human Rights Code protect people from hate speech?](#)
3. [Does Ontario's Human Rights Code apply to online forms of hate expression, for example cyberbullying and cyberhate?](#)
4. [What must organizations do to address discriminatory hate expression?](#)
5. [What can someone do if they are the target of discriminatory hate?](#)
6. [What is the OHRC doing to address hate expression?](#)

### Anti-hate/anti-discrimination resources

- [OHRC policies and guides that include components addressing hate expression](#)
- [Other OHRC statements that address hate expression](#)
- [Other resources](#)

## Questions and Answers on anti-hate in Ontario

### 1. What is hate speech?

Hate speech is the use of extreme language or a form of communication that expresses detestation for or vilifies an individual or group of individuals based on colour, ethnicity, place of origin, race, creed, gender, or sexual orientation, among other grounds of discrimination under Ontario's *Human Rights Code*. Hatred is often rooted in anti-Black, anti-Asian and anti-Indigenous racism, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, antisemitism, Islamophobia and white supremacy.

### 2. Does Ontario's *Human Rights Code* protect people from hate speech?

Unlike some other human rights legislation (e.g., [British Columbia Human Rights Code](#)), Ontario's *Human Rights Code* does not regulate or specifically mention hate speech. Some discriminatory conduct may include the expression of hate that can be reasonably limited by the *Human Rights Code*. For example, the *Human Rights Code* prohibits harassment (unwelcome vexatious comment or conduct) and other forms of discrimination that negatively impact individuals and groups in employment, services, housing accommodation, vocational associations and contracts.

More extreme forms of speech may be a violation of Canada's *Criminal Code*. The *Criminal Code* prohibits advocating genocide and public incitement or willful promotion of hatred against an identifiable group.

Communication that expresses mere dislike or disdain or discredits, humiliates, hurts or offends a person or group might not be hatred under the *Criminal Code* but could be discriminatory under Ontario's *Human Rights Code*, depending on the circumstances.

### 3. Does Ontario's *Human Rights Code* apply to online forms of hate expression, for example cyberbullying and cyberhate?

The *Human Rights Code* may be engaged if online communications amount to bullying, harassment or a poisoned environment for individuals in particular "social areas" such as employment, housing, or services. See for example the OHRC's [Policy on preventing sexual and gender-based harassment](#).

The *Human Rights Code* will not apply to in-person or online comments made by individuals in the absence of a connection to one of these social areas (employment,



housing or services). For example, comments made in a “public square” or over social media, even if these comments are unpopular, offensive or repugnant are not discriminatory under the *Human Rights Code* unless one of the social areas are engaged, keeping in mind the Canadian *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* protects the right to freedom of expression.

#### 4. What must organizations do to address discriminatory hate expression?

Employers, housing providers, schools and other services have a legal responsibility under human rights law to make sure their environments are free of discrimination and harassment, including expressions of hate targeted at groups identified by prohibited grounds under the *Code*. They must address and not ignore hate expression and other forms of discrimination when they happen.

Organizations must take steps to prevent and respond to discriminatory hate expression and should have policies and procedures in place, including complaint mechanisms as well as education and training.

#### 5. What can someone do if they are the target of discriminatory hate?

Individuals who believe they have been targeted by discriminatory hate expression at work or in school, housing or other services should tell someone in authority at the organization what happened so steps can be taken to ensure a safe environment for the individual or group.

Individuals can also contact the [Human Rights Legal Support Centre](#) for advice. They may also consider bringing a claim of discrimination to the [Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario](#).

Individuals who believe they have been targeted by a more extreme form of hate should consider contacting the police.

#### 6. What is the OHRC doing to address hate expression?

Under *Human Rights First: Strategic Plan for 2023-25*, the OHRC will be working with other institutions to challenge and address the dramatic increase in hate that has been documented since the onset of the pandemic. The OHRC’s aim is to ensure public institutions are more aware of and know how to use the human rights system to respond to manifestations of hate.

In keeping with the *Preamble* of the *Code*, the OHRC is raising awareness about the real consequences of hate speech on people's right to be free from discrimination and the importance of ensuring a climate of understanding and mutual respect so that each person feels a part of the community.

The OHRC has often spoken out about the impact of hate activities targeted at *Code*-protected groups. Some recent examples include:

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, the OHRC spoke out on race-based hatred against [Chinese](#), [South Asian](#) and [Indigenous](#) communities.
- In summer 2021, the OHRC released public statements on [antisemitism](#) and [Islamophobia](#) in keeping with its [Policy on preventing discrimination based on creed](#).
- In September 2022, the OHRC's Chief Commissioner spoke about the rise in hate activities at the York Regional Police Annual Hate Crimes Conference.
- In February 2023, the OHRC released a public statement on *Human Rights Code obligations of education officials* regarding concerns of increased violence.
- In February 2023, the OHRC made a [social media statement](#) denouncing the hate-motivated vandalism of a Hindu temple.

But the OHRC cannot speak out alone. The rise in hate activities is a critical issue that requires a multi-faceted approach involving government, public sector institutions and civil society alike.

To learn more, see [anti-hate/anti-discrimination resources](#) for a list of OHRC policies, guides and statements, and other organizations that address hate expression.

## Anti-hate/anti-discrimination resources

### OHRC policies and guides that include components addressing hate expression

- [Policy and guidelines on racism and racial discrimination](#)
- [Racial discrimination, race and racism \(fact sheet\)](#)
- [Policy on preventing discrimination based on creed](#)
- [Policy on competing human rights](#)
- [Policy on discrimination and harassment because of sexual orientation](#)
- [Policy on preventing discrimination because of gender identity and gender expression](#)
- [Guide to your rights and responsibilities under the Human Rights Code](#) (see section 13 on announced intention to discriminate)
- [Policy statement on a human rights-based approach to managing the COVID-19 pandemic](#) (See principle 5: Respond to racism, ageism, ableism and other forms of discrimination)

## Other OHRC statements that address hate expression

- 2023 – OHRC [Opinion Editorial](#) on TVO.org: Anti-hate
- 2023 – OHRC [social media statement](#) denouncing the hate-motivated vandalism of a Hindu temple
- 2023 – OHRC statement on [Code obligations of education officials](#)
- 2021 – OHRC statements on national summits on [islamophobia and antisemitism](#)
- 2021 – COVID - [OHRC urges Ontarians to respect the human rights of South Asian communities](#)
- 2021 – [OHRC statement on mass killings in London, Ontario](#)
- 2020 – [A critical juncture of hate](#): OHRC Chief Commissioner statement on how Canada is facing two pandemics – COVID-19 and the pandemic of brazen hate, extremism and brutality
- 2018 – [January 29 a day to remember the tragic consequences of hate](#)
- 2017 – [Opening statement: Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage Systemic Racism and Religious Discrimination M-103](#)
- 2016 – [Ontario Human Rights Commission response to Orlando mass shooting](#)
- 2015 Dec 10<sup>th</sup> – statement: [History teaches us that difficult conversations about religion must start from respect and inclusion, not hate and division](#)
- 2015 – [Terror abroad has revealed troubling hate here at home](#)
- 2013 – [Re: Racist anti-Aboriginal slurs](#)
- 2011-12 annual report [Competing rights: setting the stage for respectful dialogue](#)
- 2011 – OHRC factum [Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission v. Whatcott](#)
- 2010 – OHRC [Anti-racism and anti-discrimination for municipalities: Introductory manual](#)
- 2009 – OHRC [submission](#) to the Canadian Human Rights Commission's report concerning section 13 of the Canadian Human Rights Act and the regulation of hate speech on the internet prepared by Richard Moon October 2008
- 2008 – [Commission reports on inquiry into assaults against Asian Canadian Anglers](#)
- 2008 – OHRC [reference](#) to the Ontario Hate crimes community working group
- 2008 – OHRC [submission](#) to the Canadian Human Rights Commission concerning section 13 of the Canadian *Human Rights Act* and the regulation of hate speech on the internet
- 2001 – 9-11 attacks ["Compassion, justice and a renewal of our pledge against hatred should mark this day of mourning", says Chief Commissioner Keith Norton](#)

## Other resources

- British Columbia's Human Rights Commission [public inquiry](#) and [2023 report into hate incidents during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) (see also their [Qs and As](#) on hate speech)

- [\*\*A review of services for victims of hate in Canada: Interim report 2022\*\*](#) (Canadian Race Relations Foundation)
- [\*\*Bill C-36 2021\*\*](#) An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Canadian Human Rights Act and to make related amendments to another Act (hate propaganda, hate crimes and hate speech) (the bill died on the Order Paper when Parliament was dissolved on 15 August 2021)
- [\*\*Legislative Summary\*\*](#) of Bill C-36 (includes a summary of hate promotion and hate crimes in Canada and an overview of the Canadian legal context)
- [\*\*Hate/Bias crime: A Review of Policies, Practices and Challenges\*\*](#) (Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, 2020)
- [\*\*Police-reported hate-motivated crime, by detailed motivation, Canada, 2020 to 2021\*\*](#) (Statistics Canada). Also see [this](#) more detailed analysis for 2020
- [\*\*Ontario Mandates Universities and Colleges to Introduce Free Speech Policy by January 1, 2019\*\*](#) (policies must also ensure that hate speech, discrimination and other illegal forms of speech are not allowed on campus)
- 2006 – [\*\*Final Report of the Hate Crimes Community Working Group\*\*](#)

## Opinion Editorial on TVO.org: Anti-hate

This [op-ed](#) by Chief Commissioner Patricia DeGuire was published on TVO.org on April 26, 2023. The suspected [hate-motivated attacks](#) against two mosques in Markham in recent weeks are a potent reminder of the surge in hate.

Analysis released last month by Statistics Canada shows a [72 per cent surge](#) in police-reported hate crimes since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The numbers are concerning. The connection to systemic discrimination is undeniable.

A 2021 survey of self- and witness-reported incidents indicated a [steep increase in assault](#), online hate, and racism against Asian Canadians, with a majority of attacks targeting women. A recent British Columbia Human Rights Commission [report on hate](#) also shows that the pandemic has intensified and exposed ongoing prejudice, discrimination, and hate targeted at Muslim, Jewish, Indigenous, Black, Asian, LGBTQ2S, and other communities across Canada.

The people and communities behind the numbers are real. Many routinely experience incidents of hate in everyday life — in the streets, parks, restaurants, stores, schools, and health-care settings, on transit, online, and even in our homes. These are places where we should all feel safe. Some even lose their lives, as we saw with the alleged [hate-motivated murder](#) of four family members of a London Muslim family nearly two years ago.

Hatred is rooted in many things, not just creed-based discrimination. It also takes the form of anti-Asian, anti-Black, and anti-Indigenous racism, misogyny, homophobia, and transphobia. Hate starts with stereotypes, negative attitudes, and prejudice toward individuals and groups because of their identity. Unfortunately, it does not stop there.

Prejudice can turn into acts of bias, discrimination, harassment, incitement of hatred, and even violence. Discrimination and hate profoundly and permanently harm individuals and communities and weaken our society by distorting public dialogue and human connections. Hate undermines our

social and political institutions, the rule of law, and the values of democracy upon which we rely for our prosperity and well-being. Our social and political institutions must therefore step up and meaningfully address these harms.

Addressing hate is a collective responsibility. Governments, public- and private-sector organizations, and civil society must act by calling out hate and implementing policies and programs that send a clear message that hate against identifiable groups is damaging to individuals, to communities, and, ultimately, to all of us who wish to live in peace and harmony.

Education is a key component in the fight against discrimination and hate. Everybody must be taught about the history and legacy of racism and colonialism in Canada. This includes the experiences of Indigenous peoples and the legacy of residential schools and the history, contributions, and experiences of Black, religious, and other racialized communities.

But education is not enough. Ontario needs a well-resourced provincewide anti-hate strategy that will galvanize and support public action. We must tackle anti-Black racism, anti-Indigenous racism, antisemitism, homophobia, Islamophobia, transphobia, and other forms of hate in education and ensure that our schools are a safe and inclusive environment. Law enforcement needs a shared understanding of how to define, identify, collect, and report hate incidents and lay charges. We need a human-rights system that is well-equipped with new ways to address hate. We also require individual accountability. This includes using our freedom of expression and calling out hate when it happens. It is about making sure we live up to the vision of Ontario's Human Rights Code: a province where everyone is treated equally with dignity and respect, made to feel welcome, and able to contribute fully to the life of our community.



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## Anti-Racism Strategy and Action Plan on Hate

This fact sheet provides an overview of Canada's new Anti-Racism Strategy and Canada's first ever Action Plan on Combatting Hate (CAPCH).

Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy 2019-2022 is designed to lay a foundation to tackle systemic racism through immediate horizontal actions across the Government of Canada.

In addition to developing a new anti-racism strategy, the Government signalled its commitment to tackle hate by calling for the first ever Action Plan on Combatting Hate in Budget 2022.

The Action Plan is intended to address hate as it relates to racialized and religious minority communities in Canada and their intersections.

While the anti-racism strategy focuses on the broader systemic level, CAPCH is more narrowly focused on hate incidents and hate crimes and violent extremism.

## Context

Launched on June 25, 2019, “Building a Foundation for Change: Canada’s Anti-Racism Strategy” was initiated after extensive cross-country consultations and aims to build long-term changes in supporting communities and improving policies, initiatives, and practices in federal institutions.

In 2020, police-reported hate crimes targeting race or ethnicity almost doubled compared to the previous year, accounting for the vast majority of the national increase in hate crimes. According to Statistics Canada, in the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic alone, police reported 2,669 hate crimes in Canada, up 37% from 2019. That is why the Government of Canada is taking action to address the troubling rise in hate incidents. <sup>Footnote1</sup>

As an extension of the Government of Canada’s commitment to combat hate, on November 25, 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau named the Honourable Irwin Cotler as Canada’s Special Envoy on Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism. <sup>Footnote2</sup>

On January 28, 2022, the Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion, reconfirmed the federal government’s intention to appoint a special representative on combatting Islamophobia as a part of a renewed Government of Canada Anti-Racism Strategy. <sup>Footnote3</sup>

On March 29, 2022, the Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Canada’s Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion, launched consultations to build Canada’s first ever Action Plan on Combatting Hate. <sup>Footnote4</sup>

On January 26, 2023, Canada’s first Special Representative on Combatting Islamophobia was appointed for a four year term, effective February 20, 2023. Amira Elghawaby will serve as a champion, advisor, expert and representative to the Canadian government for the purpose of enhancing efforts to combat Islamophobia and to address barriers facing Muslim communities.

## Community Consultations

From October 2018 to March 2019, engagement sessions were held across the country to gather input from Canadians, especially those with lived experiences of racism and discrimination, to inform the development of a new federal anti-racism strategy. The engagement process consisted of 22 in-person forums with approximately 600 people and 443 organizations. Sessions were held in partnership with community groups and First Nations, Métis and Inuit People. Equally, all Canadians were invited to participate through an online poll and survey. <sup>Footnote5</sup>



Additionally, 21 roundtable consultations with stakeholders were held in 2022 to inform the development of Canada's new Anti-Racism Strategy and an Action Plan on Combatting Hate.

These consultations build on the extensive work of the Federal Anti-Racism Secretariat appointed by the Government of Canada, which engaged thousands of Indigenous people, as well as members of racialized and religious minority communities. Over 35,000 people were engaged through town halls and summits, including the national summits on antisemitism and Islamophobia, resulting in over 400 recommendations collected to inform an Action Plan on Combatting Hate and a new anti-racism strategy. [Footnote6](#)

On July 21, 2021, the National Summit on Antisemitism was convened by Minister Chagger and Special Envoy Irwin Cotler to identify ways in which organizations, communities, individuals, and the federal government can work together to increase public awareness, enhance community security, combat misinformation and online hate, and identify new measures necessary to combat antisemitism.

The Federal Anti-Racism Secretariat is currently synthesizing what they heard from communities across Canada in their various engagement sessions to inform the development of a new anti-racism action strategy for Canada. [Footnote7](#)

## Key Investments

Announced on June 25, 2019, Building a Foundation for Change: Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy represents an investment of close to \$100 million. [Footnote8](#)

Budget 2022 proposes to provide \$85 million over four years, starting in 2022-23, to the department of Canadian Heritage to support work underway to launch a new Anti-Racism Strategy and an Action Plan on Combatting Hate. This funding will support community projects that ensure that Indigenous, Black, racialized/religious Canadians have access to resources that support their full participation in the Canadian economy, while also raising awareness of issues related to hate, racial and religious discrimination in Canada.

Budget 2022 committed \$5.6 million over five years, with \$1.2 million ongoing to support the Special Envoy on Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism. [Footnote9](#)

To keep alive the memory of those murdered during the Holocaust and combat both historical distortions and Holocaust denial, Budget 2022 proposes to provide \$20 million in 2022-23 to the department of Canadian Heritage to support the construction of the new Holocaust Museum in Montréal; and an investment of \$2.5 million for the Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre, as has been approved through the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund and Museum Assistance Program. Additional support will be provided to the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver. [Footnote10](#)

Budget 2022 committed \$5.6 million over five years, with \$1.2 million ongoing to support the new Special Representative on Combatting Islamophobia. [Footnote11](#)

Budget 2022 proposes to provide \$50 million over two years, starting in 2022-23, to Employment and Social Development Canada for the Supporting Black Canadian Communities Initiative, to continue empowering Black-led and Black-serving community organizations and the work they do to promote inclusiveness. <sup>Footnote12</sup>

Budget 2022 proposes to provide \$4 million in 2022-23 to the department of Canadian Heritage to help support the Muslims in Canada Archive. This funding will allow the Archive to continue its work with national archival and Muslim community organizations to acquire, organize, preserve, and make accessible, records of and about Muslim people and organizations in Canada. <sup>Footnote13</sup>

## Footnotes

**Footnote 1** [Federal government launches national consultations for Canada's first ever National Action Plan on Combatting Hate - Canada.ca](#)

**Footnote 2** [Prime Minister announces Special Envoy on Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism | Prime Minister of Canada \(pm.gc.ca\)](#)

**Footnote 3** [The Government of Canada Intends to Appoint a Special Representative on Combatting Islamophobia - Canada.ca](#)

**Footnote 4** [Federal government launches national consultations for Canada's first ever National Action Plan on Combatting Hate - Canada.ca](#)

**Footnote 5** [Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy - Canada.ca](#)

**Footnote 6** [Federal government launches national consultations for Canada's first ever National Action Plan on Combatting Hate - Canada.ca](#)

**Footnote 7** Ibid.

**Footnote 8** [Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy - Canada.ca](#)

**Footnote 9** Ibid.

**Footnote 10** Ibid.

**Footnote 11** Ibid.

**Footnote 12** Ibid.

**Footnote 13** Ibid.