

letter to ministers

The Honourable Michael Bryant
Attorney General of Ontario
McMurtry-Scott Building
720 Bay Street, 11th Floor
Toronto, ON
M5G 2K1

The Honourable Monte Kwinter
Minister of Community Safety
and Correctional Services
25 Grosvenor Street, 18th Floor
Toronto, ON
M7A 1Y6

Report of the Hate Crimes Community Working Group

Dear Ministers:

The Hate Crimes Community Working Group has completed its deliberations. We are pleased to present our report recommending an overall strategy with measures to detect, reduce and redress hate crime, and to address more effectively the needs and interests of individuals and communities that experience, or are vulnerable to, hate crime in Ontario.

The report provides the best advice that we are able to give on these and related issues in the time and under the circumstances available. We know that, while we heard from as many different communities as time allowed, there are many others that experience hate crime and hate incidents today in Ontario who did not, or could not, come forward. The Working Group trusts that this report honours the presence and voice of all Ontario's communities.

The most important messages in our report are that not only are members of vulnerable communities across Ontario victimized by hate crime extensively and differently, thereby requiring enhanced victim services, but that hate crime occurs within a historical and social context of systemic bias and prejudice such that, over time, incidents of hate and hate crime appear permissible. A critical feature of the recommended overall strategy is the horizontal implementation approach.

Led by the Ministry of the Attorney General and the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, implementation will include the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, the Ontario Human Rights Commission and the Office for Victims of Crime. Extending to the broader public sector, it will involve school boards and police services boards across the province. Throughout the report, the Working Group has stressed the essential role that Ontario's diverse communities must play in creating and implementing this overall strategy against hate. Finally, to ensure effective oversight, accountability and transparency of the overall strategy's implementation, we have recommended the establishment of the Hate Crimes Governance Committee.

We have made every effort to develop recommendations that the Ontario government, its agencies and the broader public sector will want, and be able, to

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implement. This report provides the recommended strategy and action plan. A companion document provides the background, literature review, our community and stakeholder engagement initiatives, resource materials used, an extensive bibliography, and a guide to community groups and agencies involved in providing services and support for victims of hate incidents and hate crime. It should serve as an ongoing resource to government, law enforcement and the community alike in the fight against hate.

Hate crime, and hate activity generally, are phenomena that will continue to deserve and require your urgent attention. Members of the Working Group have worked collaboratively to arrive at consensus on priorities and recommendations that will lead to systemic change. We sincerely hope that you will use this report as a blueprint for addressing hate crime and hate crime victimization in the province. We are grateful for the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to this exceptionally important initiative.


Respectfully submitted,

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 Karen R. Mock, Chair



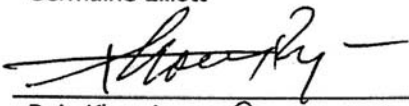
 Marie Chen



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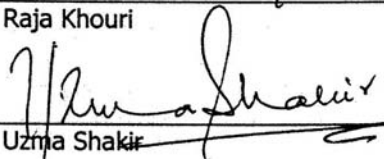
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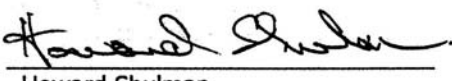
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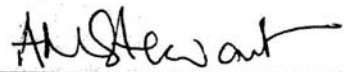
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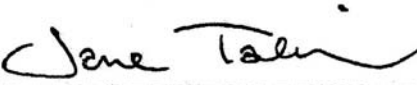
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