

2006 Audit of Antisemitic Incidents

PATTERNS OF PREJUDICE IN CANADA



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



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The League for Human Rights, an agency of B'nai Brith Canada, is a national volunteer agency dedicated to combating antisemitism and racism. The objectives of the League include advocating for human rights for all Canadians, building inter-community relations, and the elimination of racial discrimination and bigotry. The League accomplishes these goals through educational programs, community action and legal/legislative interventions.

A. INTRODUCTION

For the past quarter century, B'nai Brith Canada's League for Human Rights has been monitoring antisemitism in this country and analyzing the precipitators of hatred against the Jewish community in an annual *Audit of Antisemitic Incidents*. Within that time, crises abroad as well as tensions at home – whether social, political and/or economic – have invariably caused irrational and deep-seated prejudices against Jews to emerge from beneath the polite façade of multiculturalism.

While the psychology of scapegoating remains the same, there have been changes in its style of delivery. Contemporary variants of antisemitism have blended with the traditional forms of this age-old hatred to fit modern-day contexts and rhetoric. Perpetrators are becoming less reticent about expressing their anti-Jewish prejudice and this bigotry is, in some cases, even glorified under the banner of “free speech”.

As we look back at the year 2006 in the context of preparing this Audit, we recall a troubled year overseas that began with the brutal murder of Ilan Halimi, a young French Jew, and ended with yet another call from Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, at the closing of his Holocaust denial “conference”, for the Jewish State to be wiped off the map.

It was a time when hopes for peace in the Middle East were once again

shattered by the terrorist group Hezbollah, when vicious propaganda against the Jewish State and the Jewish People was disseminated across the globe, leading to increases in hate-motivated activity against Jewish communities worldwide. It was a year marked by violent worldwide riots following the publication of the now infamous Danish cartoons considered offensive by many Muslims, and by Ahmadinejad's bid for revenge by holding a cartoon contest of his own to denigrate the Holocaust.

On the home front, it was a time when strains and stresses linked to world events manifested themselves in increased hate-motivated activity against Jews, when antisemitism was even injected into the mainstream Canadian political process as a tool to manipulate electoral campaigning. It was a time when having a Jewish wife was portrayed as a liability that should bar a candidate from leadership positions, reminiscent of a bigoted philosophy one would have hoped had long been extinguished from Canadian society.

It was also a time when the issue of ‘reasonable accommodation’ of cultural and religious differences began, increasingly, to become a bone of contention between minority communities and the dominant culture in which they live.

The *Audit* has been described as a “unique historical record of a particular form of hate activity in

“[The Jews] should know that they are nearing the last days of their lives.”

*Iranian President
Mahmoud Ahmadinejad*

“You... are a ‘chosen’ people. Chosen by Hell itself...”

*Hate mail targeting an
employee in the workplace*

*“Jews are cowards
who kill women
and children.”*

*Hate mail sent to
a Jewish organization*



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Canada” (Statistics Canada, *Hate Crime in Canada: An Overview of Issues and Data Sources Relating to Hate Crime*, 2001). Yet the League’s work in this area has been undertaken not simply as an academic study of the global and domestic trends that precipitate prejudice but rather as a much-needed community service that is responsive to the fall-out from a disturbing rise in antisemitism in this country.

Through the provision of a 24/7 Anti-Hate Hotline (1-800-892-2624), the League provides a central reporting mechanism where victims of discrimination can turn for culturally-sensitive assistance and, if necessary, referral to police, legal services or human rights fora.

The League, which liaises closely with hate crime officers across the country, is often the first point of contact for victims of antisemitism, whatever its provenance.

It is unfortunate that the demands on the Hotline, as on similar services in other countries of the world, have grown exponentially. Even more disturbing, perhaps, is that there is still a general resistance to acknowledging that antisemitism is a problem in Canada, that there are indeed cracks in the fabric of Canadian multiculturalism that have allowed underlying prejudice, whether caused by global or domestic resentments, to manifest itself in ways which are not only subtle and insidious but, increasingly, public and aggressive.

Consistent with the challenges of protecting and enhancing multiculturalism, the mandate of the League for Human Rights is not just to counter antisemitism, but to fight all forms of hatred and discrimination against minority communities in Canada and to encourage inter-group respect and tolerance. To this end, the League offers anti-racism education and advocacy training to other targeted groups and intervenes in landmark cases on their behalf when their rights or security are threatened. In this context, the annual *Audit of Antisemitic Incidents* is more than just a snapshot of the intensity of incidents against the Jewish community. It serves as a barometer of the level of racism in Canada as a whole.

Incidents in Canada in 2006 - Breakdown by Categories

| Province/Region | % of Total Incidents | Total Incidents | Harassment | Vandalism | Violence |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| Atlantic Region | 2.1% | 20 | 18 | 2 | 0 |
| Quebec | 24.2% | 226 | 147 | 69 | 10 |
| Ontario | 60.9% | 569 | 355 | 195 | 19 |
| Manitoba | 2.7% | 25 | 13 | 12 | 0 |
| Saskatchewan | 0.7% | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Alberta | 4.8% | 45 | 24 | 21 | 0 |
| British Columbia | 4.6% | 43 | 24 | 18 | 1 |
| Northern Region | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total for Canada | 100% | 935 | 588 | 317 | 30 |





B. FINDINGS OF THE AUDIT

1. The Overall Picture

In 2006, 935 incidents were reported to the League for Human Rights, constituting an overall increase of 12.8% from the previous year. This figure sets a new all-time high for Canada. A five-year view shows that the number of incidents has more than doubled since the 459 incidents reported in the 2002 *Audit*. With the exception of a small hiatus in 2005, when a slight 3.3% decrease was reported, there has been a relentless upward movement over the past 10 years. A 10-year view shows that incidents have jumped more than four-fold since 1997 when there were 212 cases. Twenty-five years ago when the League released its first *Audit*, the number of reported incidents was only 63.

Incidents took place across the country in both rural and urban areas, including incidents via face-to-face encounters, premeditated activities under the cover of night, and threats by mail, telephone and the Internet. The range of sectors where these incidents took place expanded in 2006 to include new venues such as fitness clubs, doctor's offices and other relatively benign places where one might not expect antisemitism to rear its ugly head. The fact that its long tentacles are reaching into so many sectors should be a cause for concern for all Canadians.

According to the most recent available statistical information, the Jewish community in Canada makes up barely 1% of the total Canadian population. Despite such a small demographic profile, police hate crimes reports continue to show that Jews are amongst the most targeted groups in Canada and, at times, the most targeted group.

While few police forces in Canada are currently ready to release their hate crime reports for 2006, the following examples are particularly revealing. Peel Region, part of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), is an area with a small number of Jews (2,635 according to the 2001 census) and a relatively large Muslim population (53,470 according to the same source). Police records for the region indicate that Jews were targeted in 29% of all cases reported in 2006, followed by Blacks in 27% of cases. Despite popular perceptions that Muslims are usually the most victimized community, in fact this group was victimized in just 8% of the cases in Peel Region. Such findings are similar to those in the 2005 *Hate Crime Bias Report* from the Toronto Police Services, the latest published to date, in which it was documented that 33 out of 39 cases involving religion were against members of the Jewish population. This report also noted that Blacks and Jews are the most likely targets in multi-bias incidents.

"We felt very violated as a family. My child said he felt very sad inside."

A mother whose home was vandalized



"To feel so isolated and excluded is to feel less human."

Victim of ongoing harassment

The disproportionate targeting of the Jewish community beyond other ethnic and religious groups mirrors studies conducted elsewhere. In the United States, for example, the FBI *Hate Crime Statistics Report* for 2005 released last year indicates that 848 of the 1,227 recorded cases with a single religious bias, or 69%, were against members of the Jewish population. In comparison the number of hate crimes targeting the Muslim community reached 128 cases.

2. Classification by Type of Incidents

The 935 incidents reported across Canada may be classified as follows: 588 cases (62.9%) of harassment were recorded compared to 531 in 2005; 317 cases (33.9%) involved vandalism compared to 273 cases in 2005; and 30 cases (3.2%) involved violence compared to 25 cases in 2005.

The 20% increase in the number of cases in the category of violence is particularly alarming. Ottawa and Vancouver both recorded incidents in this category where no cases were recorded in 2005. The number of cases in the Toronto region remained at 16, whereas the incidents of violence in the Montreal region jumped from six cases in 2005 to 10 in 2006.

The figures suggest that harassment was the method of choice in 2006, representing the largest number of cases across Canada. This category increased by 10.7% over 2005. In these cases, the language used continued to be graphic, ugly and disturbing. Within this category, the number of outright threats directed against individuals or Jewish sites

increased from the 72 cases in 2005 to 82 cases in 2006, an increase of 13.8%. These included bomb threats and threats of physical assault against individuals.

In 2006, cases of vandalism increased by 16.1% across the country when compared with the previous year. Quebec and Manitoba, where the majority of synagogue attacks occurred, showed significant increases in this category. In British Columbia, the number of incidents of vandalism doubled from nine in 2005 to 18 in 2006.

i. Jewish Community and Private Property

There were 42 reported incidents of attacks on synagogues in 2006 compared to 35 during the previous year. Targeted houses of worship included synagogues in Montreal, Winnipeg, Edmonton, and Toronto. Particularly disturbing to the Jewish community was the repeat vandalism against a small synagogue in the town of Belleville, Ontario, and the graffiti that defaced the same Edmonton synagogue that had previously been vandalized in 2005 and firebombed in 2000. As well, there were 27 incidents targeting Jewish communal buildings, such as charitable organizations and community centres, representing a 42% increase from the 19 recorded in 2005.

These findings demonstrate conclusively that security remains a central preoccupation for all Jewish communities, whether in concentrated centres of Jewish population, or in smaller communities. Given the need for special security measures to

protect Jewish houses of worship, schools and other community institutions, as well as the significant financial burden this represents, the League continues to remind all levels of government that living and worshipping in security is a basic human right that merits government funding and support.

There was just one case involving a cemetery desecration in 2006, this time in Ottawa, down from two recorded cases in 2005. Following the 10 desecration cases in 2004, including a rash of incidents over the course of one night in Toronto, the public revulsion which followed might explain to some extent the decrease in this type of public hate-motivated activity.

In 2006, the number of private homes targeted by vandalism increased to 118 in 2006 from 113 in 2005. This represents a steady climb from the 95 cases in 2003. When Jews are targeted in their own homes, it increases the community's sense of vulnerability. The fact that the perpetrator has gone to the trouble of identifying which homes are Jewish implies a level of premeditation and invasiveness that evokes some of the most lasting victim trauma.

ii. Workplace

There were 49 cases directly related to the victim's workplace, a small increase over the 46 noted in 2005, thus sustaining the trend towards increased discrimination at work noted in last year's *Audit*. The vast majority of cases involved incidents of ongoing harassment on the job by fellow employees and supervisors. Systemic issues continued to arise most often



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where employers refused to accommodate requests by employees for time off for religious days, incidents that were often the catalyst for subsequent harassment.

Incidents arose in private businesses, as well as in government settings where seven of these 49 cases took place. The sustained levels of discrimination in the workplace noted in this year's *Audit* reflects public employee surveys carried out by the federal government over 2005 and released in June, 2006. The surveys were conducted throughout the public service. Overall, 11% of public service employees reported that they had experienced discrimination at least once, while 6% reported that they had experienced such treatment more than twice. Religion accounted for 5% of the discrimination complaints, while ethnic origin featured in 23% of such cases. Most disconcerting was the fact that 18% indicated to varying degrees that they were not satisfied with the way the workplace unit responded to their complaints.

iii. Educational Settings

There were 54 incidents in school settings, an increase of 12.5% over the previous year. Of these, 48 occurred in the public system and six in private schools. With regards to the public school system, the argument is often voiced that this is the prime venue where students of different religions and ethnicities will automatically learn to respect and tolerate each other's differences. The statistics, however, tell a different story.

The six private school incidents involved Jewish day schools, notably

the firebombing of an Orthodox school in Montreal. This renewed fears of a community still dealing with the aftermath of the 2004 firebombing of the United Talmud Torah, yet another Orthodox school.

As well, a more subtle although still insidious form of discrimination continues to unfold in the classroom, where professors and classmates dismiss the experience of antisemitism and consider it immaterial to discussions on racism; one student was simply told not to write an essay on the subject since it would be "irrelevant". Many students report that they feel silenced through fear of ridicule or intimidation; some even resort to hiding their religion. They are hesitant about reporting these incidents due to concerns that their academic standing might be compromised. Students also report a reluctance to seek 'religious accommodation' for fear of being singled out. Corroborating their sentiments, the issue of re-scheduling examinations on account of Jewish religious holidays has once again become a problem on campus.

iv. Web-Based Hate

The League's Anti-Hate Hotline received 253 reports of web-based hate activity with a Canadian connection in terms of content, perpetrators and/or victims. This is a significant increase of 54% from the 164 cases recorded in 2005. The dramatic nature of the increase seems almost exponential compared to the 47 cases reported in 2004 and the 32 cases registered in 2003. Cognizant that this number is only the tip of the

"I made a conscious decision to hide my Star of David necklace and become invisible."

"I was scared to do or say anything that would disclose I was Jewish."

*A Jewish student
on campus*

"They bully me all the time because I'm Jewish."

"I have no idea what they want from me."

*A Jewish student
in public school*



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proverbial iceberg in terms of the proliferation of hate propaganda online, the League, together with B'nai Brith's Institute for International Affairs' convened a major symposium to explore this topic in 2006. A website was launched following the conference to bring together information and facilitate cross-sector and cross-border collaboration in this area: www.hateontheinternet.ca.

Among the 253 incidents, 124 cases involved targeted hate through direct e-mail messaging, a gross invasion of privacy in which the perpetrator managed to obtain the victim's personal e-mail address. Internet sites, whether neo-Nazi or Islamist, continued to feature antisemitic material throughout 2006, though there was limited success in shutting down some of these sites at least temporarily.

As reflected in the 2006 *Audit*, teenagers are increasingly being attracted to online hate. A new trend is emerging involving the use of blogs and Internet social networking communities, such as MySpace and Facebook to disseminate hate material. The web is used to publicize hate rock festivals, such as the one that was reported in the Toronto region for example, while web forums espousing white supremacist views announced group meetings in Calgary and Montreal.

v. Holocaust Denial

The number of cases of Holocaust denial rose from 39 in 2005 to 61 in 2006, an increase of 56%. In comparison with 2004, when just 15 such incidents were reported, this increase is cause for grave concern.

The persistence of Holocaust denial both on and off the web, has been sustained by ongoing neo-Nazi activity both in Canada and abroad, as well as international events such as the now infamous Holocaust denial 'conference' officiated by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, a head of state who has publicly and repeatedly called for Israel to be "wiped off the map". Neo-Nazi groups and the anti-Israel propagandists of the Middle East have found common cause and cooperate in such endeavours united solely by their implacable hatred of the Jewish people, as seen in Ahmadinejad's 'conference.'

vi. Neo-Nazi/White Supremacist Activity

Swastikas and Nazi-related symbols featured prominently in 188 of the vandalism incidents recorded in 2006, a 17.5% increase from the 160 cases in 2005. This increased frequency from coast to coast, as reported in this year's *Audit*, is just one indication that neo-Nazi and white supremacist activity intensified throughout 2006. It is suggestive of a pattern of gang-related 'taggings' where rival groups mark their respective territories and is in line with the reported increase of gang activity in general.

During 2006, Ernst Zundel remained in jail in Germany awaiting the verdict on his hate crime/Holocaust denial charges. A conviction and the maximum five-year sentence followed in early 2007. During this time-frame, his supporters made their presence known in Canada, largely through relentless pro-Zundel propaganda campaigns.

In addition, there have been reports of the presence of Ku Klux Klan (KKK) sympathizers in Canada, an infamous racist group that has seen some resurgence in the United States over the course of 2006. Reports have indicated that the KKK was present at Caledonia, Ontario where a dispute over Aboriginal lands is ongoing. KKK symbols showed up prominently in graffiti cases in Canada during 2006.

vii. Perpetrators

The ethnic origin of the perpetrators of reported incidents was analyzed where relevant information was available. This was the case in face-to-face encounters, for example, where there was self-identification by the perpetrator. Given the anonymity sought by those carrying out hate-motivated activities, identifying the perpetrator is often impossible.

An entry was noted in this category only where the facts were clear. In 2006, as in previous years, the single most documented group carrying out the reported antisemitic incidents was those who identified themselves as of Arab origin. The 68 such cases in 2006 represents a 21.4% increase over the 56 incidents in 2005. Other ethnic groups who self-identified in the year's total incidents were Hungarian (10), Russian (5), German (3), Aboriginal (3), Pakistani (2), Chinese (2) and Ukrainian (1).

To report incidents of antisemitism,
hate and racism, call the community's

Anti-Hate Hotline

24 hours a day • 7 days a week
• Confidentiality assured

1-800-892-2624



3. Examples of Incidents

January

Toronto, ON – During “Israel Apartheid Week” on campus, an invited speaker alleges that Jews are killers who use their wealth to control the world.

Charlottetown, PEI - A Jewish student is taunted at school and referred to as a “dirty Jew”.

Toronto, ON - Two boys parade through the Jewish community waving a vintage Nazi flag from their car.

Vancouver, BC - The campaign manager of a losing candidate blames the ‘Jewish-owned media’ for his defeat.

Toronto, ON - A social worker gives a Heil Hitler salute and complains to a colleague: “All Jews must die”.

Montreal, QC - Several Arabic-speaking men use rocks and bricks in an attempt to force entry into a kosher restaurant via the window. They then throw a lit firecracker inside.

Toronto, ON - A community college teacher tells her students that the media is under the control of the Jews and that “the media make things up like the Holocaust”.

February

St John, NB - The words “die Jewish scums” [sic] are found on a soccer message board.

Halifax, NS - Israeli Ambassador to Canada, Alan Baker, is heckled with antisemitic remarks while visiting Dalhousie University.

Toronto, ON - A school principal singles out and harasses the two Jewish teachers who work at his school.

Montreal, QC - A crowd of Arabic-speaking teenagers swarms two women, calls them “dirty Jews”, and assaults their male friends outside a restaurant.

Ottawa, ON - Antisemitic insinuations are made repeatedly during a meeting sponsored by the federal government and attended by Canadian NGOs.

Richmond Hill, ON - A child is bullied at school and taunted about his Jewishness.

Montreal QC - A synagogue is vandalized on three separate occasions.

March

Montreal, QC - The owner of a kosher restaurant is threatened by a caller who warns: “You f**king Jew, we got you once, we’ll get you again and this time we’ll kill you.”

Toronto, ON - A swastika and the message “gas the Jews” is etched inside a downtown facility.

Montreal, QC - Swastikas and the SS insignia are spray-painted on the wall of a synagogue.

Toronto, ON - The Holocaust memorial site at Earl Bales Park is vandalized and defaced with graffiti twice over a three-day period.

Neo-Nazi symbols used in Canada



The Iron Cross Shows allegiance to Nazi ideals



Stormfront Insignia Symbol of White Power



SS Bolts A symbol of violence

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Regina, SK - Jewish residents are sent pamphlets telling them they will rot in hell if they do not convert to Christianity.

Toronto, ON - The entrance of an apartment is vandalized and painted with swastikas and slogans including “Die Jewz”, [sic] “bitch”, and “cunt”.

April

Montreal, QC - Five teenagers throw rocks at a visibly Jewish man and shout “go back to your country” and “Allahu akbar”.

Ottawa, ON - A house with a visible mezuzah is vandalized twice.

Toronto, ON - A supporter of white supremacist Tomasz Winnicki addresses a message to B’nai Brith: “Why don’t you dumb-f**k kikes leave this guy alone? Besides you hook-nosers aren’t even real Jews. You’re just a bunch of Khazars”.

Calgary, AB - Swastikas are etched onto two portable classrooms at an Orthodox Jewish day school.

May

Montreal, QC - Two Arabic-speaking men throw rocks at a visibly Orthodox Jewish woman as she sits in her parked car with her infant daughter.

Ottawa, ON - A prison guard taunts an inmate, calling him a “dirty Jew”.

Toronto, ON - A mental health patient is harassed by a nurse and labeled a “bad Jew”.

Toronto, ON - A Jewish woman living in a social housing project is harassed by her

neighbors who carve swastikas onto her front door and make anti-Jewish slurs

Winnipeg, MB - Thirty-one windows are smashed at a synagogue.

Victoria, BC - A white supremacist group distributes antisemitic and anti-immigrant flyers.

June

Montreal, QC - A visibly Jewish teenager is riding on the bus when three teenagers throw peanuts at him and yell, “Jew, Jew, dirty Jew”.

Toronto, ON - A Jew driving downtown is physically assaulted by the driver of another car, who hurls a bottle at him, spitting and shouting that a “pig-nose Jew should not be driving,” and threatening that he will “kill you like my grandparents killed yours”.

Winnipeg, MB - Antisemitic leaflets are handed out to the audience at a concert hall.

Toronto, ON - A hate rock festival promotes anti-Jewish and anti-Black propaganda.

July

Montreal, QC - A Jewish family discovers a decapitated pig floating in their backyard swimming pool.

Toronto, ON - “Death to Jews” is scrawled on a street sign in the North York area.

Montreal, QC - Three men throw rocks at a group of congregants waiting outside their synagogue, shouting “this is revenge for Lebanon”.

Ottawa, ON - While walking to the Jewish community centre, a visibly Jewish man is verbally harassed with antisemitic slurs by occupants in a passing car.

Montreal, QC - At an anti-Israel rally, where open support for the terrorist group Hezbollah is expressed, a Jewish bystander is physically assaulted and a *tallit* (Jewish prayer shawl) is publicly desecrated.

Winnipeg, MB - Nazi-themed graffiti is spray-painted over a 50-foot stretch on a public park walkway.

Montreal, QC - B’nai Brith Canada receives a message reading: “The Jews are murderers just as bad as Hitler. We should have exterminated them when we had the chance”.

Vancouver, BC - Antisemitic graffiti and swastikas are found on 12 different sites across the city.

Toronto, ON - A “Call to Arms” from a white supremacist group is circulated via e-mail calling for violence against the Jewish community.

August

Toronto, ON - While walking in Earl Bales Park, a visibly Jewish man is approached by two men claiming to be Palestinians looking for work. They ask him if he knows any “rich Jews in the area” because they want to work for “religious idiots”. The two men strike the man and knock off his *kippah* before walking away.

Toronto, ON - A rabbi is attacked and accused of “wanting to start wars”.

London, ON - A security guard in the mall shouts at kids fighting with one



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another to “stop acting like Jews”.

Toronto, ON - A house with a mezuzah is smeared with feces.

September

Montreal, QC - An Orthodox Jewish school is firebombed in the early hours of the morning.

Toronto, ON - A synagogue in North Toronto receives threats by mail.

Montreal, QC - A glass bottle is thrown at a rabbi's home, shattering his window.

Winnipeg, MB - Antisemitic graffiti is scrawled on the walls of a synagogue and windows are smashed.

Montreal, QC - Several teenagers outline a Star of David on the ground using tape, spit on it and invite other passersby to join in and do the same.

October

Montreal, QC - B'nai Brith's Quebec Region office receives a message stating: “You are cowards and child killers.”

Ottawa, ON - A swastika and the message “F**k Jews” is spray-painted on public property.

Toronto, ON - Organizers at a major downtown venue receive death threats against a Jewish performer days before her appearance in a concert.

Montreal, QC - Several men verbally harass a young and visibly Jewish boy, taunting him and ridiculing his head-covering, shouting “why are you wearing that piece of shit on your head?”

Toronto, ON - Jewish community signs and property are defaced with swastikas, pictures and the message “F**k Jews”.

Brampton, ON - The message “Die Jews” is outlined in the sand of a public park.

Toronto, ON - A Holocaust survivor who uses a transportation service designed for handicapped users overhears the driver making Holocaust denial remarks.

November

Montreal, QC - A Jewish organization receives the following message “If you are not happy with Quebec or Canada policies [sic], you have only to return to Israel and continue to kill your neighbours”.

Toronto, ON - The elevator of a downtown building is repeatedly defaced with the words “Jew Killers” and swastikas.

Winnipeg, MB - “F**king Jew” is spray-painted on a vehicle.

December

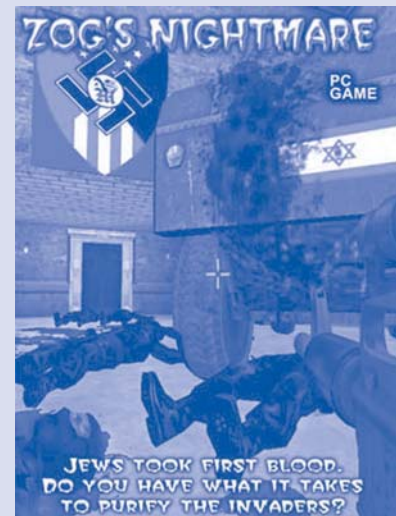
Toronto, ON - A hotel receives a message from a caller threatening “to kill all the Jews.” The caller inquires “how many Jews do you have?”

Montreal, QC - Delegates at the Liberal Leadership convention are urged not to vote for Bob Rae because his wife is Jewish.

Toronto, ON - A menorah displayed in a Jewish neighborhood is vandalized.



A tallit (Jewish prayer shawl) is publicly desecrated at an anti-Israel rally



An Internet game promotes hatred against Jews



The front door of a Jewish home is vandalized

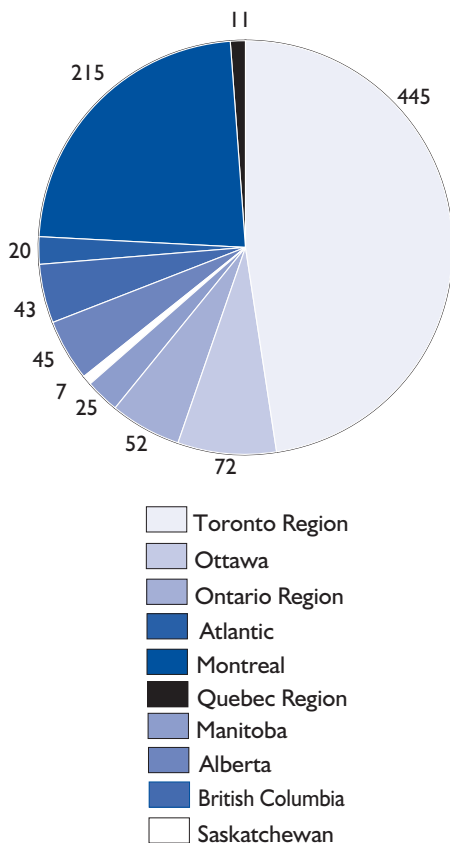
Victoria, BC - Anonymous hate mail targets a member of the Jewish community who authored a letter to the editor of a local newspaper protesting the Holocaust denial of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Toronto, ON - A young man is repeatedly taunted with the slur, "Jew Boy," as he walks along the sidewalk.

4. Regional Breakdown

Incidents were reported once again across the country. As in previous years, the most significant statistics were collected in Quebec and Ontario, where the vast majority of Canadian Jews reside.

Total Number of Incidents by Region



i. Ontario Overall

The majority of reported incidents of antisemitism in Canada occurred in Ontario: 569 incidents or 60.9% of the year's total for all of the country. This is a small increase of 4.6% from 2005 when there were 544 incidents in the province.

The 2006 figure represents more than a three-fold increase from the 186 cases in 2002. The number of cases of harassment rose by 4.4% to 355 across Ontario, while vandalism increased by 4.3% to 195 and incidents of violence went up by 11.8% to 19 cases.

The incidents in Ontario are broken down further into Greater Toronto Area (GTA), Ottawa and Regional Ontario (areas outside the GTA and Ottawa).

a) Greater Toronto Area (GTA)

The GTA area has consistently proven the highest reporting area in previous *Audits*. The 445 incidents recorded in the GTA represent 47.6% of the total number of incidents across Canada for 2006, up 6.5% from the 2005 figure of 418. This is the highest number ever recorded for any city in the history of the *Audit*. The incidents are classified as follows: 299 cases of harassment, 130 of vandalism and 16 of violence. The incidents included physical assaults, desecration of homes, synagogues and communal buildings.

The majority of the GTA cases took place in the City of Toronto where there were 344 incidents. There were 53 cases in York Region to the north (35 in Thornhill, eight in Richmond Hill, three in Markham and seven in Newmarket), as well as 48

cases in Peel Region to the west (17 in Brampton and 31 in Mississauga). The overall Peel Region figure has increased by 71.4% from just 28 cases in the previous reporting year. In terms of a five year comparison, the 445 incidents in the GTA represent more than double the number of incidents in 2002, when 217 were reported.

While the number of cases of violence increased across Canada by 20%, and in Ontario overall by 11.8%, incidents of violence in the GTA remained at the same level as 2005. However, the 2006 figures reflect a sustained elevated level of aggression and public displays of hatred directed against the Jewish community.

b) Ottawa

There were 72 cases of antisemitism reported in Ottawa; this is the highest number ever recorded. The incidents included 33 cases of harassment, 37 of vandalism and two of violence. Overall, this represents a 50% increase over the figures for 2005 when there were 48 cases. The incidents involved antisemitic graffiti at public sites as well as private homes, harassment in government workplaces and in the prison system, and the one case of cemetery desecration recorded in 2006. Taking a longer-term perspective, incidents have increased by 67% in Ottawa in the last five years from the 43 cases reported in 2002.

c) Regional Ontario

In Regional Ontario (excluding the Greater Toronto Area and Ottawa), 52 cases were reported in 2006. Most of the cases occurred in urban areas of the region, including London, Kitchener-

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Waterloo, Belleville, Hamilton, Peterborough and Kingston. The 2006 total was made up of 23 acts of harassment, 28 cases of vandalism and one act of violence. Incidents included vandalism against synagogues, such as spray-painting swastikas and other antisemitic graffiti on public sites and private homes, a physical assault, and hate propaganda on campus. Neo-Nazi and white supremacist gang-related activity was also reported. The 52 incidents represented a decrease of 33.3% compared to the 78 cases in 2005. This is an aberration from the national overall increase.

ii. Quebec

The 226 incidents reported in Quebec as a whole represented 24.2% of the total incidents recorded across Canada. Quebec incidents increased dramatically by 69.9% in 2006 compared to the 133 cases in 2005. There were 147 cases of harassment, 69 cases of vandalism and 10 incidents of violence. Quebec figures are further broken down into Montreal and Regional Quebec, the latter encompassing the areas outside Montreal and its immediate environs.

a) Montreal

In 2006, 215 incidents were reported to the League in Montreal compared to 127 incidents in 2005. This represents an increase of 69.3%. This dramatic rise was reflected in each incident category: there were 142 cases of harassment compared to 78 cases in 2005, 63 cases of vandalism compared to 43 cases in 2005, and 10 incidents of violence compared with six cases in 2005. Incidents included the firebombing of a Jewish day school, physical assaults carried out against

members of the Jewish community, desecration of synagogues and Jewish community property, and overt antisemitic statements and public vilification of the Jewish people at anti-Israel rallies where open displays of sympathy for the terrorist group Hezbollah were present. In terms of a five-year picture, incidents in Montreal have increased from 87 in 2002 to 215 in 2006, representing an increase of 147%.

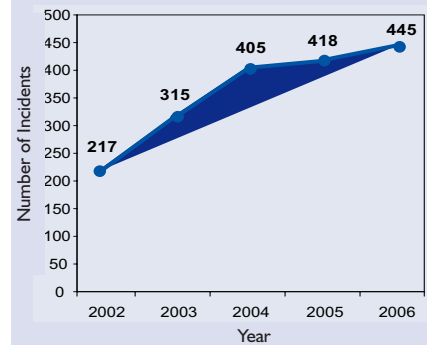
b) Regional Quebec

There were 11 incidents in Regional Quebec in 2006. There were no cases in the category of violence, five cases of harassment and six cases of vandalism. Incidents in this area have almost doubled compared to the six cases recorded in 2005. While a decrease from the all-time high of 17 incidents in 2004, the 2006 figure still represents more than a five-fold increase from the two cases reported in 2002.

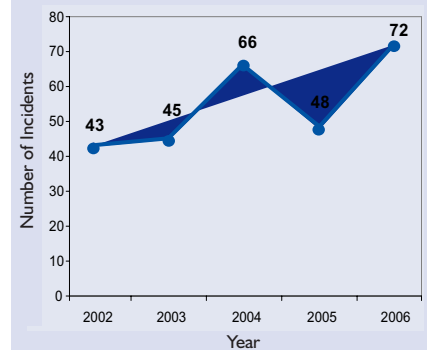
iii. Manitoba

There were 25 cases in 2006 compared to 27 in 2005 or an overall decrease in the region by 7.4%. The number of incidents of harassment dropped from 23 in 2005 to 13 in 2006, representing a drop of 43.5%. However, vandalism increased four-fold from three to 12 cases. There were no incidents of violence in 2006, while there was one case recorded in 2005. While the 25 incidents in 2006 represent a continuing decline from the 2004 high of 55 cases, the Jewish community takes little comfort when bearing in mind that the vandalism incidents included three synagogues that resulted in substantial damage.

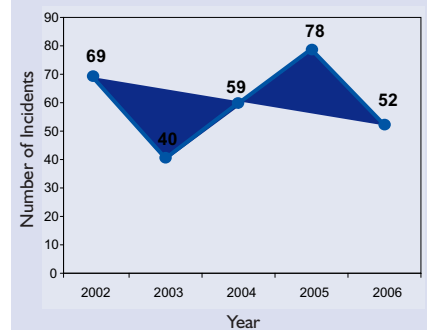
Greater Toronto Area - A Five Year Picture



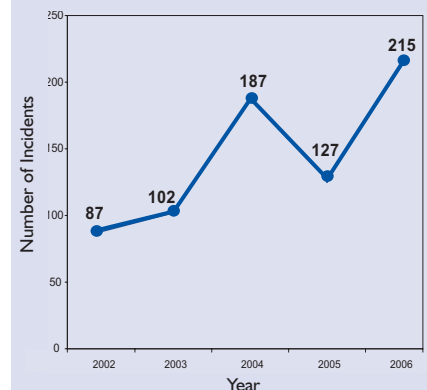
Ottawa - A Five Year Picture



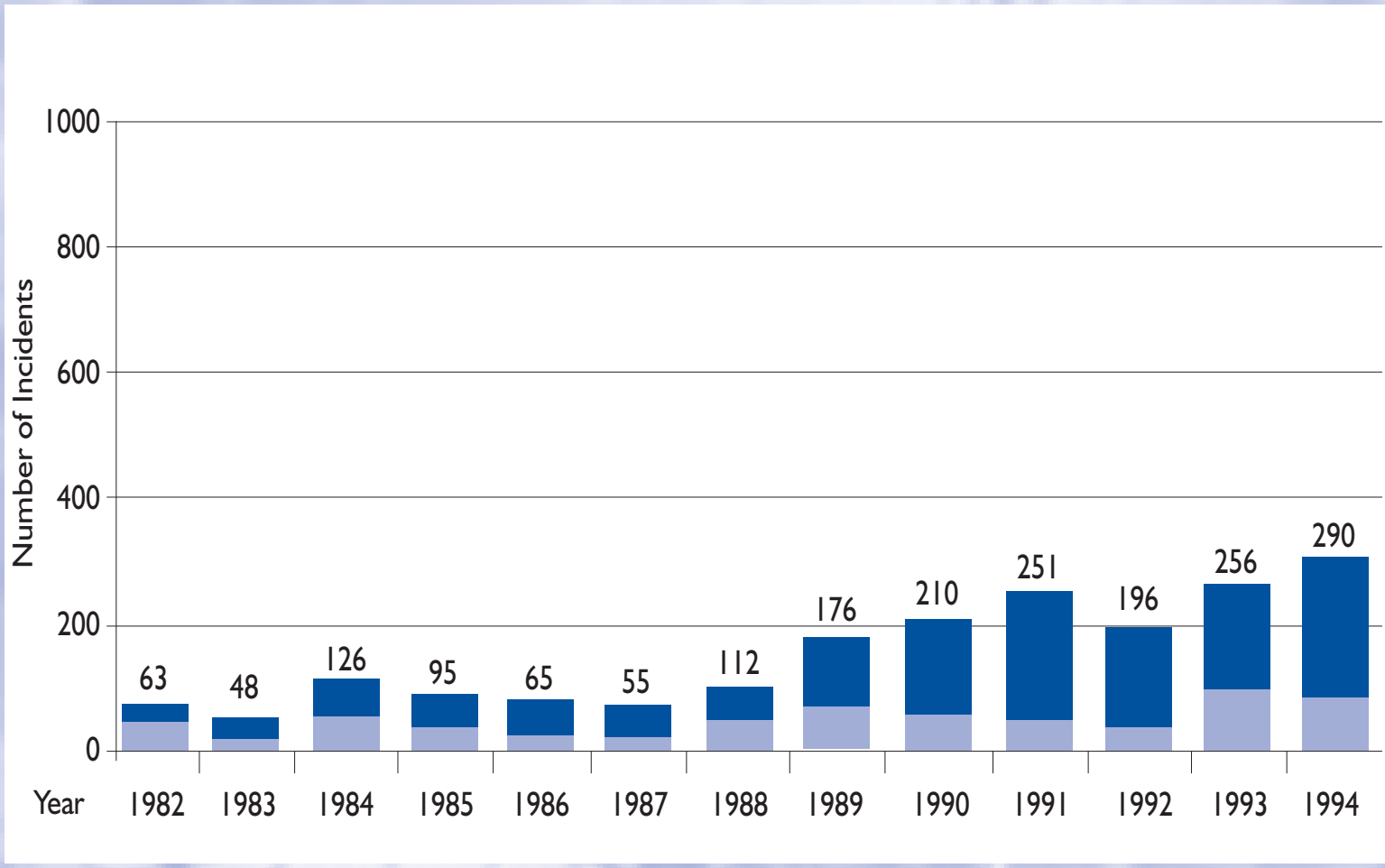
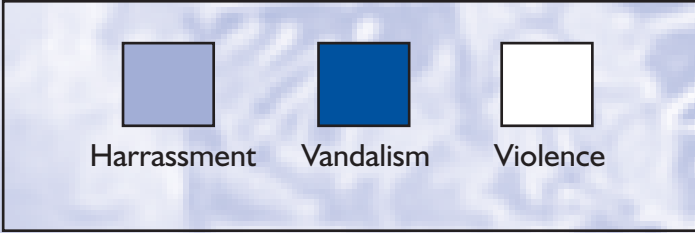
Regional Ontario - A Five Year Picture



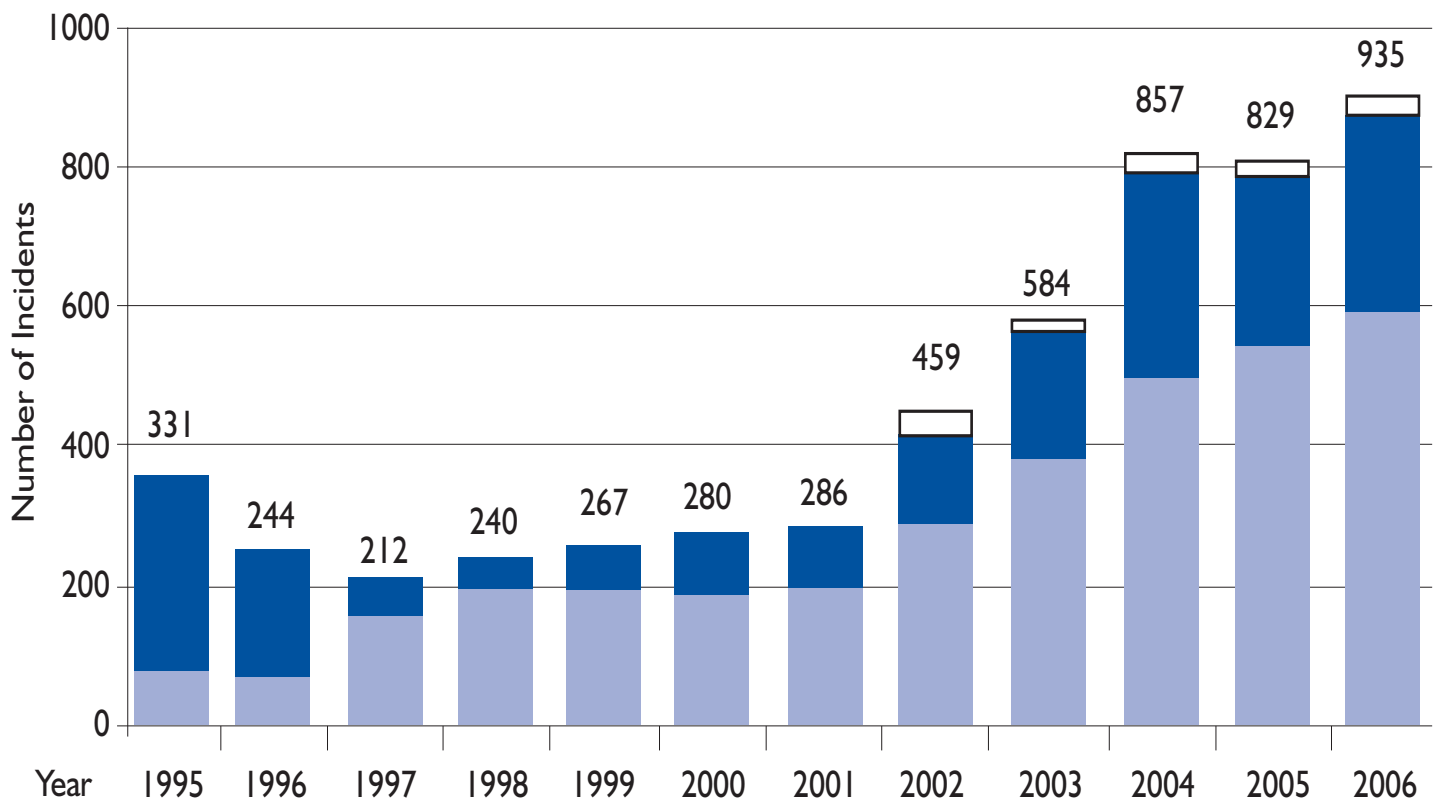
Montreal - A Five Year Picture



ANTISEMITISM A 25-YEAR



IN CANADA PICTURE



iv. Saskatchewan

There were seven cases reported this year, all of which were classified as harassment. This represents the same number of incidents documented in 2005. The reported incidents in this province remain low despite the continuing high profile of the hate crime case, currently under appeal, of aboriginal leader David Ahenakew. The incidents included workplace harassment and propaganda, including a flyer denigrating Jews and defending Ahenakew.

v. Alberta

There were 45 incidents in 2006, which represents a 21.1% decrease when compared to the 57 cases in 2005. Of these, 22 took place in Edmonton, and the remaining 23 in Calgary. The incidents include 24 cases of harassment, 21 cases of vandalism and no cases involving violence. The incidents of vandalism included attacks on synagogues, public places and private homes. Harassment cases included neo-Nazi activity on and off the Internet. In spite of the decrease in the region, over a five-year span, figures for Alberta have still shown well over a seven-fold increase from the six cases recorded in the 2002 Audit.

vi. British Columbia

Overall, the 43 incidents reported in 2006 represent a slight 2.4% increase from the previous all-time high of 42 cases documented in 2005. The 2006 figure continues a steep five-year upward trend from the six incidents reported in 2002. Over a five-year period, this constitutes more than an seven-fold increase.

Incidents took place in the cities of Vancouver (34) and Victoria (four), as well as five cases elsewhere in the province. While there were 24 cases of harassment in 2006, which represented a 27% drop from the 2005 figures in that particular category, the cases of vandalism doubled from nine in 2005 to 18 in 2006. There was also one case of violence where no cases were reported in this category in 2005. The cases included incidents on campus, antisemitic graffiti on businesses and private homes, and an assault against a Jewish high school student following ongoing harassment.

vii. Atlantic Region

The number of reported incidents in this region rose from 18 in 2005 to 20 cases in 2006, constituting an increase of 11.1%. This region is made up of five eastern provinces and the provincial breakdown of incidents was as follows: Nova Scotia (12), New Brunswick (four), Newfoundland (one), and Prince Edward (three).

While cases of vandalism dropped from seven in 2005 to only two in 2006, harassment cases increased from 11 incidents in 2005 to 18 in 2006, an increase of 63.6%. Taking a five-year view, there was a significant upward trend for this region - the number of incidents rose almost seven-fold from the three cases in 2002. Incidents included white supremacist flyers being sneaked into a traveling Anne Frank memorial exhibit, ongoing harassment of a Jewish middle school student, and a viciously antisemitic computer game, replete with violence, being played on the premises of a public high school.

viii. The Northern Region

This region is made up of the vast areas of Northern Canada: the Yukon, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. There were no cases in this region for 2006, whereas one incident had been recorded in 2005 and one in 2004. There have still been calls, however, from the region's residents who are concerned about web-based hate. This only underscores the pervasive and damaging ability that the Internet has to disseminate hateful attitudes and stereotypes to regions where few, if any, members of the Jewish community reside.

5. Patterns of Occurrence

In today's global universe of interconnectedness, it has become increasingly evident that trigger events abroad impact here at home. The year 2006 is similar to previous years when major international crises, particularly in the Middle East, caused a ripple effect in Canada, resulting in upsurges in particular months. The months of July and August were clearly distinguished by a marked spike in antisemitic incidents relative to the other months of the year. In these two months there were 263 incidents, making up 28% of the total incidents of the year. Of these, 146 took place in July and 117 in August. This compares to 50 incidents in July of 2005 and 68 in August of that year, for a two-month total of 118. This dramatic jump in the summer months of 2006 can be traced directly to events in the Middle East as Hezbollah's war against Israel unfolded. Here at home, there was dangerous

2006 Audit of Antisemitic Incidents

spillover of overseas tensions in everyday life. During the summer of 2006, Jewish individuals and community organizations were targeted by persistent phone and email abuse, which often included intimidation and direct physical threats. A bomb threat against a synagogue, an attack against a rabbi, and the delivery to a Jewish family, under the cloak of darkness, of the head of a decapitated pig, were amongst the kind of incidents being reported to the League. In the overwhelming majority of incidents documented during this period, the perpetrators themselves left no doubt as to the Middle East connection and often characterized the acts as “revenge” on the Jewish people. Of the total number of incidents in Canada, 131 had a clear and explicit reference to the Middle East conflict, with 95 of these incidents taking place in July and August.

The heightened tensions were felt by Jewish community members across Canada, but particularly in Quebec, the province where the highest proportion of the total annual incidents took place in July and August. For example, in Ontario, incidents for these two months made up 25% of the annual incidents for the province, whereas in Quebec the figure was 34%.

The high number of incidents prompted B’nai Brith Canada to take the necessary step of issuing a community-wide security alert. The threat to the community was also taken seriously by law enforcement agencies and relevant authorities working in close consultation with the Jewish human rights group. The RCMP, which had

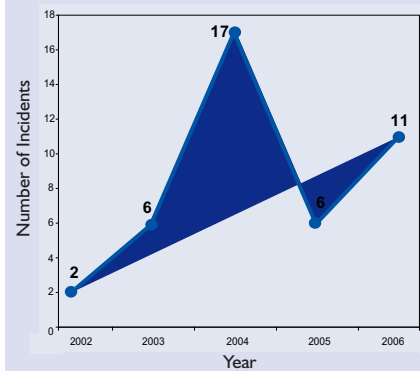
launched its own 24-hour Hotline, appealed to the community to report suspicious activity that might be linked to terrorism in Canada itself.

In early September, amidst a period of high security alert, an Orthodox Jewish boys school in Montreal was hit with a Molotov cocktail. This was the second time in a two-year span that a Jewish elementary school was firebombed in that city. It also clearly represented a dangerous evolution in the intensity of hate crimes targeting the Jewish community.

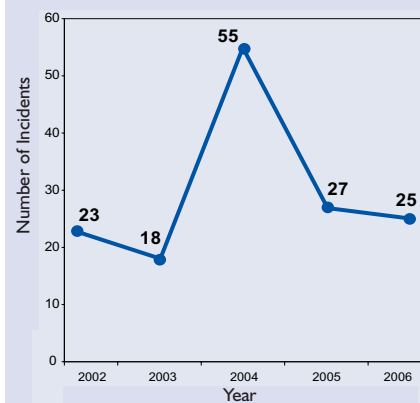
It is worth noting that Canada was far from alone in experiencing such a high volume of incidents that could be traced directly to events in the Middle East. In what was the most egregious of incidents, on July 28, 2006, during the height of Hezbollah’s war against Israel, Naveed Afzal Haq, an American man of Pakistani descent, used a young girl as a hostage to force himself into the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle. He opened fire on staff members with two automatic handguns, killing one and wounding five. In a recorded transcript with 911 operators with whom he spoke during the incident, Haq claimed, “These are Jews and I’m tired of getting pushed around and our people getting pushed around by the situation in the Middle East.”

Further correlations between levels of antisemitism in individual countries and events in the Middle East were documented worldwide. A report released last November by the European Jewish Congress, demonstrated that antisemitic attacks peaked across Europe during the

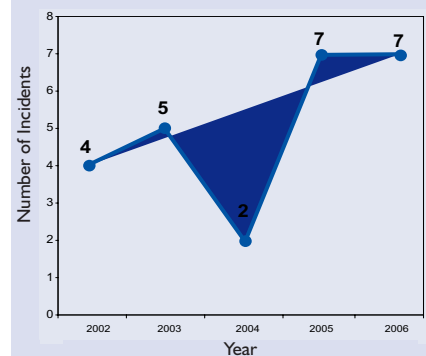
Regional Quebec - A Five Year Picture



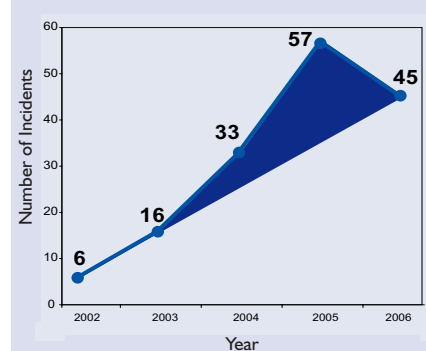
Manitoba - A Five Year Picture



Saskatchewan - A Five Year Picture



Alberta - A Five Year Picture



2006 Audit of Antisemitic Incidents

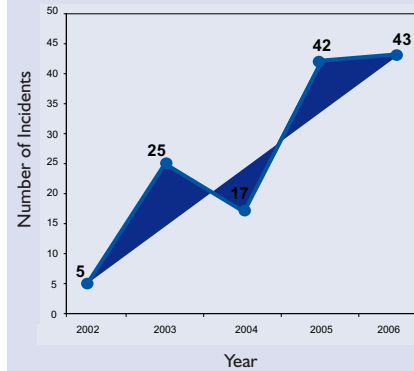
summer of 2006 in comparison to the summer of 2005. The Community Security Trust (CST) of Great Britain, a group that monitors security for British Jewry, reported 594 antisemitic incidents for 2006, of which 134 (22.6%) occurred during the 34 days of fighting between Israel and Hezbollah. This represents almost a quarter of the annual incidents in little more than one month.

In yet another example that illustrates clearly the 'Middle East trigger phenomenon' that leads to a spike in incidents, the Executive Council of Australian Jewish Jewry reported a six-fold rise in antisemitic incidents in that country during the period between July 12, 2006 when the war broke out and August 14, 2006 when the cease-fire took hold, compared to the same period for the previous year.

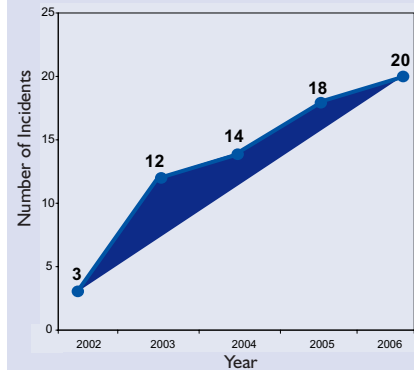
Incidents Canada-wide also spiked in the month of February, with a

reported 134 incidents, representing 14.3% of the total for the entire year. We note that in this month violent outbreaks erupted across the globe as a result of outrage by many Muslims to the cartoons depicting the prophet Mohammed. While the violent riots elsewhere were not replicated in this country, the tensions did coincide with a marked increase in hate-motivated activity against Jewish communities, including here in Canada. This was quite likely spurred on by the decision of Iran, a human rights-abusing regime, to enter the fray, and challenge the world to participate in a Holocaust denial cartoon contest. Extremist right-wing groups also appear to have been encouraged by this, as evidenced by the increased number of incidents directly related to neo-Nazism and Holocaust denial during this month.

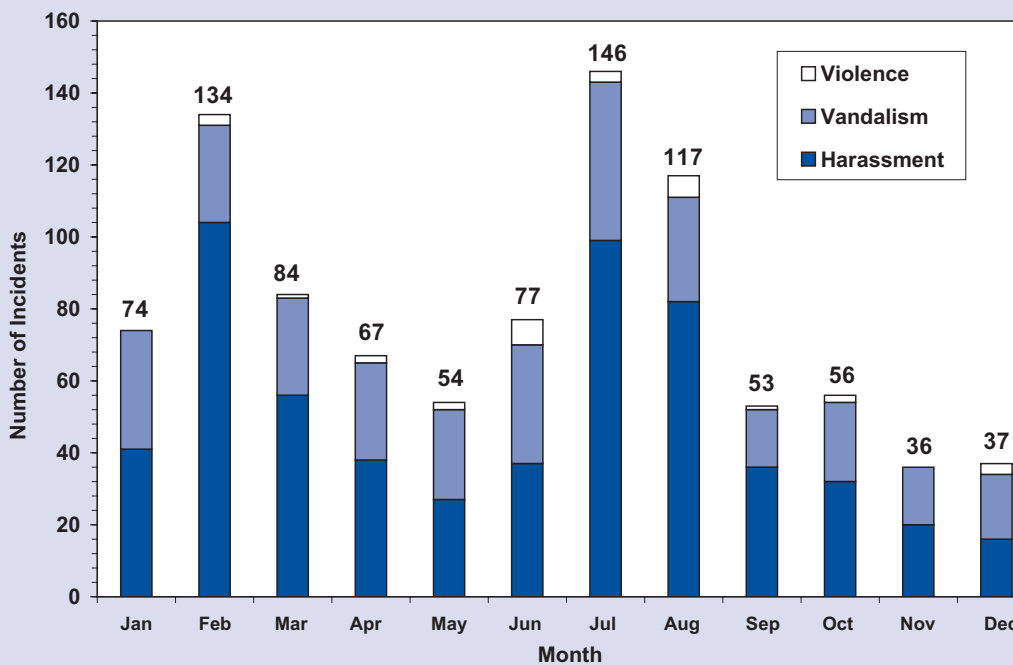
British Columbia - A Five Year Picture



Atlantic Region - A Five Year Picture



Antisemitic Incidents in Canada by Month in 2006



C. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND JUDICIAL INTERVENTIONS

In 2006, 332 incidents out of the 935 incidents (35.5%) were reported to police by the victims themselves. This is a similar percentage to the data recorded in 2005, but a decrease from the 45% of such incidents recorded in 2004.

Police officials and sociologists estimate that, in general, only 10% of hate crimes are ever reported at all, whether to police or to human rights agencies such as the League. The fact that the vast majority of hate crimes go unreported means that the numbers in studies such as the *Audit* give, at best, only a partial glimpse of a far larger problem.

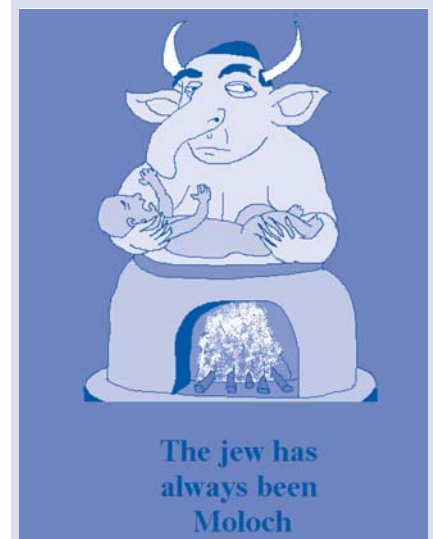
Reticence in coming forward and alerting law enforcement about hate-motivated activity reflects, at least in part, the discomfort victims feel in contacting the authorities. With regard to the initial act of reporting, many victims voice their preference for using what they perceive as a mediating and culturally-sensitive conduit to interact with law enforcement authorities. Particularly disconcerting is that an increase in cases over the years has resulted in a desensitization. This has led to victims, police and society itself dismissing many serious incidents that once would have been deemed unacceptable and thus meriting a concerted police follow-up.

In one particularly egregious incident, a victim informed the League that when he approached the police with evidence of the graphically violent threats he had been receiving, he was advised to store a copy of the letters in his own personal files as “insurance” in case something were actually to happen to him. The perception that little can or will be done when victims receive hate messaging via the Internet, find antisemitic graffiti on their property or get threatening phone calls at home or work compels many to simply remain silent.

Another reason for limited activity on some files could be resource limitations in various police jurisdictions. In order for appropriate resources to be allocated, it is, of course, necessary to have accurate data on which to base a realistic needs assessment. One positive step that might assist in this area is a new federal anti-racism strategy that makes police collection of statistics on hate-motivated activity mandatory. This is an approach that the League has consistently recommended as a measure to complement community-based reporting mechanisms. It will support Statistics Canada’s *Uniform Crime Reporting Survey* and provide much-needed information on racism in Canada. Standard definitions will be a useful tool when attempting to compile



“Kill the Jew!”
Russian graffiti on a Montreal synagogue



A cartoon circulated by a supporter of a white supremacist group

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findings and compare them from one area to another. Only London and Ottawa police have participated to date but other police forces are expected to come forward. While clearly a positive move, this will be a challenging project given resource limitations in many jurisdictions.

There was a significant drop in the number of charges laid by police in 2006, down to 15 compared to a total of 37 in 2005. The limited number of charges from year to year is partly due to the fact that hate-related incidents often do not meet the more restrictive definitions of hate crimes under the *Criminal Code of Canada*. Of course the anonymous nature of most hate-related incidents and the various methods available to conceal one's identity on the Internet or telephone, for example, are also important factors. Despite the reduced number of charges, the legal system in 2006 was still significant in the battle against hate.

Several hate crime proceedings under the *Criminal Code* took place during 2006. In September, Reinhard Gustav Mueller was sentenced by an Edmonton court to 16 months following his December 2005 conviction for postings on the *Federation of Free Planets* website. This site denied the Holocaust, and accused the Jews of creating diseases such as AIDS and the Ebola virus. Glenn Bahr, an alleged white supremacist, was committed to stand trial on hate crime charges relating to Internet activities late in 2006. In November, Jean Sébastien Pressault, a resident of Quebec, pled guilty to the willful promotion of hatred. His Internet postings targeted Blacks and

Jews and included the novel that inspired the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing as well as a racist video game.

While the 2005 hate crime conviction of Aboriginal leader, David Ahenakew, regarding statements he made to a reporter about Jews was set aside in 2006, an appeal by the Crown will likely be heard in June 2007.

It should also be noted that the infamous 'Roma case' of *R. v. Krystopher Krymowski et al*, in which the League intervened, was brought to a conclusion in 2006. The charges arose out of an incident in 1997 when white supremacists demonstrated in front of a motel housing Roma refugee claimants, brandishing signs with racist statements such as "Gypsies out" and "Honk if you hate Gypsies". The accused were acquitted at the initial trial in part because the judge refused to acknowledge that the derogatory word appearing on the signs, "Gypsies", and the neutral word, "Roma", as the indictment read, had a shared meaning. Appeals eventually brought the matter to the Supreme Court of Canada which set aside the acquittals and ordered a new trial, finding in effect that hate should never be dismissed on the basis of a mere technicality. The accused later pled guilty to the hate crime charges.

Much of the battle against hate during 2006 however took place within the Canadian human rights system. At the League's 3rd *International Symposium on Hate on the Internet* held in 2006, Commissioner David Langtry reported that the Canadian Human Rights Commission had

launched a strategy to facilitate the processing of complaints of discriminatory practices on the Internet under section 13 of the *Canadian Human Rights Act*. This strategy included the establishment of a complaints team made up of officers with specialized expertise, the review of investigative procedures to ensure cases were dealt with expeditiously, and ongoing discussions with Internet service providers and community organizations to seek ways to combat hate.

The year saw human rights lawyer, Richard Warman, succeed in a series of complaints he filed with the Canadian Human Rights Commission concerning the spread of hate on the Internet. The complaints largely focused on alleged hate material against Jews and other groups posted by individuals and organizations espousing white supremacist ideology.

The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruled in the case of *Warman v. Kulbashian and Richardson* in March, 2006. The respondents were found to have been involved in the running and/or hosting of two websites targeting Jews and other ethnic groups, as well as immigrants. In a precedent-setting ruling, the Internet service provider was held responsible under section 13.3 of the *Canadian Human Rights Act* to the extent that the provider was aware of the hate-based content of the site. It also clearly established that the use of web pseudonyms provides no protection. Fines totaling \$8,000 and a cease and desist order against further posting were issued by the Tribunal. An appeal of this decision is pending.

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The Tribunal also rendered its decision in *Warman v. Winnicki*, finding that the respondent Tomasz Winnicki, had committed a discriminatory act contrary to section 13 of the Act through “his vicious and dehumanizing web postings”. In July 2006, in light of his continued postings, the Federal Court of Canada found Winnicki in contempt of the Tribunal’s decision and had him jailed. Winnicki was released in September pending an appeal which is expected to be heard in 2007. In November 2006, it was reported that Winnicki pled guilty to a weapons charge stemming from a 2004 Toronto rally in support of Holocaust denier Ernst Zundel.

The latter part of the year saw three more decisions from the Tribunal. In August, the Tribunal reached a decision in *Warman v. Harrison*, holding the respondent responsible for hate-filled messages posted on the Internet. In November, the Tribunal issued its decision finding Peter Kouba liable for his Internet messages, which it described as “an attack on the inherent self-worth and dignity of the members of the targeted group”. In December, the Tribunal also rendered its decision in

Warman v. Bahr, ruling that Glenn Bahr – the same individual now facing trial on criminal charges – was responsible for web postings as founder and leader of the group, Western Canada For Us (WCFU). Finding that the website and forums he operated spread hatred against Jews and other groups, the Tribunal imposed \$10,000 in fines as well as a cease and desist order. Bahr’s claim that he was promoting free speech and reform of the immigration system was rejected.

A number of ongoing cases under the *Canadian Human Rights Act* will likely be decided in 2007. Currently in the hearing stages is the complaint against Marc Lemire, who is alleged to be responsible for the website *freedomsite.com*, a case in which the League intervened. A hearing into a complaint against another white supremacist site, BC White Pride, is proceeding, as is the case against Melissa Guille, allegedly at the forefront of a group called the Canadian Heritage Alliance. There are also a number of new complaints before the Canadian Human Rights Commission under investigation that will merit attention in 2007.

“It felt as if they were knocking at my door. I am frightened to send my husband to work, my kids off to school.”

Mother who fears for the safety and security of her family



An Internet cartoon demonizes Jews



Desecration of a Quebec synagogue



White supremacist hate propaganda disseminated in Canada

CONCLUSION

Across the globe, from Australia to South Africa to Europe to Canada, antisemitism against Jewish communities intensified during 2006. Synagogues have been firebombed, Jewish religious items and symbols have been desecrated, and Jews of all ages have been harassed, threatened, and attacked. In France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Norway and Ukraine, as well as in this country, ugly incidents have erupted during or after anti-Israel marches that were replete with anti-Jewish heckling. In Canada, for example, a Jewish bystander was physically assaulted and a *tallit* (Jewish prayer shawl) desecrated during an anti-Israel street rally attended by public dignitaries.

There are those who will undoubtedly try to downplay the 12% increase in antisemitic incidents in Canada during 2006 when compared to the 24% rise in France and the 31% increase in Great Britain. They might try to use these figures to somehow prove that Canadians can be complacent about their record on antisemitism. They might even suggest that the differential in statistics says something positive about Canadian multiculturalism, rather than taking these figures from Europe as an ominous warning of what can happen when hatred is left unchecked.

There will be attempts to marginalize or even dismiss the implications of this significant rise in antisemitic incidents in Canada, which brings the number of incidents to an all-time high of 935, a huge rise over the 63 incidents the

League documented in its first Audit in 1982, and a four-fold increase in the past ten years alone. After all, it is always easier to recognize bigotry in one's neighbours than in oneself, and heaping condemnation upon perpetrators in distant lands can be a convenient diversion from problems at home. However, the *Audit* should be considered a serious indicator that all is not well in this country as far as fighting racism and bigotry is concerned.

It is becoming increasingly obvious that hatred of the Jewish people can no longer be attributed solely to the extreme-right fringe, based on traditional prejudices. In addition to the denial of the Holocaust and age-old, almost reflexive anti-Jewish bigotry, a strong correlation continues to exist between political crises in the Middle East and a rise in antisemitic incidents against the Jews in the Diaspora. The war in Lebanon last summer only underscored this reality.

It is often argued that traditional antisemitism is largely defunct and that contemporary anti-Jewish prejudice is fuelled mainly by anti-Israel sentiment. There is much discussion of whether anti-Zionism merely intensifies and sanctions existing bigotry against Jews, or whether it actually creates it. A recent study entitled "Anti-Israel Sentiment Predicts Anti-Semitism in Europe", which was published last year in the *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, takes a different look at this controversial issue. In a meticulous pan-European study, Yale University scholars, Edward H. Kaplan and

Charles A. Small, polled the citizens of 10 European countries in order to investigate whether individuals with radical anti-Israel views are more likely to be antisemitic. They found that extreme anti-Israel sentiment consistently predicts the probability that an individual is antisemitic.

The question Canadians have to ask themselves in light of the above study is where one hatred really ends and the other begins, and whether the blurring of the lines in the way anti-Israel antagonism is being expressed does not reflect an incestuous interconnectedness between these two hatreds.

If one looks at the *Working Definition of Antisemitism* set out by the European Union's Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia, this line of philosophical enquiry becomes more of a functional question. The definition, reprinted in its entirety in Appendix B, defines antisemitism as, *inter alia*, denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, calling the State of Israel a "racist endeavor", or applying to it double standards not required of any other democratic nation. It is a useful addition to the study of antisemitism since it includes contemporary as well as historical manifestations.

This question of understanding the provenance and underlying motivation of anti-Zionism inevitably arose during 2006 when elements at the Ontario branch of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), an

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influential union in Canada, pushed through a vote to align the union with an international boycott campaign against Israel. The United Church of Canada also voted to support a “divestment” campaign, though it later retracted part of its anti-Israel stance. Prominent Canadian politicians attended a provocative anti-Israel street rally during the war in the Middle East, in which support for the terrorist group Hezbollah and anti-Jewish outbursts went hand-in-hand in a very public fashion. The Mayor of Huntingdon, Quebec, weighed in with his comparison of the Jewish State to the Nazis. Those with existing anti-Jewish bigotry certainly take heart when public figures, unions and churches, whatever their motivation, use their power and influence in this fashion. We see the result in the sharp rise in anti-Jewish incidents in Canada.

Antisemitism is just part of a far broader problem in Canadian society. In a year which saw overseas tensions translate into blatant attacks against the Canadian Jewish community, other domestic tensions were evident too, affecting other minority communities as well. These stresses and strains speak to a lack of a universal understanding of the defining values that should unite Canadians of different backgrounds. Canada will have to decide how to deal in a meaningful way with this underlying malaise.

A case in point is the current controversy in this country over ‘reasonable accommodation’, a right enshrined in the *Canadian Human Rights Act*. It was in this spirit that the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in 2006 in the case of Gurbaj Singh Multani, that he should be allowed to

wear his *kirpan* (ceremonial Sikh dagger) to public high school. This decision was not universally welcomed.

In fact, recent public reaction to reports of the special needs of religious minorities has become increasingly vocal and, at times, openly hostile. Incidents pertaining to this issue have become hot media stories, whether these cases actually fall within the framework of ‘reasonable accommodation’, or are merely perceived and labeled as such. This hostility towards minority issues has been especially noticeable in Quebec, where there was a staggering 69.9% surge in antisemitic incidents in 2006, way above the national increase of 12.8%.

Societal tensions around the issue of ‘reasonable accommodation’ are not merely a reaction to the latest news story, but reflect a growing upsurge in the level of prejudice that lies just below the surface of society, waiting to erupt. As well, we need to be cognizant of a rising level of impatience within the ‘dominant culture’, towards the religious and cultural communities that wish to retain their uniqueness.

Serious challenges lie ahead as the impact of crises abroad and tensions at home make themselves felt in ways that are completely contrary to Canadian values. Attempts to inject antisemitism into the Canadian political process have only served to accentuate the religious and ethnic divide in society. This manipulation of the ethnic card is especially detrimental to the successful integration of immigrant populations into Canada, since such a strategy only serves to perpetuate old hatreds and

import so-called “homeland conflicts” to Canadian shores.

None of this is good news for communities that are consistently victimized. What the League has heard from victims and the community at large indicates a lack of confidence in the system’s ability to deal with these tensions and their manifestations, and a weakening of the collective will to address hatred. Yet, a way forward is crucial. With this in mind the League has prepared a *Victim’s Bill of Rights* which focuses our attention where it is most needed: on the victims, who are entitled to the full protection of the government, to the full enforcement of the law, and to the full support of Canadian society.

“I am scared to open my email and see what might jump out at me next time.”

A victim of Internet hate

“Look what they did to my kid’s school. Where is this going to end?”

Father of a child at firebombed Jewish school





E. VICTIM'S BILL OF RIGHTS

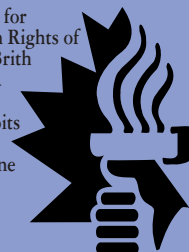
FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED ANTISEMITISM AND OTHER HATE ACTIVITY

When one person is singled out for hate, the entire community this person represents is also targeted. For every one of the 935 antisemitic incidents documented this year in Canada, a mother, father, child, grandparent, sister, brother, spouse, friend, neighbour, or colleague was impacted as well. Victims of hate-motivated acts are entitled to be treated with compassion and dignity so that their suffering will not be compounded when they speak out. They are entitled to the following protections in their pursuit for justice:

- **Prompt**, dedicated service from local police and other law enforcement agencies, that have specialized training and expertise in the area of hate crimes;
- **Hate crime** legislation designed specifically with the victim in mind, recognizing that modern-day manifestations of hate take on many forms;
- **A Criminal Code** that counters the activities of those who deny the murder of six million Jews in the Holocaust and denigrate its victims, with measures to combat the neo-Nazi and white supremacist propaganda that targets many different minority communities;
- **A speedy** and efficient trial that brings the perpetrators to justice, and offers closure to the victims, ensuring their voices are heard;
- **An expectation** that perpetrators will be punished through consistent sentencing guidelines that reflect the impact of hate-filled crimes, and will serve as a meaningful deterrent;
- **Harassment-free**, zero-tolerance environments for hate-based activity, whether at school or in the workplace, where individuals can practice their sincerely-held religious beliefs without fear of compromising their academic or professional standing;
- **A concerted**, dedicated effort by community, legal, law enforcement, educational, and corporate sectors to jointly advance programs aimed at countering the explosion of hate-motivated activity, including hate on the Internet;
- **A government** that fully implements international agreements against hatred and demands the same from its global partners;
- **A demonstrated** resolve by all levels of government to implement policies that advance multiculturalism in a way that actively promotes core Canadian ideals of tolerance and respect.

**WE CALL ON ALL CANADIANS TO SHOW
THEIR EMPATHY FOR VICTIMS OF HATE
BY SIGNING THIS BILL OF RIGHTS
AND WORKING TOWARDS
ITS FULL IMPLEMENTATION
ACROSS CANADIAN SOCIETY**

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



THERE'S A DANGEROUS VIRUS INFECTING CANADIANS

- **It's highly contagious.**
- **It starts with insensitive jokes, stereotyping and name calling.**
- **It leads to prejudice, hate and discrimination.**
- **It's spread through lies, ignorance and greed.**
 - **It has caused and continues to cause the death of millions.**

ITS NAME IS RACISM

Examine yourself.
You may be a carrier.

To help stop the spread of antisemitism, hate and racism, or to report any such incidents
call the Anti-Hate Hotline

24 hours a day • 7 days a week • Confidentiality assured

1-800-892-2624



Appendix A – Definitions of Antisemitic incidents used by the League for Human Rights

Harassment

Harassment refers to verbal or written actions that do not include the use of physical force against a person or property. It includes, but is not limited to:

- verbal slurs, statements of hate and bias, or harassment
- stereotyping of Jews, such as the airing on radio talk shows of comments on “Jewish characteristics”
- systemic discrimination in the workplace, schools or campuses
- hate propaganda and hate mail via the Internet, telephone, or printed material
- verbal threats of violence, where application of force does not appear imminent, or no weapon or bomb is involved

Vandalism

Vandalism refers to physical damage to property. It includes, but is not limited to:

- posting of graffiti, swastikas and similar racist emblems and slogans, at times accompanied by other criminal acts including thefts and break-ins
- damage to religious objects such as mezuzahs on the door posts of private homes, hospitals and other facilities
- desecration of cemeteries and synagogues
- fire bombing, arson

Violence

Violence refers to physical use of force against a person or group of persons. It includes, but is not limited to:

- bodily assault
- assault with a weapon or accompanied by threat of imminent use of weapon
- threats of violence directed against a particular person or group where there is reasonable cause to believe that bodily harm is imminent.

Incidents that involve or reflect an increasing worldwide trend toward virulent anti-Zionist rhetoric have been included only if there is a clear anti-Jewish component. This would necessitate the victim or victim group being targeted on an almost irrational basis simply because of their Jewish name or appearance and perceived affiliation with, or support for, Israel.

Appendix B – Definition of Antisemitism according to the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC).



WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM

The purpose of this document is to provide a practical guide for identifying incidents, collecting data, and supporting the implementation and enforcement of legislation dealing with antisemitism.

Working definition: *“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”*

In addition, such manifestations could also target the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

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

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.

Examples of the ways in which antisemitism manifests itself with regard to the state of Israel taking into account the overall context could include:

- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic.

Antisemitic acts are criminal when they are so defined by law (for example, denial of the Holocaust or distribution of antisemitic materials in some countries).

Criminal acts are antisemitic when the targets of attacks, whether they are people or property—such as buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries—are selected because they are, or are perceived to be, Jewish or linked to Jews.

Antisemitic discrimination is the denial to Jews of opportunities or services available to others and is illegal in many countries.

REPORT ALL ACTS OF ANTISEMITISM...



The League for Human Rights is on standby 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to deal with the security and protection of the Jewish community.

...In the Workplace

...In the Classroom

...On the Internet

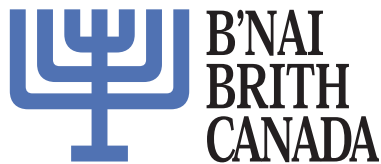
Anti-Hate Hotline

1-800-892-2624

Online Reporting

www.bnaibrith.ca

(Click on 'Report a Hate Crime')



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