

From: Roxiane Alexander

Sent: Sunday, February 18, 2024 5:46 PM

To: Clerks Richmondhill [clerks@richmondhill.ca](mailto:clerks@richmondhill.ca)

Subject: Fwd: Support for motion urge the federal government to convene a second National Summit to Combat Antisemitism in Canada

Dear Council,

I am in full support of Councillor Cilevitz's motion to urge the federal government to convene a second National Summit to Combat Antisemitism in Canada. Recently I have heard of incidents involving Jewish students or community members being targeted. No individuals should be targeted for their faith, creed, gender, culture etc and we have laws that protect us from this. Members of the Jewish community, as any and all members of society, should be protected from attacks and harassment.

Since October 2023, Canada's Jewish community has witnessed shots fired at its schools, arson attempts at its communal buildings, boycott efforts and vandalism targeting private businesses simply because their owners are Jewish and the intimidation of its students at universities. A first national summit to combat antisemitism was convened by then Special Envoy for Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism, the Honourable Irwin Cotler, in July 2021 in the wake of the war with Hamas in May of that year, alerting Canadians to a spiraling number of hate incidents including violent attacks on Jews in Toronto and Montreal.

That first summit led to Canada forming a high-level delegation headed by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau that made robust promises to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) Conference in October 2021 on how Canada could better confront hate aimed at Jews. Police departments across the country all report major and unprecedented increases in hate crimes since October 2023 with the Jewish community being by far the most targeted.

A second national summit to combat antisemitism would provide a valuable forum for stakeholders representing all levels of government, civil servants, law enforcements, educators and community leaders to share information and agree on effective strategies to blunt the unprecedented wave of hate aimed at Jews.

I would like the Richmond Hill City Council to urge the Government of Canada to mandate the Special Envoy for Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism to convene a second national summit to combat antisemitism. This Council should invite the Government of Canada to ensure the necessary funding and resources are in place to support such a second national summit; and a copy of this motion should be sent to the leaders of all parties represented in the Parliament of Canada.

Thank you for your time,

Roxiane Engineer

90 Berwick Cres.

Richmond Hill, Ont.