

From: Pamela Joy

Sent: Sunday, February 18, 2024 6:47 PM

To: Clerks Richmondhill clerks@richmondhill.ca

Cc: Karen Cilevitz karen.cilevitz@richmondhill.ca

Subject: Antisemitism in Richmond Hill and in Canada

I am writing to support the private members motion being introduced by my councillor, Karen Cilevitz on February 21, 2024, @ 9:30 a.m. that urges the Government of Canada and the Special Envoy on Antisemitism to convene a second National summit to combat antisemitism in Canada.

Sadly, the Jewish Community in Canada no longer feels safe, secure and comfortable in our neighborhoods. Many people are frightened to attend Jewish events, community Centres or synagogues. This is not the Canada I have lived in for 70 years. Never before has my family been afraid for our safety because of our faith. Never before have children be kept home from school in fear, or have we been reluctant to be ourselves among the multicultural community in which we live.

I have been nervous to open my door to a knock, to wear any identifying Jewish symbols, to talk in public about my religion. People I know have removed mezuzzas from their doors, not put menorahs in their windows, both of which are common & essential practices.

We have seen hate-filled marches in the streets, repeated targeting of Jewish-owned businesses, cultural & religious community centres, schools & buildings. Broken windows, vandalism, break & entres at various businesses & stores are too reminiscent of pre-war Germany and absolutely terrifying. Social Media posts and/or interoffice memos stating that Jewish people should not be hired or advanced in their professions, blatant antisemitism on University & College campuses and elementary & high school children being targeted & harassed is now common.

How could we allow this to continue in Canada?

Sadly, the rhetoric is there that these things are unacceptable but there is very little or no action being taken to demonstrate to Canadian Jewish people that we are supported, protected and that this environment of hate will not be tolerated.

We need to feel safe in our country. We need to know that we can be free to celebrate, live our lives and not be terrified. Make no mistake, many are terrified by how the hate is being permitted and how it is spreading. We absolutely need action immediately and one way to start the process is a 2nd summit to address these issues, thwart the unfolding wave of antisemitism and to highlight the need for strong action!

Please act to start the process by voting in favour of Councillor Cilevitz's motion for a second summit on fighting antisemitism. Imagine, if you can, if YOUR FAMILY, YOUR

CHILDREN, YOUR BUSINESSES were being discriminated against, targeted & harassed in your everyday life in our country of Canada.

Please do your part to stop this wave of hate now.

Sincerely,

Pamela Terrance

218 Castle Rock Drive

Richmond Hill, Ontario

L4C 5H7