



# NO TO HATE AIMED AT JEWS! WE NEED A SECOND NATIONAL SUMMIT TO COMBAT ANTISEMITISM

Montreal police indicate that between October 7, 2023 and February 24, 2024, there has been an unprecedented wave of antisemitism on our island. Police numbers show that during this period there were 42 hate crimes against Jewish individuals, 32 hate crimes against Jewish properties and 53 hate incidents that targeted Jews.

The total number of these crimes and incidents is three times greater than that registered against all other religious and racial minorities during the same timeframe. It's absolutely unacceptable.

Shots have been fired at Jewish schools and arson attempts made at Jewish religious and community buildings. There have been hateful rallies that have openly incited violence against the Jewish community. Jewish students were assaulted at Concordia University and there have been calls for boycotts against businesses simply because their owners are Jewish.

There have been few arrests. There is a growing perception that police do not have a strategy to cope with hateful protests, thus emboldening protesters and leading to an escalation where the safety of the entire Jewish community has been imperiled.

Unfortunately, too many other localities across Canada have experienced similar situations.

We need solutions. We need to sit politicians, law enforcement, academics and community leaders around the same table to seek urgent and pragmatic proposals.

Accordingly, as community leaders representing persons of diverse origins and backgrounds, we propose that the Government of Canada convene a second national summit to combat antisemitism. We ask that it be held under the auspices of Deborah Lyons, Canada's Special Envoy for Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism.

The City of Cote Saint Luc recently became the first municipality in Canada to adopt a motion backing this request. Similar motions have also been adopted by several Ontario towns and a motion supporting such a summit is now on the agenda in the Senate.

We thank Senators Leo Housakos and Pierre J. Dalphond for having tabled that motion which is to be debated March 19. We urge the Senate to adopt it.

Today we seek the help of Montrealers in shining the light on antisemitism. Urge your Member of Parliament to support convening this important summit. Ask your Mayor and Councillor to sponsor a similar motion in your community. Taking a few minutes to do something concrete by making a phone call or sending an email can make a real difference in blunting antisemitic hate. It is important that the Government of Canada act to create this vital forum which will aid to repel the record level of hate targeting Jews.

**We stand with the Jewish community at this difficult time. We call on the public to join us.**

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