



2019 November 18

ADMINISTRATIVE INQUIRY

RE: COMBATting ANTISEMITISM IN THE CITY OF CALGARY

Preamble

1. The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism has been adopted by democratic countries and is a vital tool in countering the global rise in antisemitism by setting a strong example and offering a practical tool for authorities – from police, to school districts and campus officials – as they work to tackle antisemitism;
2. On June 25, 2019, the Minister of Canadian Heritage and Multiculturalism officially announced as part of the Government of Canada’s anti-racism strategy, adoption of the working definition of antisemitism (along with a list of illustrative examples) as:
 - a. **“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.”**
3. The associated list of the Government of Canada’s contemporary illustrative 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.
 - 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.

Administration be requested to report back on this Administrative Inquiry no later than Q2 2020 after having:

- (a) Researched and consulted with the Government of Canada, the Calgary Jewish Federation and other direct stakeholders and experts to determine the merits and value of the City of Calgary adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) non-legally binding working definition of 'antisemitism'; and
- (b) Analyzed risks and options for implementing the non-legally binding working definition of 'antisemitism';
- (c) Determined if formal Council direction is required.