

NOTICE OF MOTION CHECKLIST

The checklist is a tool intended to support the sponsor(s) of a Notice of Motion. The items listed below are important considerations when crafting and submitting a Notice of Motion. It is also intended to support other Members of Council, as the same considerations are important when reaching a decision on a Notice of Motion.

The checklist is therefore an opportunity for the sponsor(s) to:

- consider what advice might be helpful to them in formulating their proposal; and
- share key points about the advice received with their Council colleagues, to inform their deliberations.

This document is recommended to be provided to City Clerks alongside every Notice of Motion and will become part of the Corporate record. It is at the discretion of the sponsor(s) to decide with whom to consult and what information to include.

Title of the Notice of Motion: Combatting Antisemitism in Calgary

There are two classifications of a Notice of Motion (Check the one that applies):

☒ Urgent

Is this Notice of Motion Confidential? YES ☐ NO ☒ (Include details in Procedural box below)

Financial and Other Resource Capacity	CITY OF CALGARY RECEIVED IN COUNCIL CHAMBER OCT 08 2019 ITEM: 9.2 PFC2019-1324 Distribution CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT
Minimal.	
Legal / Legislative	
N/A	
Technical Content	
Consultation with other organizations and key stakeholders, along with provincial, national and international research.	
Procedural (Including reasons for confidentiality)	
This request of Council is time sensitive as it relates to preparations for International Holocaust Remembrance Day and working with key direct stakeholders.	
Other Considerations	
Six months of research have gone into the preparation of this Notice of Motion.	
Urgency Rationale	



Report Number: [Report Number]

Meeting: PFC Meeting

Meeting Date: 2019 October 08

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: COMBATTING ANTISEMITISM IN THE CITY OF CALGARY

Sponsoring Councillors: Cara; Chahal; Chu; Colley-Urquhart; Davison; Farkas; Gondek; Jones; Keating; Nenshi; Sutherland; Woolley

WHEREAS:

1. The Holocaust refers to the systematic, state-sponsored persecution and mass murder of approximately six million European Jews by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945;
2. Antisemitism and racial nationalism helped produce the Holocaust, in addition to the baseless hatred that contributed to the Nazis' persecution and mass murder of millions of others during this period, including Roma and Sinti peoples, people with physical and mental disabilities, religious minorities, political dissenters, homosexual people and Slavic-speaking people;
3. The remembrance of these past atrocities helps ensure that no similar event occurs in the future, and as such, the United Nations has declared January 27th to be International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the date which commemorates the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1945;
4. Many governments world-wide have declared city-wide days of remembrance and education, including but not limited to:
 - In 2000, the Province of Alberta declared Yom HaShoah, the Day of the Holocaust as determined each year by the Jewish lunar calendar, to be Holocaust Memorial Day;
 - In 2018, the City of Windsor declared April 15th to be a city-wide Holocaust Remembrance Day; and
 - In 2019, the City of New York declared January 27th to be a city-wide Holocaust Remembrance Day and also conducts a city-wide Holocaust Education Week.
5. Current research shows that one in five Canadian youth are unaware of the events that occurred during the Holocaust, while 62% of Canadians aged 18-34 are unaware of how many Jews were killed during the Holocaust;
6. 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;
7. 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."**

8. Much of the work to protect and shield our community from racism, discrimination and antisemitism happens at the level of municipal government, with the City of Vancouver being the first Canadian city to officially adopt the IHRA definition this year;
9. Statistics Canada reports that Jewish people are the most frequently targeted ethno-cultural group when it comes to police-reported hate crimes, with such crimes taking place once every 24 hours in Canada;
10. Antisemitism can only be overcome by education, increased awareness, strong political condemnation, and enforcement of relevant laws anchored in the IHRA definition as a clear means of identifying hatred toward Jews;
11. According to the 2011 civic census, over 8,000 people of Jewish faith currently reside in Calgary including Holocaust Survivors and families of Survivors; and
12. Research affirms that Holocaust education and awareness promotes empathy for the suffering of others, and demonstrates a willingness to intervene on their behalf when antisemitic and other acts of hatred occur; a greater openness to diverse perspectives, as well as honouring the memory of the millions who suffered and died during the Holocaust.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The City of Calgary formally recognize, commemorate and proclaim January 27th as our annual city-wide International Holocaust Remembrance Day;
2. The City of Calgary officially adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) non-legally binding working definition of 'antisemitism'.

International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Working Definition of Antisemitism

In the spirit of the Stockholm Declaration that states: "With humanity still scarred by ...antisemitism and xenophobia the international community shares a solemn responsibility to fight those evils" the committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial called the IHRA Plenary in Budapest 2015 to adopt the following working definition of antisemitism.

On 26 May 2016, the Plenary in Bucharest decided to:

Adopt the following non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism:

"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."

To guide IHRA in its work, the following examples may serve as illustrations:

Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. 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.
- 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.

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.

June 27, 2019



Dear Mayor Nenshi and Members of Council,

Please accept this communication as a letter of support for Councillor Diane Colley-Urquhart's Notice of Motion to create an annual Calgary Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27th. We feel this is an excellent Motion at a time when such initiatives are needed now more than ever.

Yannai Segal
President

Adam Silver
Chief Executive Officer

The mission of the Holocaust and Human Rights Education and Commemoration Department of Federation is to promote acceptance, Social Justice, and Human Rights through education and Remembrance of the Holocaust. One way to disseminate the important lessons of the Holocaust is for schools to teach it in their curriculum. Unfortunately, that is not the case in Alberta. Calgary Jewish Federation, along with our activism arm of CIJA (Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs), has for some time advocated that Holocaust Education be added into the Alberta curriculum and while there is support for this important undertaking, it still has not gotten any traction provincially. Until such time that Holocaust Education is formally incorporated into the curriculum, Federation is proud to be the primary leader for Southern Alberta taking our programs and resources into schools and running a highly successful and well-regarded Holocaust Education Symposium with Mount Royal University. With these and other programs, we are able to reach over 5,000 students per year. While this is a great accomplishment, it still leaves the vast majority of students and adults in Calgary without exposure to the vital lessons of the Holocaust.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum speaks to the need for Holocaust Awareness. People who are exposed to Holocaust Education learn (among many other things) to:

- Understand the roots and ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping in any society.
- Develop an awareness of the value of pluralism and an acceptance of diversity.
- Explore the dangers of remaining silent, apathetic, and indifferent to the oppression of others.
- (appreciate that) ...Democratic institutions and values are not automatically sustained, but need to be appreciated, nurtured, and protected.

We at Calgary Jewish Federation feel that this Notice of Motion is an excellent next step in prioritizing the education and commemoration of the Holocaust in Calgary.

We forward to working with the City of Calgary to create engaging, meaningful, and educational programming around Holocaust Education.

Special thanks to Councillor Colley-Urquhart for her hard work and for undertaking this important initiative.

Thank you for your time,

Yannai Segal
President

Adam Silver
CEO

June 18, 2019

Dear City of Calgary Councillors,

Please accept this letter as an expression of my support for the Notice of Motion to declare January 27th City-wide Holocaust Remembrance day.

My name is Ann Dancyger and am a child Survivor of the Holocaust. I am very concerned that young people today are learning too little about the Holocaust. In my experience as a volunteer sharing my story, I feel that creating a day of city-wide Holocaust Remembrance is a meaningful way to educate, cooperate, and fulfill my obligation to ensure that the lessons of the Holocaust are transmitted.

From the ages of one to five years old, I was a hidden, hungry, and homeless child. It was only due to the bravery and talent of my mother that I survived the Holocaust – her and I were the only two members of our family that were alive after the war. In the little town in the Ukraine in which I grew up, the population of Jews was 2,400. After the war, there were only a dozen Jews that came back and I was the only surviving child out of the whole population.

Upon liberation by the allies at the end of the war, my mother and I and my new step-father walked from the Ukraine to West Germany in order to secure visas to come to Canada – it took us two years. We were sponsored by a Canadian citizen who took full responsibility for our lives. In our new home of Calgary, my family worked 10 – 12 hour days and were able, after many years of hard work, to create a secure and comfortable existence.

I'm a University graduate and spent many years as a school teacher. I was and always will be very grateful for all that Canada, and more specifically Calgary, afforded me and my family. We are so grateful to be able to have lived in a country like Canada and I still thank G-d for it every day.

I fully support this Notice of Motion and so appreciate Councillor Colley-Urquhart's efforts in this matter. Thank you all for your time and attention,

Sincerely,

Ann Dancyger

Per Calgary Jewish Federation

Dear Councillor Colley-Urquhart,

June 13, 2019

My name is Dahlia Libin and as the grand-daughter of four Holocaust survivors, I write you today to express my complete support of the motion to recognize January 27th as a city-wide Holocaust Remembrance Day. This motion is so incredibly important for a number of reasons.

In reflecting on the moral and societal failures that made the Holocaust possible, confronting antisemitism and all forms of hatred is as critical now as it has ever been. This motion passing will allow Calgarians a day to reflect on what it means to fight racism, discrimination and hate and to make certain that the memories of those who were murdered and of those who survived the Holocaust will not die in vain.

Over six million Jewish men, women, children and babies and five million non-Jewish individuals (11 million in total) were brutally murdered and tortured by the hands of men and women who simply did not want these people to exist because of their religion, physical abilities, political views and sexual identities. It has been incredibly sad and disheartening to learn about the recent surveys showing that much of the Canadian population is unaware of this and the events of the Holocaust. Due to this frightening statistic, in addition to the rise in antisemitism, I cannot help but feel a responsibility, both as a third-generation Holocaust survivor and as a Calgarian citizen, to do what I can to make sure people know and learn from this dark time in our recent past and to make sure it will never happen again. We as a city need to do our part in ensuring our community will learn from what happened and to learn from those who resisted and fought back to save lives and stand up for what was right.

In addition to the amazing opportunity to educate and inform our community about the Holocaust, this day of remembrance will also present our city with the opportunity to take a moment and remember and honor the innocent lives lost. To remember the little boys and girls who were barbarically taken from their homes and tortured to death. To remember the men and women brutally starved and gassed in the death camps. To remember the families locked into barns and burnt alive. To remember the victims. And to remember and honor the survivors who picked themselves up and started new lives. The survivors who planted new roots and worked tirelessly from nothing to have what every human being wants and needs, a family.

My four grand-parents lost everyone in their family and everything they had. It truly warms my heart to think that city of Calgary will honor their memory and the memory of the millions and millions who were murdered every January 27th. Coming together as a city and as a community is a way for all of us to promise not to let the Holocaust ever happen again.

I thank you for reading my letter of support and from the bottom of my heart, I thank you for passing this motion.

Sincerely,
Dahlia Libin



Department of Humanities
Faculty of Arts

t: 403.440.6054 | f: 403.440.6659
mtroyal.ca

12 June 2019

Calgary City Council
P.O. Box 2100, Stn. M
Calgary, Alberta. T2P 2M5

Dear Councillors,

I am writing to express my support for the Notice of Motion regarding the City of Calgary's official recognition of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, brought forward by Councillor Diane Colley-Urquhart.

I am an Associate Professor of History in the Department of Humanities at Mount Royal University, where I teach three separate courses on the subject of the Holocaust, as well as conducting research on Holocaust history and education. For fifteen years I have participated in the Holocaust Education Symposium conducted by MRU and the Calgary Jewish Federation, and have been an invited speaker at Holocaust-related events throughout the city. It is on the basis these experiences that I wish to express my support for Councillor Colley-Urquhart's Notice of Motion.

There are, in my view, two compelling reasons for the City of Calgary to formally recognize International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The first is to ensure that the Holocaust, which is one of the worst, if not *the* worst, crime ever perpetrated by human beings against one another, not be allowed to simply fade from our collective memory. Such commemoration honours the lives of the approximately six million Jews murdered by Nazi Germany and its allies during the Second World War, as well as the millions of other innocent victims of Nazi persecution, many of whom, like Jews, continue to experience persecution today. Remembrance does not simply happen – in fact, in the absence of active efforts to remember, our inclination is to forget, especially when the events in question are hard, unpleasant, or challenge our desire to see humanity in the best light possible. Holocaust commemoration warns us, therefore, against blithely assuming that everything turns out fine in the end. For the victims of the Holocaust, nothing did.

Second, in proposing that the City of Calgary formally recognize International Holocaust Remembrance Day, this motion directs the City to work with the Calgary Jewish Federation in promoting Holocaust education in Calgary – and there is simply no question that such education is one of the most powerful tools available for preventing and responding effectively to not only genocide, but also the many varieties of prejudice and hatred that are the building blocks of

genocidal violence. It is well established that learning about the Holocaust directly combats such poisonous beliefs as antisemitism, racism and ultra nationalism, as well as promoting human rights education more generally, and helping people to recognize their fundamental responsibilities to and for one another. This motion is also very timely, therefore, as recent surveys have shown how, in Canada and the U.S., upwards of half the population know little or nothing about the events of the Holocaust.¹ Formally joining with the United Nations, and with countries and municipalities around the world, in recognizing International Holocaust Remembrance Day, and actively engaging the citizens of Calgary in Holocaust education, is an important way of challenging our inclination to forget.

It's for these reasons, therefore, that I strongly support Councillor Colley-Urquhart's motion, and I call on all City of Calgary councillors to do the same.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Scott W. Murray, PhD
Associate Professor
Ph. 403-440-6098
smurray@mtroyal.ca

¹ "New Survey by the Azrieli Foundation and the Claims Conference Finds Critical Gaps in Holocaust Knowledge in Canada," Azrieli Foundation, 24 January 2019, <https://azrielifoundation.org/2019/01/24/new-survey-by-the-azrieli-foundation-and-the-claims-conference-finds-critical-gaps-in-holocaust-knowledge-in-canada/>; "New Survey by Claims Conference Finds Significant Lack of Holocaust Knowledge in the United States," Claims Conference, April 2018, <http://www.claimscon.org/study/>.

June 18, 2019

To the City Councillors of Calgary,

I am writing to express my support for the Holocaust Remembrance Day Notice of Motion and particularly, to Councillor Diane Colley-Urquart for taking the initiative to create and present this motion.

My name is Morris Dancyger and I was interred in Auschwitz Concentration Camp from the age of three and a half to five years old. No one can explain my survival as half a million children were sent directly to their deaths upon arrival at Auschwitz. Upon liberation by the Soviets, there were only approximately two dozen children that survived and I am one of them.

You may have seen a photo of me – I am the little boy with the kerchief in the iconic newsreel pulling up my sleeve and showing my tattoo number. Most Holocaust museums, documentaries and movies about the Holocaust use the image in their education – I've enclosed the photo below.

To underline the tragedy of the antisemitism that led to the Holocaust, my father, who survived the Holocaust and found the remnants of our family in a DP after the war, was murdered a year later by uniformed Nazi youth that broke into the DP camp. He could not accept that the war was over. My father had a military funeral and there is a street named after him in Stuttgart, Germany named Dancyger Plats.

The presence of antisemitism went into hiding after the Holocaust but was never erased. As we are seeing today, that presence has again reared its ugly head. For Holocaust Survivors like me, it is very painful to see and it reinforces, every day, the importance of Holocaust Education and Commemoration.

Again, please accept my greatest gratitude for putting forward this important Notice of Motion.

Sincerely,

Morris Dancyger – per Calgary Jewish Federation



June 11, 2019.

Dear Councillor Colley-Urquhart,

I was very pleased to hear about your motion declaring January 27th as a city-wide Holocaust Remembrance Day.

My parents Julius and Helena Weiss were both child survivors of the Holocaust. In their honor, and now in their memory, I am actively involved in Holocaust Education and Remembrance in the city of Calgary.

A recent study by the Azrieli Foundation concluded that one in five millennials did not know what the Holocaust was. Almost 50 percent of Canadians could not name a concentration camp and underestimated the amount of people murdered in the Holocaust.

For almost 35 years I have been a volunteer facilitator at the annual Holocaust Education Symposium for High School students; a partnership between the Calgary Jewish Federation and Mount Royal University. I know that remembering and educating about the Holocaust changes lives. An example is that of an Indigenous high school student who approached local survivor, Bronia Cyngiser, after she gave her testimony at the 2019 Holocaust Education Symposium. He told her that he had been through many difficulties in his life and it gave him hope that her life turned out so well after enduring such discrimination and hardship. Her husband, 95 year old survivor Sydney Cyngiser, spoke to a group of students next door. Two girls of the Muslim faith tearfully shook his hand and told him he changed their minds today. That is just a small sample of the positive impact that Holocaust Education has had on over 45,000 high school students.

I thank you for supporting January 27 as International Holocaust Day and providing all the citizens of Calgary opportunities to participate in educational programming relating to the Holocaust. In addition to learning about the past, Holocaust Remembrance is about applying those lessons to the present. It is a message that resonates with persons of all backgrounds and calls for citizens to be actively and positively involved in their communities.

Sincerely,

Paula Lexier

Volunteer: Holocaust and Education Remembrance Committee

Calgary Jewish Federation

My name is Tali Glazer—I am an 18-year-old University of Calgary student and was born and raised in Calgary. This is my letter outlining my support for the institution of an official Holocaust Remembrance Day in Calgary.

Like many other Calgarian Jews, I have a familial connection to the Holocaust. Before WWII, most of my relatives were able to emigrate to Canada or South Africa. My great grandmother, however, was one of the last Jews to leave Russia, and almost all her family remained behind in Zeimelis, Lithuania. The Jews in their town were victims of the “Holocaust by Bullets,” and on August 8th, 1941, they were taken to a pine forest near Zeimelis, tied together with rope, and shot into a mass grave.

Researching and learning about my family history compelled me to become involved with Holocaust education. Growing up, I participated in many Holocaust remembrance programs through youth organizations and summer camps. In April of 2018, I was a part of the March of the Living, a two-week trip to Poland and Israel to learn about the Holocaust through historical remnants. On Israel’s Holocaust Remembrance Day, the ten students from Calgary joined thousands of teens from around the world to march with Holocaust survivors and walk the three kilometres between the concentration camps of Auschwitz and Birkenau. Throughout the two weeks, the Calgary delegation travelled with a Canadian Auschwitz survivor, Angela Orosz. As we listened to her story of survival, I was most inspired by her uplifting outlook on life and commitment to stand against injustice. I reunited with Angela when she spoke at the May 2019 Calgary Remembrance ceremony, and I was honored to have introduced her.

Angela shared many stories, and being Canadian, there was one story that particularly resonated with me. Angela’s mother worked in a warehouse in Auschwitz where the belongings of the Jews brought to the concentration camps were looted and sorted. Filled with an abundance of clothing, jewelry, and personal possessions, the forced labourers nicknamed the place “Kanada.” Before the war they had heard about Canada from their relatives who had emigrated, and they imagined it as a country of abundance and wealth.

This story reminds me of how fortunate I am to live in Canada, a nation that is abundant in diversity and constitutionally supported pluralism. Unfortunately, antisemitism and intolerance of other religious and cultural groups is on the rise. Learning about the Holocaust has taught me about hatred, prejudice, and indifference, and how these can spread and develop into human atrocities. This has led me to learn about other crimes against humanity, such as the Rwandan genocide and Ukrainian Holodomor. Remembering historical genocides honours the memories of the victims and inspires learners to recognize and respond to injustice in their communities.

I am thrilled that a motion for an official Calgary Holocaust Remembrance Day is being put forward. This day would commemorate a historical event that has touched the lives of many Calgarians, while also promoting cross-cultural connections and human rights education. I strongly believe that Holocaust education is valuable for youth, a belief that has stemmed from my own positive learning experiences.