

**The Corporation of the Town of Ajax
February 20, 2024**

Motion

**Urging That a Second National Summit to Combat
Antisemitism be Convened**

Moved by: Mayor Collier
Seconded by: Councillor Tyler-Morin

WHEREAS data from Statistics Canada and Jewish organizations such as the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre, and B'nai Brith indicate a shocking rise in antisemitic incidents across Canada over the past years;

AND WHEREAS 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;

AND WHEREAS 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, alerting Canadians to a spiralling number of hate incidents including violent attacks on Jewish people in Toronto and Montreal;

AND WHEREAS the 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 Jewish people;

AND WHEREAS Marvin Rotrand, the outgoing National Director of B'nai Brith's League for Human Rights, has called on municipalities and school boards to adopt resolutions urging the convening of a second national summit;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada has appointed Deborah Lyons, Canada's former Ambassador to Israel, as the new Special Envoy for Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism;

AND WHEREAS the authority vested in her office permits her to be uniquely placed to convene and chair a second summit;

AND WHEREAS a second national summit to combat antisemitism would provide a valuable forum for stakeholders representing all levels of government, civil servants, law enforcement agencies, educators and community leaders to share information and develop effective strategies to blunt the unprecedented wave of hate aimed at Jewish people;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Council urge the Government of Canada to direct the Special Envoy for Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism to convene a second national summit to combat antisemitism;
2. Council call upon the Government of Canada to ensure the necessary funding and resources are in place to support a second national summit; and,
3. That a copy of this motion be sent to the leaders of all parties represented in the Parliament of Canada, and the Honourable Mark Holland, MP for Ajax.