

Examples of Anti-Semitism Across Canada

According to the Annual Hate/Bias Crime Statistical Report compiled by the Toronto Police for 2015, the Jewish community continues to be the most targeted community for hate crimes in the city for ten years in a row.

Additionally, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) found that approximately 3.8 million Canadians harbour anti-Semitic attitudes and 14% of Canadian adults possess views aligning with anti-Semitic stereotypes.

Some examples of anti-Semitic incidents in Canada from 2000-2016 are listed below. This report is not representative and is only a small sample of the violence and harassment Jews across Canada face on a daily basis. It is estimated that only 10-30% of anti-Semitic cases are ever reported.

In 2015, 1,277 incidents of anti-Semitism were recorded:

Montreal, QC – Numerous cars were vandalized with swastikas and had envelopes containing a bullet and a note proclaiming ‘You’re going to get one next in your head’ placed on their windshields.

North York, ON – A kindergarten student was forced to eat chametz during Passover as part of school snack program, despite child protesting.

Edmonton, AB – A police officer was killed in the line of duty while responding to call regarding anti-Semitic threats.

North York, ON – A woman was held at gunpoint and had anti-Semitic slurs yelled at her by a neighbour.

Toronto, ON – When leaving a synagogue, congregants were harassed by a man driving up and down in front of the building honking and giving them the finger.

Anti-Semitism soured to an all-time high in 2014 and there were over 1,600 unreported incidents, including:

Laurentians, QC – Several Chassidic homes were vandalized, and one was completely destroyed by arson.

Penticton, BC – A mattress was set on fire, with the words ‘burnt Jew’ written across the top.

Montreal, QC – Two cars were vandalized and spray painted with swastikas.

Calgary, AB – Multiple Jews were attacked and injured at Palestinian support rallies where chants of “kill the Jews” and “Hitler was right” were reported.

Toronto, ON – Feces was rubbed on the door of a synagogue.

2013

Dollard-des-Ormeaux, QC – A snow removal employee shouted “Heil Hitler” at a Jewish homeowner.

Montreal, QC – Five cars were spray painted with swastikas in the garage of an apartment building.

Winnipeg, AB – A man circulated anti-Semitic posters accusing the Jewish Mayor of questionable business transactions.

Vancouver, BC – Anti-Semitic graffiti was sprayed on the walls of an apartment building housing many Holocaust survivors.

Toronto, ON – A Jewish family found the words “watch your children” and a swastika scrawled on the garage door of their home.

2012

Victoria, BC – Five graves were defaced with swastikas and other Nazi symbols in a Jewish cemetery.

Surrey, BC – A local paper called Zionism “a cancer”.

Huntingdon, QC – Television host and Mayor Stephane Gendrone called Israel an apartheid state that doesn’t deserve to exist.

Burnaby, BC – Nazi graffiti was found at a local high school.

Val Morin, QC – 15 out of 50 Jewish-owned homes were vandalized with hate messages and swastikas

2011

Markham, ON – A swastika was painted outside a senior’s residence where many Holocaust survivors reside.

Sudbury, ON – Anti-Semitic graffiti was found scrawled on campus.

Mississauga, ON – An Evangelization rally was disturbed by an unidentified group and Jews were threatened with another Holocaust.

Sainte Agathe, QC – A group of teens threw pennies at a family on their way to synagogue, calling them “cheap bastards”.

Winnipeg, MB – A public campaign to derail inclusion of a Holocaust gallery in the new Canadian Human Rights Museum depicted Jews as pigs.

2010

Calgary, AB – City employees were found to be mainlining an anti-Semitic blog.

Oakville, ON – An opposing team member was called “dumb f**king Jew” by a fellow hockey player.

Keswick, ON – A graffiti declaring “Heil Hitler” was found at a Jewish summer camp’s fence.

Winnipeg, MB – A student of a local junior high school was harassed by another student, who said he wished that the student’s family had died in the Nazi concentration camps.

Victoria, BC – A protest outside a Chapters bookstore featured a sign reading “Jews Out”.

2009

Vancouver, BC – Jewish students were chased and assaulted on campus.

Woodstock, ON – Public sites were defaced with neo-Nazi symbols.

Thornhill, ON – Mezuzahs on Jewish homes were defaced during Passover.

Richmond Hill, ON – Swastikas and images of Hitler were spray-painted onto playground equipment.

Edmonton, AB – Eggs were thrown at the front door of a synagogue.

2008

Edmonton, AB – A local synagogue was vandalized, and its windows smashed.

Hamilton, ON - At an anti-Israel rally held at McMaster University, “Death to Jews” was shouted repeatedly.

Winnipeg, MB – A seven-year old girl was sent to school with a swastika drawn on her arm.

Québec City, QC – A customer requested reimbursement and was told not to be “a Jew”.

Sainte-Agathe, QC – A local synagogue received threatening messages calling “Death to the Jews”.

2007

Winnipeg, MB – Graffiti was found on a building, including the phrase “F*** you Jews”.

Fredericton, NB – A local high school student performed the Nazi salute in class.

Winnipeg, MB – A fireman was subjected to ongoing anti-Semitic comments while at work, including references to the ovens at Auschwitz.

Ottawa, ON – A Jewish cemetery was desecrated. Over twenty tombstones were overturned and damaged.

Halifax, NS – It was suggested in an internet chat group that Jews and other minorities should be killed.

2006

Charlottetown, PEI – A Jewish student was harassed at school and referred to as a “dirty Jew”.

Richmond Hill, ON – A Jewish child was bullied at school by other students.

Winnipeg, MB – Thirty-one windows were smashed at a synagogue.

London, ON – A security guard in a local mall shouted at kids that were fighting to “stop acting like Jews”.

Brampton, ON – The message “Die Jews” was outlined in the sand of a public park.

2005

Halifax, NS – Jewish students received emails blaming Jews for the tsunami and other world crises and natural disasters.

St. Catharines, ON – The leader of a pro-Palestinian organization was charged with making death threats against local Jewish community members.

Newmarket, ON – A swastika burned onto the wall of a school was found.

Vancouver, BC – Anti-Semitic graffiti and swastikas were found scrawled on a university campus following Jewish student group events.

Victoria, BC – A far left wing media site posted articles with anti-Semitic content and Holocaust denial on their website.

2004

Saskatoon, SK – A mezuzah was ripped off and the message “Free Palestine” scrawled in its place.

Brantford, ON – In a Jewish cemetery tombstones were defaced.

Ottawa, ON – Spray-painted graffiti stating “Kill all Jews” was found in a local park.

Winnipeg, MB – A local Jewish day school received threats of violence.

Vancouver, BC – An Israeli diplomat visited a local university campus and was heckled with antisemitic slurs.

2003

Victoria, BC – Signs at an anti-war rally suggested the media was part of a worldwide Jewish conspiracy.

Thornhill, ON – An executive director of a Jewish organization received hate mail with anti-Semitic and racist comments at his home.

Vancouver, BC – A Jewish organization received a bomb threat.

Hamilton, ON – The windows of a building on a Jewish cemetery were smashed.

Peterborough, ON – Graffiti was found praising the “work of Hitler”.

2002

Saskatoon, SK – A local synagogue was firebombed.

Scarborough, ON – A religious education teacher at a local high school told his students that Jews killed Jesus.

Ottawa, ON – An MP reported that constituents received a poem calling for a Jewish Holocaust.

Windsor, ON – A group of men attacked Jewish teens wearing kippot.

Thornhill, ON – A listener of a local radio station called to state his belief that “Jewish garbage” were responsible for 9/11.

2001

Winnipeg, MB – Jewish homes were defaced with graffiti such as KKK, swastikas and ‘fag’.

Ottawa, ON - A car parked in a parking lot of a local high school was daubed with the slurs “F***ing Jew” and “Die Kike”.

Calgary, AB – Cars in downtown Calgary were leafleted with the accusation that 9/11 was an Israeli-Jewish plot.

Moncton, NB – Swastikas were carved into the door of a synagogue.

Richmond Hill, ON – Six mezuzahs were broken and some were removed from doorposts of a condo.

2000

Ville St. Laurent, QC – A bus shelter was vandalized with graffiti saying “Die Jew”, “Kill” and a swastika.

Lindsay, ON – Swastikas and racist messages were found on a number of downtown businesses.

Ottawa, ON – Five youths yelled ‘I hate f***ing Jews’ at a Jewish man wearing a kippah.

Hamilton, ON – A Jewish cemetery was desecrated with graffiti saying “burn Jews”.

Calgary, AB – Brochures and other propaganda from the National Alliance was found tucked into the university’s newspaper.

Sources: The Anti-Defamation League (ADL), Toronto Hate Crimes Report, The B’nai Brith League of Human Rights, U.S. Department of State – Canada Human Rights Report, Statistics Canada, The Globe and Mail, The Toronto Star, Montréal Gazette, CBC News, The Canadian Jewish News, The Ottawa Citizen, The Vancouver Sun, Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, Canadian Institute for the Study of Anti-Semitism.