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## 2009 AUDIT OF ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS: *QUEBEC REGIONAL SUMMARY*

For twenty-eight years, the League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada has documented hate related incidents against Jews in this country in its annual *Audit of Antisemitic Incidents*. This study provides an important picture of racism against the Jewish community, as expressed in incidents of harassment, vandalism or violence against individual Jews or the community's institutions.

### **Findings of the Audit:**

There were 373 cases reported across the province of Quebec, representing 29.5% of the total incidents recorded across Canada, and an increase of 52.2% from the 245 incidents reported in Quebec in 2008.

Incidents are broken down between Montreal and Regional Quebec (areas in the province, excluding Montreal). Incidents in both regions increased overall in 2009. In Montreal – there were 319 cases, a 58.7% increase from the 201 cases in 2008. In Regional Quebec, there were a total of 54 cases, a 22.7% increase from the 44 reported cases in 2008.

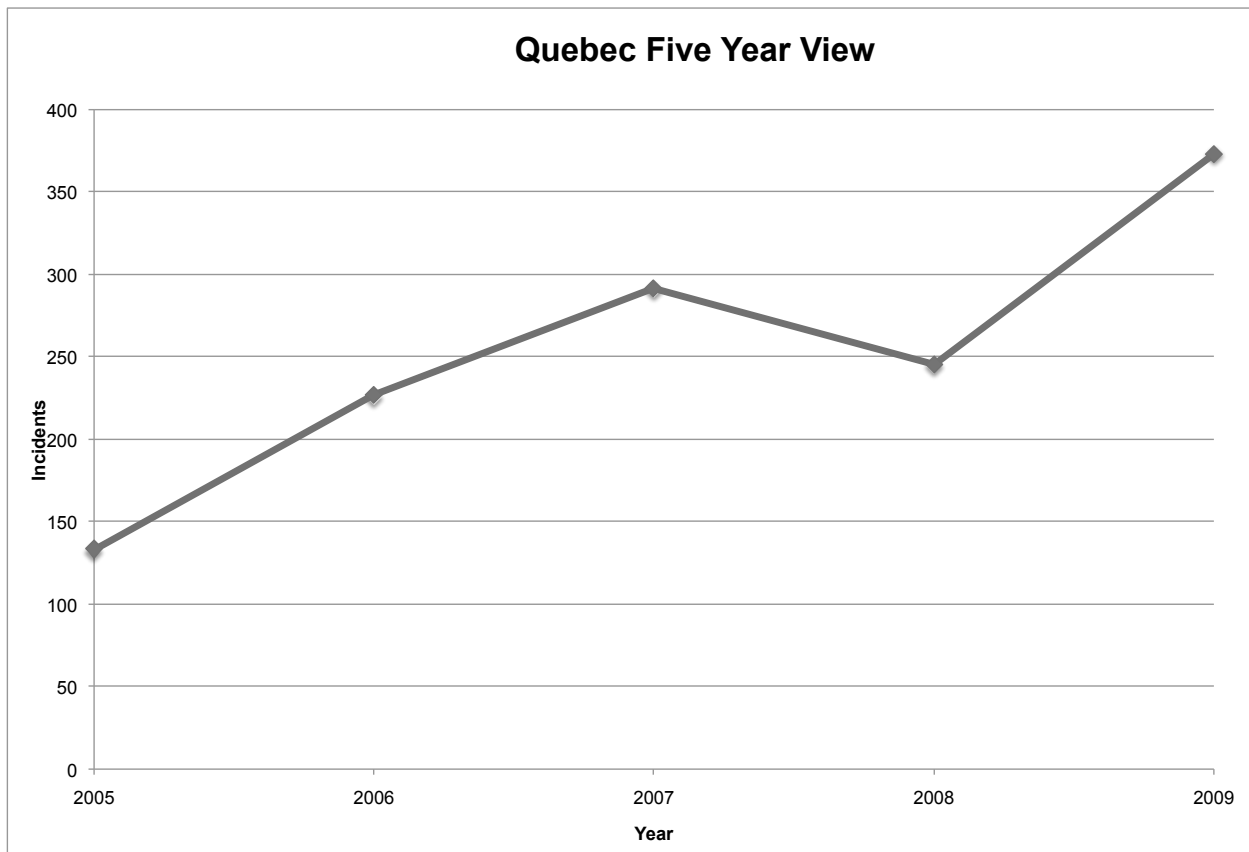
The 373 cases for all of Quebec broke down as follows:

	<b>Total for 2009</b>	<b>Harassment</b>	<b>Vandalism</b>	<b>Violence</b>
<b>All of Quebec</b>	373	288	77	8
<b>Montreal</b>	319	245	67	7
<b>Regional Quebec</b>	54	43	10	1

Cases of harassment increased in both Montreal and Regional Quebec, whereas there had been a drop reported in 2008. While harassment cases in Montreal increased by 60%, this category increased four-fold in Regional Quebec. Harassment in 2009 involved incidents such as antisemitic slurs in educational and workplace settings, web-based hate activity with a Quebec connection, and antisemitic flyers being distributed throughout the neighbourhood of Outremont.

Vandalism incidents in Montreal rose by 45.7% over 2008 incidents, though such incidents dropped by two-thirds in Regional Quebec. Four out of the 10 cases of attacks against synagogues reported across Canada in September occurred in Quebec in what looked like a coordinated attack just before the holiest day of the Jewish calendar, *Yom Kippur*. In August, the League expressed concern about the appearance of swastikas in graffiti incidents on public and private properties in the predominantly Jewish Montreal suburbs of Côte Saint-Luc and Hampstead.

Of particular concern is the dramatic increase in incidents of violence in Montreal which went up from 2 cases in 2008 to 7 cases in 2009. The 2008 *Audit* had reported a 28.6% drop in this category. Cases of violence in Regional Quebec dropped from 3 to 1 such incidents.



### Examples of Incidents:

Montreal, QC – A young man wearing a *kippah* is assaulted on a public street.

Montreal, QC – Seniors in a Jewish residential building receive anonymous phone calls to their apartments threatening that “1000 Jews will die”.

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Saint- Sauveur, QC – Jewish students on a Grade 6 ski trip are taunted with antisemitic slurs.

Montreal, QC – A visibly Jewish man is beaten up in a park.

Labelle, QC – A restaurant sign reads “September 11 because of Jews”.

Montreal, QC – A flyer depicting Jews as genocidal murderers is distributed throughout the area.

Masonville, QC – Vandals deface a park bench with words "Jews sit here only," demarcating a segregated area in order to isolate Jews from other park patrons.

Montreal, QC – A blog describes Chassidic Jews in Outremont as unwanted foreign invaders.

Montreal, QC – A restaurant review features the comment: "I don't even pay \$60 per litre of Christian blood to bake my Matzoh."

Pointe-Claire, QC – A publicly posted sign reads “9-11 was an inside job. Learn the truth about the Jews...”

Montreal, QC – Four synagogues in the same area are vandalized and their windows smashed during the night of the 25<sup>th</sup> of September, just before the holiest day of the Jewish year, Yom Kippur.

Sainte Agathe, QC – The local synagogue is defaced with swastikas.