



ONTARIO EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ***2008 Audit of Antisemitic Incidents***

For twenty-seven years, the League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada has documented hate-related incidents against the 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 community institutions.

Ontario Trends

- The majority of incidents across Canada consistently occurred in Ontario.
- In 2008, 682 incidents (60.1% of the total) took place in Ontario. In 2007, there were 582 incidents in Ontario - there has been an increase of 17.2%. Cases of harassment increased by 43.3%.
- In Regional Ontario, there was a decrease of 13.7% from 95 incidents in 2007 to 82 in 2008.
- In the GTA, there were 538 incidents, up from 427 last year, representing an increase of 26%. Ottawa's incident number is 62, up from last year's 60, an increase of 3.3%. Regional Ontario, this year had 82 incidents, although it was 95 last year - there was a decrease of -13.7%.
- 47.4% of overall incidents that took place in Canada in 2008 occurred in the GTA. (The percentages for Ottawa and Regional Ontario are 5.5% and 7.2% respectively.)

Breakdown of Incidents

| | Total | Harassment | Vandalism | Violence |
|------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| GTA | 538 | 409 | 122 | 7 |
| Ottawa | 62 | 44 | 17 | 1 |
| Regional Ontario | 82 | 37 | 45 | 0 |

- The GTA remained the highest reporting area, as has consistently been the case in previous Audits.
- York region had 74 cases, almost double the 38 incidents in 2007.
- There were 22 cases in Peel Region; 17 in Mississauga, and five in Brampton. But the Peel 2008 figures are down from the 30 cases recorded in 2007.
- Cases of harassment rose significantly from 284 cases in 2007 to 409 cases in 2008, an increase of 44%. Half the cases of violence in Canada (7 of the 14) took place in the GTA.

Examples of Incidents

Ottawa- Antisemitic stickers showing the Jewish Magen David (Star of David) being thrown into the garbage are posted on public sites throughout the city.

Hamilton - “Death to Jews” is shouted repeatedly at an anti-Israel rally held on the McMaster University campus.

Toronto - A government health worker is called a “Christ Killer” by her supervisor.

Thornhill - An email in Russian repeats an age-old blood libel, warning recipients to watch over their children lest they be kidnapped by Jews who will, it is alleged, use the infants’ blood to make *matzas* (unleavened bread) for Passover.

Toronto - A Jewish organization receives mail blaming Jews for the removal of the Lord’s Prayer from the daily proceedings in the provincial government, as part of an alleged conspiracy to wipe out Christianity.

Richmond Hill - A Jewish high school student is sent antisemitic threats on Facebook.

Mississauga - a park is defaced with antisemitic graffiti, including the signature “Hitler youth”.

Toronto - Blogs blame Jews for the propane blast that rocks the Downsview area of the city.

Barrie - A synagogue is defaced with the word “Nazi” just prior to the High Holidays.

Toronto - A trailer on the property of a Jewish day school is defaced with anti-Semitic graffiti, including KKK signs and the wording “I love Hitler”.

Stratford - A residential area is defaced with antisemitic graffiti as part of a vandalism spree.