

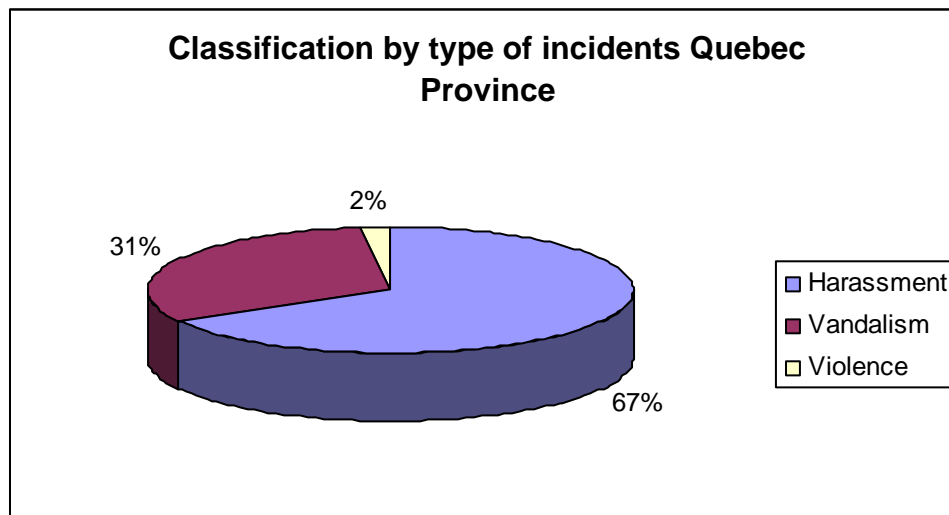
QUEBEC EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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's institutions.

Quebec trends:

- There were 245 cases reported across the province of Quebec, representing 21.6% of the total incidents recorded across Canada and a decrease of 15.8% from the 291 incidents in 2007.
- While incidents in Montreal dropped by 19.3%, the number in antisemitic cases for Regional Quebec slightly increased— 44 cases in 2008, up from 42 cases in 2007. One possible reason for this decrease is the high profile legal cases which appear to have had a deterrent effect.
- The League observes with particular concern the three cases of violence which took place in Regional Quebec, an area where no incidents in this category were reported in 2007. These included a case where a young man was assaulted in a face-to-face encounter on a public street in rural Quebec while on vacation.
- As a reflection of the growing use of new technologies for the dissemination of hate, the League's Anti-Hate Hotline received 50 reports of web-based hate activity with a connection to Quebec, whether in terms of content, perpetrators and/or victims. Email and social networking sites such as Facebook and YouTube are daily used to spread virulent hate material.
- Increases during the summer were particularly noticeable in Quebec during July and August, when 63 out of the 245 cases reported in the province occurred. That is 25.7% of the total for the entire year in just two months. In Regional Quebec, 33 out of the 44 incidents reported during 2008 (75%) occurred during those two summer months. This can be explained in part by ongoing prejudice against members of the ultra-Orthodox Jewish community, who customarily vacation in the countryside each year. This is, in fact, a continuation of a trend noted in the *2007 Audit*.



Examples of Incidents:

Montreal, QC - A group named "Nazi" was created on Facebook "for the promotion of racism and antisemitism".

Saint-Sauveur, QC - A swastika marked with the word "Jew" is scrawled on a Jewish teacher's classroom display board.

Montreal, QC - Stop signs in a heavily-populated Jewish area were defaced with swastikas.

Quebec City, QC – A customer is told not to be "a Jew" when he requests reimbursement.

Montreal, QC – A blogger writes antisemitic comments about Hassidim in Quebec.

Sainte-Agathe, QC – A visibly Jewish man visiting the area is assaulted while walking to synagogue, while bystanders watch.

Montreal, QC – An antisemitic email is sent to hundreds of addresses, warning recipients to beware of Jews.

Montreal, QC – A clerk at a coffee shop refuses to serve a Jew after she sees a Magen David (Jewish Star) on the customer's necklace.

Sainte-Agathe, QC – Messages are sent to a local synagogue threatening to burn it and calling for "Death to the Jews".

Montreal, QC – Bricks are thrown through the windows of a synagogue.

Montreal, QC – An antisemitic image is found on the packaging of a Russian product on sale in local stores.

**Incidents of antisemitism can be reported by calling B'nai Brith's
Anti-Hate Hotline at 1-800-892-BNAI (2624)
or reporting online at www.bnaibrith.ca.**

The full text of the *Audit* can be accessed at: www.bnaibrith.ca



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