



**Faith Communities Standing Together Against Hate Based on Religious Identity
18 June 2024**

Canada is home to a vast diversity of people of different national origins, ethnicities, religions, and heritage.

But today, we see fear, division, hurt and grief. Even more alarming, we have also seen violence.

At times, these conditions seem to overwhelm or even subsume our common bonds of citizenship, friendship, and love for one another.

Yet, there is more that unites than divides us.

Love unites; hate divides. Respect unites; bigotry divides. Dialogue unites; ignorance divides. Listening unites; harassment divides.

None can deny the pain of these days. Yet, we see our common humanity.

Rather than viewing religion as a source of conflict and contention, we know that faith traditions can be the basis for deeper conversations and increased cooperation, greater understanding, and shared activity for a common good.

This is why...

We, representatives of Canada's diverse faith communities, solemnly commit to:

- Work for understanding, for justice, and for peace.
- Stand against hate of any kind in Canada. No one should be subject to racism, violence, silencing, or retaliation because of religion, indigeneity, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender, or nationality.
- Reject any glorification of the perpetrators of violence and those who sow discrimination and hatred, especially in our own communities.
- Urge our adherents never to allow their faith to become a cause for hatred of another human being.

We call on the Government of Canada to:

- Support Canadian interfaith efforts to provide non-sectarian medical and humanitarian aid to victims – especially child victims – of international conflicts through reputable and trustworthy organizations as a means of advancing peacebuilding abroad and social solidarity in Canada.

- Ensure that faith communities have the proper resources for the security of their houses of worship, educational institutions — including schools, daycare centres, colleges, or universities – community centres, and cemeteries.
- Introduce a comprehensive strategy to foster understanding about online hate based on religious identity.
- Ensure, in collaboration with other levels of government, hate crime units are informed about hate based on religious identity in every law enforcement service, so that targeted groups can feel safe, heard, and respected. To this end we stand ready to offer our assistance.

This Statement of Faith Communities Standing Against Hate Based on Religious Identity has been prepared by the Canadian Interfaith Conversation and is endorsed by its Executive Committee members.

Shaila Carter Co-Chair, The Canadian Interfaith Conversation
 Pastor Peter Noteboom Co-Chair, The Canadian Interfaith Conversation
 Andrea Salguero Bahá'í Community of Canada
 Dario Chaquin Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs
 Sandra Pallin National Communication Director, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
 Bruce J. Clemenger The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada
 Akaash Maharaj Ambassador-at-Large, Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption
 Haseen Khan Muslim Association of Newfoundland and Labrador St. John's and Newfoundland
 Religious Social Action Coalition Faith Communities

This Statement of Faith Communities Standing Against Hate Based on Religious Identity has also been endorsed and signed by the following fifty-nine additional communities and institutions.

The Most Reverend Linda Nicholls, Primate
 The Anglican Church of Canada

Rev. Wesley Mills MLC, President
 Apostolic Church of Pentecost of Canada

Rev. Dr. Brent Russett, Minister
 Asbury Free Methodist Church, Perth, Ontario

Mike Gordon, Lead Minister
 Bethel Christian Assembly, Brandon Manitoba

Greg Neuman, Senior Pastor
 Big Church, Barrie, Ontario

Rev. John Estabrooks, Lead Pastor
 Bonavista Evangelical Missionary Church, Calgary, Alberta

Michael B. Pawelke, President
Briercrest Christian Academy, Saskatchewan

Ryan Anderson, Lead Organizer
Calgary Alliance for the Common Good

Dr. Harjot Kaur Singh, Chair
Calgary Interfaith Council

Robbie Oleniuk, Pastor
Calvary Evangelical Missionary Church, Owen Sound, Ontario

John Pellowe, CEO
Canadian Centre for Christian Charities

The Rev. Amanda Currie, President
The Canadian Council of Churches

Nuzhat Jafri, Executive Director
Canadian Council of Muslim Women

Celia Cheatley, Presiding Clerk
Canadian Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Rev. Bruce Jones, Lead Pastor
Chalmers Community Church, Kincardine, Ontario

Jean-Daniel Ó Donnada, National Pastor
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Rev. Albert Postma, Executive Director, Canada
Christian Reformed Church in North America

Willard Metzger, Executive Director
Citizens For Public Justice

The Rev. Len Goddard, President
Community Christian Fellowship Church of Canada

The Rev. Dennis Friesen, Lead Pastor
Dalmeny Bible Church, Saskatchewan

Robert A Watson, Secretary
Devine Street Gospel Chapel, Sarnia, Ontario

Gail Allen, President, Netta Phillet, Co-ordinator
Edmonton Interfaith Centre for Education & Action

Rev. William Taylor, Executive Director
Evangelical Free Church of Canada

David Guretzki, PhD, President & CEO
The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada

The Rev. Susan C. Johnson, National Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

John DeGiovanni, Pastor
Firestview Community Church, Grimsby, Ontario

Dr. Bill Thornton, Senior Pastor
Flamborough Baptist Church, Waterdown, Ontario

Rev. Maurice Hatfield, Pastor
Fredericton Junction United Baptist Church, Trinity United Baptist Church

The Rev. W. Steven Mills
Grace Evangelical Free Church of Thunder Bay, Ontario

Jay Moore, Chair
Interfaith Grand River

Ronald A. Kuipers, President
The Institute for Christian Studies

Halil Yurtsever, Executive Director
Intercultural Dialogue Institute

Glenn Gerbrandt, Pastor
Lashburn Community Church, Sask.

Doug Klassen, Executive Minister
Mennonite Church Canada

Liu Lafontaine, President
Multifaith Saskatchewan

Sherry Marceil, Chair

Multi-Faith Summit Council of BC

Zul Kassamali, President
National Alliance for the Advancement of Pluralistic Societies
Toronto Area Interfaith Council

The Rev. Tula Van Gaasbeek, Co-Chair
National Christian Muslim Liaison Committee

Chris Barrett, National Director
The Navigators of Canada

Johannes Schouten, Pastor
Nelson Ave Community Church, Burnaby, BC

Jeff Edwards, Pastor
Northwest Community Church, Calgary, Alberta

Rob Cave, Lead Pastor
Okotoks Evangelical Free Church, Alberta

Joshua Bautista, Executive Director
Operation Mobilization

Dr. Laura Lewis, Executive Director
Pregnancy Care Canada

The Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls, Moderator of the General Assembly
The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Mark Bergen, Lead Pastor, Sharon Ardell, Board Chair
Prince Albert Alliance Church, Saskatchewan

Gordon Ponak, Lead Pastor
Richardfield Christian Fellowship, Edmonton, Alberta

Rev. Drew Mersereau, Senior Pastor
Gunnubingsville Baptist Church, Riverview, New Brunswick

The Rev. Barry Buhler, Senior Pastor
Russell Alliance Church, Manitoba

Commissioner Lee Graves, Territorial Commander
The Salvation Army Canada and Bermuda Territory

Rabbi Ed Elkin, President
Toronto Board of Rabbis

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator, The Rev. Dr. Michael Blair, General Secretary The
United Church of Canada

Rev. Mark MacKnight, President
Vanguard College

May Shihadeh, Chair Sheila Flood, Executive Director
Victoria, BC Multifaith Society

Mike Stone, Executive Director
Vision Ministries Canada

David Ruis, National Director
Association of Vineyard Churches Canada

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Elliott, National Superintendent
The Wesleyan Church of Canada

Rev. Dr. James R. Graham, Lead Pastor
Whitewood Evangelical Missionary Church, Saskatchewan

Barry Duguid, Chair
Willowdale Baptist Church