



John Brassard | Member of Parliament
Barrie—Innisfil
Shadow Minister for Veterans Affairs

September 21, 2020

Mayor Jeff Lehman and City Council
70 Collier Street
Barrie, Ontario

SENT BY E-MAIL

Dear Mayor Lehman and City Council:

Regarding motion 20-G-139 before City Council this evening, I am aware that the local Jewish Community in Barrie and Simcoe County is supporting a City motion to adopt the definition of Antisemitism that has been proposed and widely adopted as a way of recognizing the obvious, and even the most latent forms of this 2000 year old discrimination.

There has been a marked increase in Antisemitic behaviour in Canada. I am aware of at least two recent episodes of Antisemitic graffiti in Barrie and according to the latest data from B'nai Brith's annual "Audit of Antisemitic Incidents", online hate, particularly of an antisemitic nature, has become more prevalent in Canada.

In June of 2019, the Minister of Canadian Heritage and Multiculturalism announced that Canada would adopt the definition of antisemitism used by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). While we wait for the government to formally introduce it in the House of Commons for adoption, it is the same definition you are deciding on this evening.

Simply adopting a definition will not end the problem, however I think it is important for our City, which is becoming increasingly diverse, to adopt the definition, as a signal to the community of our collective efforts to take a stand against all forms of prejudice, racism and discrimination regardless of one's race, creed or religion.

I strongly support the passing of this motion.

Regards,

John Brassard
Member of Parliament | Barrie-Innisfil
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