



**INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH ADVISORY COMMITTEE –
MARCH 31, 2025**

COMMUNICATIONS

Distributed March 28, 2025

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Please note there may be further Communications.

C1.

Communication

Inclusion and Community Outreach

Advisory Committee – March 31, 2025

Item No. 1

Culture Events

Inclusion and Community
Outreach Advisory Committee

March 31st, 2025



Culture Events January-March 2025

Tamil Heritage Month and Thai PongL

Date: Sat, Jan. 18

Time: 6 p.m.-8 p.m

Location Maple High School cafeteria

The event honoured and commemorated the richness of Tamil art, heritage and culture with greetings from Mayor Del Duca, vibrant cultural dance, music and instrument performances by Vaughan Tamils' community. Complimentary refreshments were offered

Reena- City Hall Tours

On January 20th and January 28th, the Events team led two tours at Vaughan City Hall where Reena members with disabilities learnt about various levels of government, gained insights into the building's green standards, and explored information about different departments.



Tamil Heritage Month event

Photo: City of Vaughan

Winterfest

For the first time, this event took place over two days - on Saturday, Feb. 1 and Sunday, Feb.2 - at Vellore Village Community Centre.

The event featured a wide range of live entertainment and performances, along with indoor and outdoor winter activities designed for people of all ages and abilities—ensuring everyone, from children to seniors, could join in the fun. Attendees also enjoyed a diverse selection of food vendors, a complimentary pancake breakfast, and much more.



Lunar New Year

Date: Sun, February 9

Time: 2-4 p.m.

Location Vaughan City Hall

Highlights of this year's event included the traditional lion dance, red envelope greetings, cultural dances and songs, as well as craft-making activities, all accompanied by plenty of family-friendly entertainment and music.



Black History Month

Date: Sat, February 22

Time: 2-4 p.m.

Location Vaughan City Hall

The event featured official remarks, Afro-Caribbean and urban dances, drum performances and a variety of Black-owned and Black-led businesses, organizations and creatives that showcased their work and engaged with the public.



International Women's Day

Date: Wed March 5

Time: 9-12 p.m.

Location: Vaughan City Hall

Following an internal survey in January, to gather insights from City staff on preferred ways to celebrate International Women's Day, the City of Vaughan designed a unique event to reflect the preferences and needs.

The event featured remarks from Mayor Steven Del Duca, a keynote address by Wellness Comedian and Connectivity Expert, Kate Davis, followed by a meditation session, and hands-on activities with light refreshments.

Nowruz

Date: Tue, March 25

Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Location: Vaughan City Hall

This event featured greetings from Mayor Steven Del Duca, various traditional musical and dance performances. Guests also enjoyed complimentary traditional refreshments and a Haft sin table display

Mayor Steven Del Duca and Members of Council
invite you to celebrate

Nowruz

Tuesday, March 25
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Vaughan City Hall
2141 Major Mackenzie Dr.

FREE REFRESHMENTS



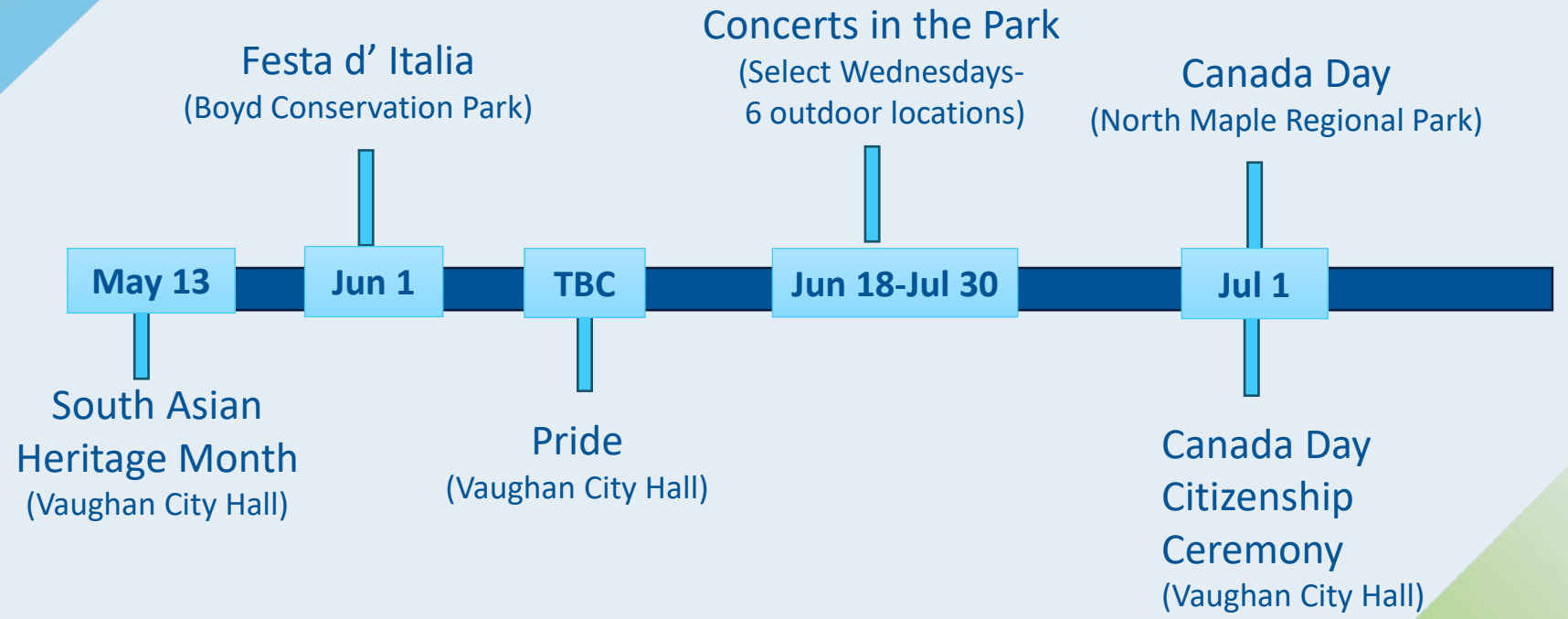
FREE REGISTRATION
vaughan.ca/culture

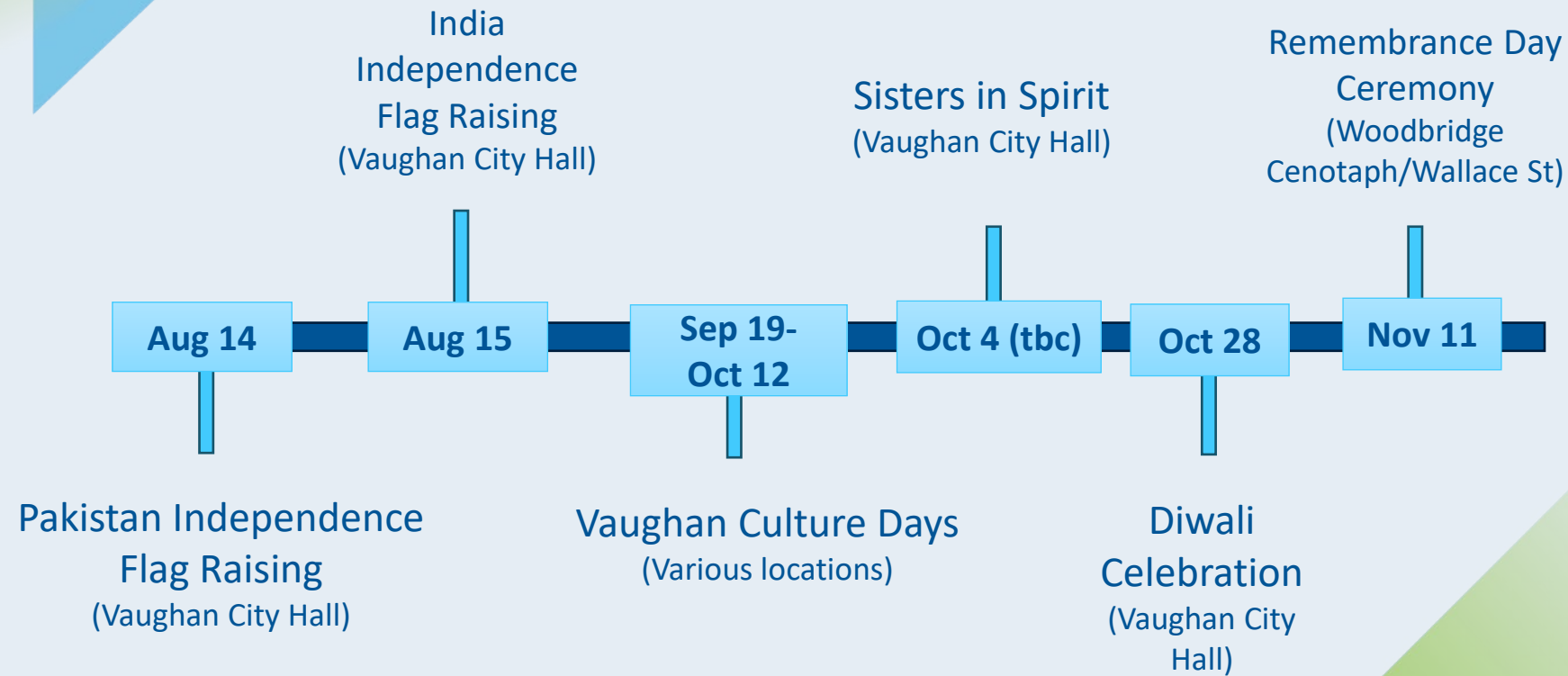


2025 Nowruz Event Invitation

Culture Events

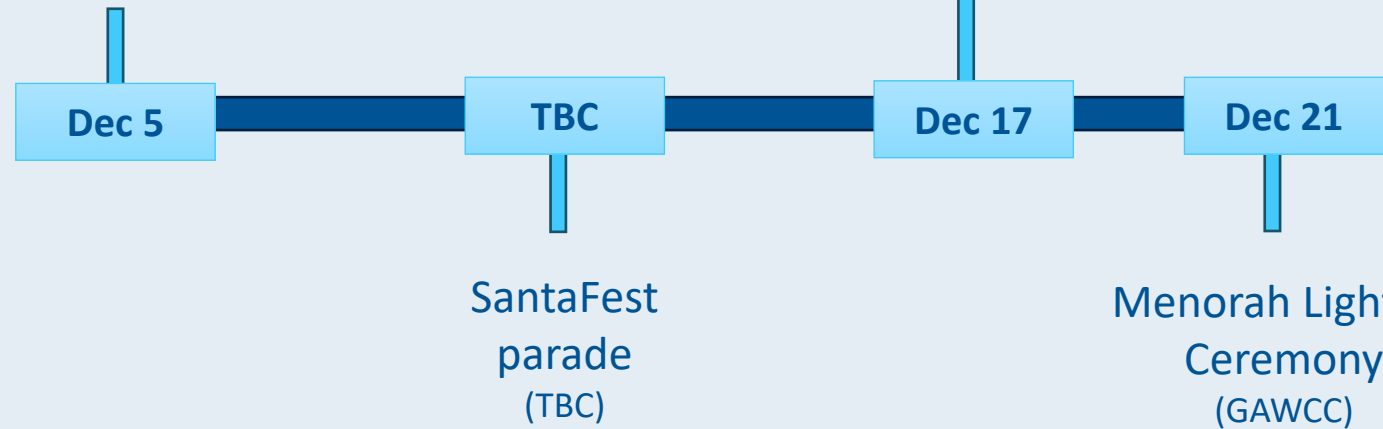
April- December 2025







Christmas Tree
Lighting
(Vaughan City Hall)



Menorah Lighting
Ceremony
(Vaughan City Hall)

SantaFest
parade
(TBC)

Menorah Lighting
Ceremony
(GAWCC)



Thank you!

Recreation Services, Events
Vaughan City Hall
2141 Major Mackenzie Dr.
Vaughan, ON L6A 1T1

vaughan.ca



C2.
Communication
Inclusion and Community Outreach
Advisory Committee – March 31, 2025
Item No. 2

Alexandra Smith
Canadian Director for End Jew
Hatred & Collaborator with
The Lawfare Project Canada

What antisemitism looks like in modern times

Moving the Community Forward

**#END
JEW
HATRED**

www.endjewhatred.com
www.thelawfareproject.com

INTRODUCTION

On the rise and not slowing down



Antisemitism is on the rise globally, including in Ontario.

It manifests in various ways, including hate crimes, discrimination, and misinformation.

Understanding modern antisemitism is key to addressing and combating it.

HISTORY SADLY REPEATS ITSELF

THE STATE OF ANTISEMITISM IN ONTARIO

Ontario has seen a significant increase in antisemitic incidents.

Between October 7 and November 20, 2023, there was a 192% rise in reported antisemitic incidents alone.

Antisemitic incidents up 670% in Canada since October 7

Jewish institutions, individuals, and communities have been targeted through vandalism, harassment, and threats.

Rise of Antisemitism in Medicine in Ontario



98%

Of Jewish doctors in Canada are very worried about the impact of antisemitism on healthcare.

80%

Of Jewish doctors in Canada have had their personal wellbeing significantly impacted by antisemitism.

25%

Of Jewish doctors in Canada have said antisemitism since October 7 has been the most professionally/ personally challenging period of their life.



City News 2 SUSPECTS ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH SHOOTING AT JEWISH GIRLS' SCHOOL

Forms of Jew-hatred in Ontario

Physical Attacks & Vandalism

Synagogues, schools, and cemeteries defaced.
Increase in assaults on visibly Jewish individuals.

Online Antisemitism

Hate speech and conspiracy theories spreading online.
Coordinated online harassment against Jewish figures.

Institutional & Workplace Discrimination

Exclusion from organizations and events.
Bias in hiring, promotions, and policies.

CUPE Ontario president called out for reposting 'divisive' and 'vile' social media post



#Resistance is fruitful and no matter what some might say, #Resistance brings progress.”

Fred Hahn, Twitter, Oct 8 2023

“We must be clear that the State of Israel is an apartheid state.”

Fred Hahn, Instagram, Nov 13 2023

“ Hamas was the result of 40 years of brutal invasion and genocide. Today the Israelis are blaming Hamas to justify their genocide. It’s not about hamas it never was.”

Fred Hahn, Facebook, Dec 27 2023



Understanding Modern Antisemitism

**Anti-Zionism
IS
Antisemitism**

**The Weaponization
of Social Media**

DEI & APR

**Denying our History
and Identity**

**Disinformation
and Media
Bias**

Disguised as political or social justice movements

THE EFFECTS

The Impact on the Jewish Community

The surge in Jew-hatred has deeply affected the Jewish community, leading to heightened fear, emotional distress, and social and political challenges. While it has created significant hardship, it has also strengthened Jewish resilience, unity, and advocacy efforts. Addressing this issue requires a multifaceted approach—stronger legal protections, widespread education, and active solidarity from allies. By standing together against hatred and misinformation, we can work toward a society where Jewish individuals and communities can live freely and without fear.

Psychological Effects:

Fear, anxiety, and a sense of isolation.

Community Safety:

Increased security costs for Jewish institutions.

Youth & Education:

Jewish students facing hostility on campuses.

1930'S

2023



THE EFFECTS

The Impact on the broader Community

WHY IT'S CRUCIAL FOR EVERYONE—NOT JUST THE TARGETED GROUP—TO STAND AGAINST HATRED. DEFENDING ONE MINORITY STRENGTHENS THE RIGHTS AND SECURITY OF ALL.

Erosion of Social Cohesion

Targeting one minority creates divisions and tensions, making society more fragmented. Fear and suspicion grow, weakening trust among different communities.

Normalization of Hatred

Discrimination against one group can embolden extremists and make bigotry more socially acceptable, leading to a broader culture of intolerance.

Threat to Civil Liberties

If hate crimes and discrimination go unchecked, laws and policies may shift toward restricting freedoms for all. What starts with one group can expand to others.

Economic Consequences

Marginalizing a community can lead to loss of talent, innovation, and economic contributions. If businesses or professionals from the targeted group feel unsafe, they may relocate, weakening the economy.

Increased Violence and Instability

History shows that targeting a minority often escalates into wider conflict. Hate crimes, riots, and even domestic terrorism can increase when discrimination is tolerated.

Weakening of Democratic Value

A just society is built on equality and protection for all. When one group is scapegoated, it undermines the principles of democracy and human rights.

Impact on Future Generations

Children who grow up witnessing discrimination learn either to accept it as normal or to fear for their own safety. This can lead to cycles of trauma, mistrust, and division.



Combating Jew-hatred

Education & Awareness

Implementing Holocaust and modern antisemitism education in schools.

Legislation & Policy

Strengthening hate crime laws.

Adopting the IHRA definition of antisemitism.

Creating by-laws that help protect communities.

Community Engagement

Building alliances with other marginalized groups.

Encouraging Jewish and non-Jewish solidarity.

Social Media & Online Regulation

Holding platforms accountable for hate speech.

Reporting and countering misinformation.



Call to Action

Adopt and Implement the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition is the globally recognized standard for identifying and addressing antisemitism. Ontario must ensure its full adoption across government, law enforcement, and educational institutions.

Strengthen Hate Crime Legislation

Enhance penalties for hate crimes, improve law enforcement training on antisemitic incidents, and ensure swift legal consequences for perpetrators.

Protect Jewish Students on Campus

Jewish students are being harassed and threatened at Ontario universities. We call on academic institutions and government officials to take immediate steps to enforce policies that ensure campuses are safe, inclusive, and free from Jew-hatred.



Zero Tolerance for Antisemitic Demonstrations

Public spaces must not be used to incite hate or glorify violence against Jews. Authorities must enforce laws against hate speech, incitement, and intimidation.

Invest in Holocaust and Modern Antisemitism Education

Ontario's education system, and government sectors, including law enforcement must prioritize mandatory Holocaust education and broader awareness about contemporary antisemitism, ensuring that history is not forgotten and ignorance does not fuel hate.

It's Time To Unmask The Hate!

#ENDJEWHATRED

Contact Us

We are here to help, support, and strengthen our community. As dedicated advocates, we work to uphold and protect our shared Western values and the very fabric of our society.

We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with you in addressing community concerns, fostering unity, and ensuring a strong and inclusive future. If there are ways we can assist, initiatives we can support, or discussions we can contribute to, please don't hesitate to reach out. Your leadership is vital, and we are here to amplify the voices of those you serve.

We look forward to working together for the betterment of our community.



Direct Number

647-865-5169

Please text outside office hours for urgent matters



Office Hours

Monday-Friday

09.00-17.00



More Information

alexandra@endjewhatred.com

www.endjewhatred.com

www.thelawfareproject.com



Location

Anywhere I'm needed and can help!

**#END
JEW
HATRED**



Thank You