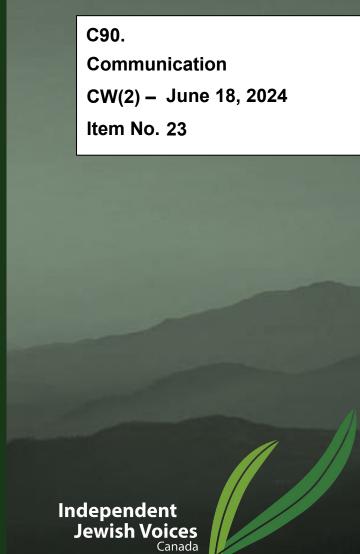
Deputation Against Proposed By-Law to "Protect Vaughan's Vulnerable Social Infrastructure"

Independent Jewish Voices
York Region



Voix juives

indépendantes

Introduction

- Independent Jewish Voices' York Region chapter represents progressive Jewish community members in Vaughan and across York Region.
- Anti-semitism and anti-Palestinian racism are both serious problems that must be addressed. One isn't more or less important than the other.
- We believe we all must fight these forms of discrimination together. We want our government to facilitate dialogue and collaboration – not suspicion, suppression and division.



Why do progressive Jews reject this proposed by-law?



1. This bylaw would **not** increase safety.

- The Vaughan staff report on the proposed by-law provides examples of alleged hate crimes.
- Not a single one of the examples cited (arson, bomb threats, vandalism, shooting at buildings) would have been prevented by the proposed bylaw. There is zero evidence of any connection between peaceful protests and such acts.
- Vaughan must focus on **investigating and addressing acts of violence** instead of offering a false solution that a) won't prevent hate crimes **and** b) will permanently reduce the entire Vaughan community's democratic rights and freedoms.



2. We need to rule on **facts**, not feelings.

- As written, the bylaw would kick in if a community member merely feels "intimidated" or "concerned" for their safety or security even if there's no actual threat whatsoever.
- This is a shockingly low bar for stripping others of their democratic right to peaceful protest, calling in armed police to physically suppress them, and fining them up to \$100,000!
- As adults, we all know that **feelings are not facts.** It is extremely dangerous to legislate away anything that merely *feels* scary to some. Our laws and especially our punishments must be grounded in **facts**, not subjective emotions.



3. The protests have been legitimate.

- This by-law was proposed in the wake of peaceful protests that took place in Thornhill.
- The peaceful protests were held outside synagogues while they hosted non-religious **real estate events** selling land in Israel-Palestine that is under serious dispute.
- Other venues in Vaughan chose **not** to host the sale specifically because they felt it would be problematic.
- As progressive Jews, we support the community's right to peacefully protest such an event, wherever it may be hosted.



What do progressive Jews want instead?



What do we want instead?

- Initiatives that bring Vaughan minorities **together** to solve problems collaboratively
- Solutions that address actual violence and hate crimes, instead of subjective feelings
- Solutions that do **not** reduce the entire Vaughan community's democratic rights and freedoms

Thank you!

