

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Committee of the Whole (2)

DATE: Tuesday, June 17, 2025

**TITLE: MOTION TO SUPPORT CAMPAIGN TO HAVE CANADA SEEK
PRESIDENCY OF THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST
REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE**

FROM:

Local and Regional Councillor Mario G. Racco

Whereas the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) is an intergovernmental organization with 35 member countries and 8 observer nations, the core mission of which includes promoting Holocaust education, remembrance and research, while partnering with other international organizations to support these principles and objectives;

Whereas Canada has been a member of IHRA since 2009;

Whereas the IHRA works closely with major partner organizations including UNESCO, the European Union, the Organization for Co-Operation and Security in Europe, Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes, the Council of Europe and others;

Whereas United Against Hate Canada recently launched a national campaign to urge Canada to seek the Presidency of IHRA for 2027 or 2028 when it next becomes available, by sending a written request dated May 27, 2025 to Prime Minister Mark Carney signed by 130 elected officials, academics, spiritual and community leaders;

Whereas the IHRA definition of antisemitism has been adopted by more than 1000 entities including nation states, sub-national jurisdictions such as provinces and states (including six Canadian provinces), municipal entities including the City of Cote Saint Luc, universities, businesses, sports clubs, cultural organizations and religious groupings;

Whereas Statistics Canada has noted an unprecedented wave of antisemitic incidents in Canada over the past years leading the Government of Canada to recently convene a National Forum to Combat Antisemitism at which it announced \$10 million in new

funding for the Security Infrastructure Program and released a statement of intent by law enforcement, civil servants and elected officials to collectively combat hate crimes in all its forms, including addressing the public safety threat of antisemitism;

Whereas the United Kingdom, which chaired the IHRA from March 1, 2024, to February 28, 2025, has indicated that holding the post significantly aided stakeholders within the country to advance Holocaust remembrance, combat Holocaust denial and distortion while building effective tools to blunt antisemitism; and

Whereas holding the Presidency of the IHRA will strengthen the resources and tools available to stakeholders in Canada to combat antisemitism while sending a clear message of our country's desire to blunt hate aimed at Jews.

It is therefore recommended:

1. That Vaughan City Council support the proposal urging the Government of Canada to seek the Presidency of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance for 2027 or 2028; and
2. That a copy of this motion be sent to the office of the Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada.

Financial and Staff Resource Impact

Not applicable.

Attachments

Not applicable.