

Addressing the Threat of Disruptive Protests and Foreign Agendas in Canada: A Call for Stronger Government Action

At Hindu Forum Canada, we are deeply concerned about the recent surge in disruptive protests across Canada. The recent rally incident in Brampton has heightened our concerns and those of all Canadians regarding the escalating nature of such protests. The growing frequency and intensity of these disruptions are causing significant distress and upheaval. We urge for a constructive dialogue and effective measures to address this issue. For more details, please refer to the article here:

https://www.bramptonguardian.com/news/council/illegal-takeover-car-rallies-and-street-races-becoming-huge-problem-in-brampton-police-say/article_e2578ead-0fc7-5b31-b678-3f369866133f.html

PREFACE

Protests, illegal 'takeover' car rallies, and street races are becoming a significant problem in Canada. These takeover events, which often involve occupying roads or parking lots, are increasingly being used to promote various ideologies such as those linked to Palestine and Khalistan. While the right to free speech is fundamental, it does not justify the disruption of everyday life and routine to push foreign political agendas on the local community. The persistence of these events is alarming, particularly because they not only disrupt traffic but also pose a significant threat to public health, safety, and order.

The crux of the issue lies in the lax response from the government and law enforcement agencies, which have allowed these disruptive protests to continue unchecked. By failing to take decisive action, authorities are effectively absolving themselves of responsibility and enabling the propagation of foreign problems within Canada's borders. This negligence has severe implications, as the unchecked protests and rallies can lead to significant economic losses, including property damage and the interruption of local

businesses. **Moreover, the disruption of emergency services due to blocked streets and highways represents a grave threat to society as a whole.**

One of the most concerning aspects of this issue is the infiltration of foreign political agendas into academic institutions. Campuses, which should be safe spaces for learning and intellectual growth, are being co-opted as platforms for promoting divisive ideologies. This misuse of educational spaces not only distracts students from their primary purpose of gaining knowledge but also risks indoctrinating young minds with foreign political conflicts that are irrelevant to Canadian society.

The lack of stringent action against these protests also raises questions about political motivations. When local leaders, such as the Deputy Mayor of Brampton, publicly endorse or permit such activities, it suggests a willingness to prioritize political appeasement over the well-being of the community. The frequent presence of political figures at these rallies further fuels the perception that these protests are being tolerated—or even encouraged—for the sake of securing votes. This apparent prioritization of electoral gain over public order erodes trust in both the government and law enforcement.

In light of these developments, it is evident that a more robust approach is needed to address the rising tide of illegal and disruptive protests in Brampton. The government and police must take a firmer stance to ensure that public safety and order are maintained. There is a pressing need for policies that prevent the misuse of public spaces and academic institutions for the promotion of foreign political agendas. At the same time, the true spirit of free speech must be preserved—allowing for peaceful and meaningful dialogue without compromising the rights and safety of the broader community.

A democratic reform needs to be brought in Canada's approach to managing public protests, especially in light of the Israel-Hamas conflict and its aftermath. The law enforcement is inadequately prepared to handle protests that, while not outright criminal, are offensive and disruptive. The responsibility for upholding "community standards" must be shifted to democratic institutions like Parliament, civil injunctions or even notwithstanding clause could be employed to manage

protests. A "traffic-light" zoning system is recommended to regulate protests based on location, with stricter regulations in sensitive areas and more permissive zones near government buildings. This system would balance the right to protest with public safety and community standards. In exceptional circumstances, more assertive measures, like invoking the notwithstanding clause, may be necessary to protect public welfare. **While protests are a democratic right, a new political and legislative framework is essential to manage them effectively and avoid the counterproductive outcomes seen in recent events. Please see below:**

<https://macdonaldlaurier.ca/canadas-protest-problem/>

Following is detailed analysis on each aspect/consequence of such protests in Canada:

MAINTAINING LAW & ORDER

External Affairs not to be brought to Canada as they distract from domestic matters

Canada faces a pressing issue with disruptive protests that must be addressed. While protests are a fundamental democratic right, especially for minorities seeking to voice their concerns, their impact should not come at the expense of the majority's well-being. Protests must be conducted in a manner that avoids causing harm or significant disruptions to the general public. For example, protests have led to severe traffic disruptions, preventing individuals from reaching essential medical appointments or hospitals, and causing significant delays in travel plans, such as missing important flights due to traffic jams from illegal rallies. Such disruptions not only affect personal and business activities but also pose risks to public safety. Effective protest management should balance the right to demonstrate with the need to minimize harm and disruption to public life and infrastructure.

Recent Events



- In recent years, Brampton has become a hotspot for protests linked to foreign issues such as the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia and the Farmers' Protest in India. These protests, while significant to some, are external issues that do not justify causing disruptions for local residents. For instance, the Farmers' Protest, which saw widespread blockades and rallies, was a matter of concern primarily for those directly involved in agricultural policies in India. The infiltration of such issues into Brampton's streets disrupts local life and undermines public order.

<https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/2024/4/9/video-shows-dangerous-car-rally-stunts-as-vaughan--ont--cracks-d.html>

- **Pro-Palestinian protests and occupations have caused significant disruption to local communities, affecting workplaces, public spaces, streets, and educational institutions. Even during cultural and religious festivals, these protests infiltrate the events, diverting attention from their intended purposes. Some MPs have openly worn keffiyehs in Parliament, a space meant for national discourse and governance, further promoting this foreign issue. Meanwhile, pressing local problems like homelessness, mass immigration, unemployment, and inflation are being neglected, with much of the focus shifting to foreign conflicts rather than addressing the urgent needs of Canadian citizens. Why are our leaders not prioritizing solutions to these domestic challenges?**

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/canada-demands-investigation-into-water-well-destroyed-by-israeli-troops-in-gaza-1.7002173>

<https://bc.ctvnews.ca/13-people-charged-with-mischief-for-pro-palestinian-protest-in-vancouver-1.6999854>

<https://toronto.citynews.ca/2024/05/16/illegal-destructive-dangerous-uvic-president-cites-complaints-about-encampment/>

https://www.chroniclejournal.com/opinion/palestinian-protest-threats-cross-the-line-mall-marchers-exceed-charter-limits-canadian-tolerance-standards/article_f0da5846-a1ae-11ee-95f0-7f060baceee8.html

<https://nationalpost.com/opinion/how-pro-palestinian-protesters-stole-christmas>

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/canada-s-police-chiefs-call-for-more-help-to-deal-with-increasing-number-of-protests-1.6999173>

The involvement of international political movements in local Canadian communities causes fragmentation and distracts from domestic issues.

The involvement of international political movements in local Canadian communities can lead to significant fragmentation and detract from pressing domestic issues. This phenomenon is evident in various instances where foreign political agendas overshadow local concerns, creating divisions within communities and distracting from essential domestic matters.

[Carnegie | International Peace | The Complexities of Global Protests](#)
[JSTOR | Anti-Government Protests in Democracies: A Test of Institutional Explanations](#)
[Elsevier | From bad to worse? How protest can foster armed conflict in autocracies](#)

These sources provide insight into how the infusion of international political issues into local Canadian communities can create significant challenges and underscore the need for a balanced approach to protest and community engagement.

POLITICAL APPEASEMENT

Local politicians, such as Harkirat Singh, the Deputy Mayor of Brampton, have publicly acknowledged the pattern of car rallies used as a form of protest. Singh remarked, “We see a lot of Bramptonians using the tool of car rallies for protests. That’s been a pattern (that) we saw with the farmers’ protest and then we saw it again with the assassination of Hardeep Nijjar in B.C.”. This acknowledgment highlights a troubling trend where political figures seem more concerned with maintaining political favor than addressing the issues of law and order.

By not enforcing stronger regulations and allowing these protests to continue, politicians may be prioritizing votes over public safety. This leniency undermines the role of local governance and diminishes the effectiveness of law enforcement. Politicians’ appearances at these rallies and protest sites can be seen as tacit approval, further

perpetuating the cycle of lawlessness.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/india-summons-canadian-diplomat-1.7189094>

<https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3261021/trudeaus-presence-sikh-rally-further-inflames-india-ties-canadian-pm-accused-encouraging-climate>

HEALTH & SAFETY CONCERNS

The illegal rallies in Brampton have serious implications for public health and safety. Dangerous driving practices, such as speeding and stunt driving, are prevalent at these events, leading to accidents and injuries. The use of fireworks and gasoline has been reported in some Brampton rallies, increasing the risk of severe incidents. These dangerous activities can overwhelm local hospitals, which are already operating at capacity, leading to extended wait times and compromised care for critical patients (Source: Toronto Star).

<https://www.insauga.com/video-brawl-breaks-out-after-reckless-drivers-take-over-shopping-plaza-in-brampton-police-say/>

<https://torontosun.com/news/local-news/warmington-one-man-injured-in-brampton-brawl-but-no-arrests>

The sense of fear and insecurity among residents is heightened by the aggressive behavior and noise associated with these rallies. In one notable instance, an individual who was critically ill could not reach the hospital in time due to streets blocked by protesters, resulting in severe health complications. Such incidents underscore the urgent need to address the safety risks associated with illegal rallies.

TRAFFIC DISRUPTION

Traffic congestion caused by illegal rallies can have dire consequences. Blocked or congested routes delay emergency vehicles, impacting their ability to respond to critical situations. For example, delays caused by rally traffic have led to situations where individuals missed important flights despite leaving well in advance. This not only disrupts travel plans but also poses a significant risk to public safety. Major highways and roads

are often obstructed, causing severe traffic jams and potentially leading to missed flights and other urgent appointments (Source: Global News).

Emergency Services

Emergency services are heavily impacted by these illegal gatherings. The need to manage and control the rallies diverts resources away from other critical emergency responses. Between May 29 and June 24, 2023, Peel Police responded to and dispersed 21 illegal takeover events, highlighting the strain placed on emergency services. The increased demand for medical and police services during these events often delays responses to other emergencies, risking lives and compromising public safety.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/10101074/road-closures-toronto-demonstrations-nov-18/>

<https://www.cp24.com/news/road-closures-expected-in-downtown-toronto-due-to-protest-1.6651068>

<https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/toronto-police-make-6-arrests-following-demonstrations-in-north-york-scarborough-1.7005402>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/toronto-downtown-street-closures-1.6978235>

<https://www.cp24.com/video?clipId=571655>

<https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/roads-closed-traffic-delayed-as-thousands-attended-pro-palestinian-rally-in-downtown-toronto-1.6622170>

<https://toronto.citynews.ca/2023/09/26/queens-park-road-closures-protest-toronto-police/>

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The economic effects of these illegal rallies are substantial. They can damage Ontario's reputation as a safe and attractive tourist destination, leading to decreased tourism and related revenue. The costs associated with managing these rallies and repairing damage are borne by taxpayers. As Mayor Brian Smith of Wasaga Beach noted, "Illegal events and illegal car rallies damage our brand as a safe, iconic tourist destination as well as our economy, municipal infrastructure and private property" (Source: Wasaga Beach Sun).

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/winter-freedom-convoy-blockades-cost-billions-to-canada-s-economy-inquiry-hears->



[1.6156134#:~:text=Winter%20'Freedom%20Convoy'%20blockades%20cost,to%20Canada's%20economy%2C%20inquiry%20hears&text=Transport%20Canada%20estimates%20as%20much,a%20public%20inquiry%20heard%20Wednesday.](#)

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/nathanielparishflannery/2023/04/21/how-will-public-service-worker-strike-affect-canadas-economy/>

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-ottawa-trucker-convoy-protests/>

<https://globalnews.ca/news/8602966/freedom-convoy-economic-impact/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/convoy-economics-1.6653986>

<https://angusreid.org/canada-pro-palestinian-protests-university-encampments-change-minds-israel-blockades-freedom-convoy/>

CAMPUS OCCUPATION AND SCHOOLS

The infiltration of foreign political agendas into Canadian academic institutions poses a serious problem. For example, **Palestinian protesters have disrupted campuses like the University of Toronto, leading to significant property damage and academic disruption.** Such actions not only damage property but also misuse educational spaces intended for intellectual development.

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/commentary/article-the-campus-occupations-arent-protected-by-free-speech-because-they/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/campus-protests-outside-influence-theories-1.7200820>

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/canadian-court-grants-injunction-police-clear-pro-palestinian-campus-encampment-2024-07-02/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/mcgill-new-offer-pro-palestinian-protesters-encampment-1.7231398>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/encampment-uoft-day-2-1.7193100>

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/students-erect-pro-palestinian-encampments-across-major-canadian-universities-2024-05-02/>

MISUSE OF FREE SPEECH

The misuse of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to advance foreign political issues is a growing concern. While free speech is a protected right, it must not be used as a pretext for actions that undermine public order and safety. The promotion of foreign agendas through disruptive protests compromises the core values of Canadian democracy.

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/commentary/article-the-campus-occupations-arent-protected-by-free-speech-because-they/>

SOLUTION AND PROPOSED MOTION

Ward 9 Councilor Kieran McKenzie highlights that stunt driving and illegal rallies are not unique to Brampton but are widespread issues in many Ontario cities, including Windsor and Vaughan (Source: Windsor Star). Addressing these issues requires a unified approach to enforce stricter regulations, manage public spaces responsibly, and uphold the principles of law and order while respecting the rights of all citizens.