August 29, 2024

The Canadian Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Descendants (CJHSD) represents Holocaust Survivors and their offspring. This is a cohort of older Canadian adults who have lived through and somehow managed to survive the physical privation or verbal attacks on their person and the decimation of whole communities by the German Nazi Regime of Hitler in a variety of countries. Post-Holocaust some were fortunate enough to be allowed to emigrate to Canada, many to Toronto and begin new lives here. While the memories of their traumas of loss and abuse remained vivid, they managed to raise families and build new lives. Most of their descendants carry within them elements of the legacy of their Holocaust survivor parents and of that dark history of the decimated communities from which their families arose. They remember the stories of how hate had developed into mass murder even among close neighbours.

1. The top priority is to Train Officers to understand Jewish history. One of the most effective ways is to have police officers hear from Holocaust survivors or some of their descendants. This will clearly demonstrate how and why most Toronto Jews are so affected and nervous in the current antisemitic climate.
2. Zero Tolerance for Hate Speech. There is a difference between Hate Speech and Free Speech. All violent movements, including the Holocaust began and begin with words. Antisemitism is also expressed through words. Therefore, there should be Zero Tolerance for Hate Speech in written or verbal form or for Hate Symbols.
3. School Public Safety Is a priority. Our community’s greatest treasures are our children, not only those in pre-school, elementary grades and high school but also at universities. We must have them absolutely protected at all costs from hate AND any harmful actions by antisemites
4. Protection of Jewish Institutions: Toronto Jewish institutions, which have been built and cherished for several generations. must be protected from antagonists who wish to harm them or their attendees. Most survivors and other Jewish adults are fearful of attending prayer services or events there.
5. The Encampments: When Holocaust Survivors see the encampments and intimidation and protests, it reminds them of their own past incarceration.
6. Support for Israel: The only country with Jews as leaders is Israel, which is a small state created post Holocaust and has less than 10 million citizens (9,387,021) of which 2 million are Moslem. There are many Arab countries with 464.68 million people and most of their citizens are of the Moslem faith. So it is not surprising that the 335,295 Canadians who identify as Jews, feel support for Israel, although not all necessarily agree with each of its current policies.

We hope these items will help The Toronto Police Service Board in planning.

Pinchus Gutter,

Edit Kuper

Co- Presidents. CJHSD