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Sent: April 8, 2026 11:16 AM
To: Clerks <clerks@newmarket.ca>
Subject: Strong Support for the Town of Newmarket Resolution on Combatting Antisemitism

April 8, 2026

Councillor Twinney and Members of Council

Town of Newmarket
395 Mulock Drive
Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 4X7

Re: Strong Support for the Town of Newmarket Resolution on Combatting Antisemitism

Dear Councillor Twinney and Members of Council,

I write to express my wholehearted and unequivocal support for the Notice of Motion on Combatting Antisemitism brought before the Town of Newmarket Council on March 30, 2026. This resolution arrives at a critical and urgent moment, and I commend Councillor Twinney and Council for the leadership, moral clarity, and civic courage it embodies.

A Community Under Threat

The documented and accelerating rise in antisemitic incidents across Canada, Ontario, and York Region specifically is deeply alarming. Synagogues in our region have been targeted in multiple recent attacks. Hate-motivated vandalism, harassment, and incitement to violence have been directed at Jewish community members with increasing frequency and brazenness. According to Statistics Canada and B'nai Brith Canada's Annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents, the Jewish community continues to be the most targeted religious minority for hate crimes in Canada — a distinction that persists year after year, and has significantly worsened since 2023. York Region has not been spared from this national crisis; the incidents documented within our own communities demand a firm, coordinated, and resourced response.

Anti-Zionism as Antisemitism: A Direct Threat to Jewish Identity and Safety

Any serious effort to combat antisemitism must grapple honestly with one of its most prevalent and destructive contemporary forms: the use of anti-Zionist rhetoric to

delegitimize, dehumanize, and threaten the Jewish people. Anti-Zionism — as distinct from legitimate critique of any government's specific policies — constitutes antisemitism when it denies the Jewish people their right to self-determination, promotes the elimination or destruction of the State of Israel, or treats Jewish individuals as collectively responsible for or morally complicit in Israeli governmental decisions simply by virtue of their identity or heritage.

The connection between Jewish identity and Israel is not peripheral — it is foundational. Survey data consistently demonstrates that the overwhelming majority of Jewish Canadians regard the State of Israel as an essential component of their identity, their faith, and their communal life. Polling of Canadian Jews has found that over 90% identify Israel and Zionism as an integral part of their Jewish identity and religious belief. For many, Israel represents not merely a geopolitical reality but a spiritual homeland, interwoven into millennia of prayer, liturgy, and religious observance. Calls to eliminate the State of Israel — whether framed in political, ideological, or academic language — are therefore not abstract policy disagreements. They are direct and existential threats to Jewish people, to Jewish identity, and to Jewish safety, including the safety of Jewish residents throughout York Region and the Greater Toronto Area.

The real-world consequences of this rhetoric are not hypothetical. When individuals or groups publicly call for the elimination of Israel, or promote the view that Zionism is a form of racism or colonial evil to be eradicated, Jewish community members experience these statements as threats to their physical safety, their communal institutions, and their right to exist as Jews. When synagogues are defaced, when Jewish-owned businesses are targeted, when Jewish students are harassed on campuses, and when community events are disrupted — these acts are frequently accompanied by, or directly incited by, anti-Zionist ideological framing. Hatred expressed toward the national aspirations and collective identity of the Jewish people is hatred directed at Jewish people themselves.

The Case for a Coordinated, Multi-Agency Response

The resolution's call for a Federal-Provincial-Regional-Municipal joint law enforcement task force — composed of the RCMP, CSIS, OPP, and York Regional Police — reflects a pragmatic and necessary understanding of the complexity of this threat. Antisemitic activity in our region does not exist in isolation; it is often connected to broader networks of extremism, organized hate groups, and internationally coordinated disinformation campaigns. Effectively combatting it requires the shared intelligence, jurisdictional reach, and institutional capacity that only a coordinated multi-agency task force can provide. York Regional Police has demonstrated commendable commitment to community safety, including through meaningful engagement with law enforcement

education initiatives, but it cannot be expected to carry this burden alone without dedicated federal and provincial partnership and resources.

The request for dedicated and sustainable funding is equally essential. Rising hate-motivated incidents impose real and measurable operational costs on municipal and regional police services. Investigations are complex and resource-intensive. Prevention programs require sustained investment. Community outreach and education — such as the valuable engagement facilitated through York Regional Police's Mobile Command Bus — demand consistent staffing and coordination. Without dedicated funding from the federal and provincial governments, these critical functions will continue to be underfunded and deprioritized relative to the scale of the threat.

A Call for Regional Solidarity

I strongly support Council's call upon all municipalities in York Region to join the Towns of Aurora and East Gwillimbury in endorsing this resolution. Antisemitism is not a challenge confined to any single municipality, and the response to it must not be fragmented. A unified regional voice — directed to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Public Safety, the Premier, the Solicitor General, the Attorney General, and all relevant Members of Parliament and Provincial Parliament — will carry far greater weight and demonstrate to the Jewish community and all vulnerable communities that their safety is a shared and non-partisan priority.

The Town of Newmarket has long been recognized as a diverse, inclusive, and welcoming community. This resolution is an expression of those foundational values in practice — not merely in aspiration. Combatting antisemitism is not a partisan issue; it is a matter of fundamental human dignity, public safety, and the rule of law. I urge Council to pass this resolution unanimously, and I urge all partner municipalities to lend their voices to it without hesitation.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and for your continued service to the residents of Newmarket and York Region.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Deron J. Brown