



**Inspectorate
of Policing**

**Service d'inspection
des services policiers**

**Office of the Inspector
General of Policing**

777 Bay Street
7th Floor
Toronto ON M5G 2C8

**Bureau de l'inspecteur général
des services policiers**

777, rue Bay
7e étage
Toronto ON M5G 2C8

Notice of Issue: The Increase in Antisemitism and Hate-Motivated Incidents

A. The Inspector General of Policing of Ontario – Duty to Monitor and Advise

Under Ontario's *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019* (CSPA), the Inspector General of Policing has a duty to monitor and advise on the delivery of adequate and effective policing in Ontario.

This is my first Notice of Issue. As part of my monitoring and advisory duty, I have created this mechanism to identify and call attention to issues relating to the delivery of policing and police governance that, if left unaddressed, could negatively impact community safety and public confidence in police. The overall goal of this notice (and the actions taken pursuant to it) is to ensure compliance with the CSPA and its regulations.

B. The Increase in Antisemitism and Hate-Motivated Incidents¹

Crime statistics gathered reveal an overall increase in hate-motivated incidents in Ontario from 2020 to 2024. These statistics demonstrate a particularly staggering increase in incidents against the Jewish community, motivated by antisemitism. Since 2023, Jewish communities have been the most targeted group for hate crimes in Canada while representing less than 1% of Canada's population.

Ontario has seen increasing intimidation, violence and vandalism that is targeted at members of the Jewish community. In recent months, hate-motivated incidents have escalated to include firearms being discharged at synagogues, schools and businesses. Additionally, the Inspectorate of Policing has received complaints of hate-motivated incidents occurring in the context of protests.

Since October 7, 2023, police services and boards have already implemented new approaches and reallocated significant resources in response to antisemitic hate-motivated incidents. I acknowledge the significant work that police services and boards have already done in response to this issue and thank them for their continued commitment. This Notice of Issue is aimed at continuing to evolve the approaches taken by police services and boards across Ontario's policing sector and enhance consistency.

¹ A "hate-motivated incident" includes both hate-motivated crimes and incidents that do not rise to the level of a criminal offence but are otherwise hateful, such as the use of racial slurs.

It is important to recognize both the recent rise of hate-motivated incidents against various communities/groups and the disproportionate rise of hate-motivated incidents against the Jewish community. Within this context, this Notice of Issue is aimed at addressing the increase in antisemitism and contains actions that police services and boards are strongly encouraged to take to ensure policing is adequate and effective having regard to the needs of the Jewish community.

While focused on antisemitism, police services and boards should also consider how the actions outlined below can inform their response to address hate-motivated incidents against other communities/groups in a manner that meets their needs.

C. The Inspector General's Actions and Engagement on this Issue

Given the significance of these issues, I have taken the following actions as part of my duty to monitor and advise police services and boards:

1. I have required several Ontario police services and boards to provide the Inspectorate of Policing with data to facilitate an analysis of the present policing response to the rise in antisemitic hate-motivated incidents and help identify areas of challenge and appropriate responses for the delivery of adequate and effective policing, and strong police governance. I have also reviewed data from other sources (e.g. Statistics Canada, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights), alongside a comprehensive literature review of academic research and industry reports. Integrating the findings between the analysis and literature review allowed me to identify trends, leading practices, and shared challenges in addressing hate-motivated incidents by services and boards.
2. With that foundation, I hosted a meeting with a group of police chiefs, police service boards and the Commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police, along with Jewish and community organizations. The meeting focused on how Ontario police services and boards are addressing the rise in hate-motivated incidents, particularly incidents targeting Jewish communities. This includes appropriately using the range of measures to respond to antisemitism and hate-motivated incidents, such as *Criminal Code*, provincial and by-law offences which protect persons, property, and public order.
3. At the meeting, we also discussed specific actions that can continue fortifying the approach to the policing of antisemitic hate-motivated incidents. Some police services and boards profiled how some of these actions had already been implemented locally, shared experiences in terms of impact and identified areas for continued advancement.

The following are actions that police services and boards should continue implementing or consider implementing. The Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) and Police Governance Ontario (PGO) have agreed to play a role in supporting the ongoing implementation of these actions. I strongly encourage the Ontario policing sector, supported by the OACP and PGO, to enhance the consistent application of these specific actions across the sector, with local variation where appropriate or necessary. The seven (7) actions include, but are not limited to:

- **Standardized classification and capturing consistent information for hate-motivated offences:** Police services consistently and properly documenting hate-motivated incidents in their records management systems to support evidence-based policing by enhancing accuracy in capturing who/what these incidents target and creating a more accurate picture of the scope/magnitude of the issue. Police services should also maximize information sharing across services to better identify and communicate trends, including by continuing to participate in the Hate Crime and Extremism Investigative Team.²
- **Centralization of functions and multidisciplinary approach:** Police services centralizing functions relevant to the identification, investigation and victim support concerning antisemitic hate-motivated incidents, including the functions of investigations units, crime analysis units and victim support units or organizations. This can be accomplished through multidisciplinary teams or dedicated entities, such as a hate crime unit.
- **Application of release conditions focused on preventing re-offending and recognizing community harm:** Police officers properly and consistently considering the impact of hate-motivated offences on Jewish communities when exercising their discretion to impose release conditions on individuals charged with hate-motivated or other offences. This can be supported through training and supporting materials concerning the possible conditions that can be imposed in these circumstances and supervision to ensure consistent application.
- **Enhanced supervision:** Police services ensuring there is enhanced supervision for responding to hate-motivated incidents. This can include notifying a dedicated senior officer of all reported hate-motivated incidents, particularly where the police service does not have a dedicated hate crime unit. Supervision should focus on individual investigations but also consider the broader ability of the service to respond to hate-motivated incidents in a manner that meets the needs of the community.

² The Hate Crime and Extremism Investigative Team is a network of police services that co-ordinates intelligence gathering for police and provides specialized support for investigations into hate-motivated offences.

- **Training:** Police service boards and services receiving training on how contemporary antisemitism is manifested, informed in part by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism, adopted both provincially and federally, and by the federal government's Canadian Handbook on IHRA, to provide guidance in identifying and appropriately addressing conduct motivated by antisemitic bias, prejudice or hate. Police officers should also receive consistent and appropriate training on the full panoply of legal and related tools to address incidents motivated by bias, prejudice or hate, using real case scenarios.
- **Assistance to victims and communities and community impact statements:** Police services creating dedicated capacity for providing support to victims and communities impacted by antisemitic hate-motivated incidents, including through partnership with victim service support organizations and continuing to reduce barriers for victims to encourage reporting. Police services also exploring how to effectively and consistently facilitate community impact statements for sentencing by partnering with organizations representing impacted Jewish communities.
- **Board prioritization and reporting:** Police service boards updating their strategic plans and policies to require the police service to prioritize implementing the above actions in addressing hate-motivated incidents, including incidents motivated by antisemitism, and requiring the chief of police to report to the board on implementation to inform further policy development and to monitor how operations align with board priorities.

D. Applying this approach for other hate-motivated incidents based on local and community needs and data

While this Notice of Issue is focused on the policing response to antisemitic hate-motivated incidents based on current national and provincial data, police services and boards are required to be responsive to the needs of all members of the community who are the target of hate-motivated incidents on the basis of race, religion, ethnic origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or any other protected human rights grounds. Hate is not uniformly experienced amongst groups and different groups may have different needs. In addition to considering the actions outlined above, police services and boards should consider all available data to identify other groups who are victimized by hate-motivated incidents in their area of policing responsibility, engage with community organizations representing those groups and tailor their policing response to hate-motivated incidents based on the needs of their local community.

E. Ongoing monitoring to evaluate impact of the identified actions

My office will continue monitoring and engaging the sector on the policing response to antisemitic hate-motivated incidents, including future collection and analysis of data.

The Inspectorate of Policing will provide the public with updates, when available, about actions related to this Notice of Issue.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Teschner", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ryan Teschner
Inspector General of Policing

Date: July 14, 2026

Sources

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