

November 3, 2023

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Subject: Urgent Request for Funding to Ensure the Security of Religious Institutions in Canada

Dear Minister Leblanc,

I hope this letter finds you well. We write to you today with a sense of urgency and deep concern regarding the security of religious institutions in Canada, specifically those of the Jewish and Muslim communities. We understand the demands on your office, but the safety of our communities and the sanctity of our places of worship are paramount, particularly in the current climate of escalating security risks and threats.

In recent times, the world has witnessed an alarming surge in acts of violence and terrorism, most notably the attacks carried out by terrorist groups such as Hamas in Israel. These incidents have left our communities shaken and vulnerable, instilling a profound sense of unease. As leaders within our respective communities, it is our responsibility to ensure the safety of our congregants, particularly in the face of these growing security challenges.

The Middle East remains a region of ongoing conflict and instability, with consequences that reverberate across the globe. This instability has led to a palpable uptick in hate crimes targeting the Jewish and Muslim communities. These acts of hatred not only threaten the well-being of our community, congregants and children but also undermine the very fabric of our multicultural and inclusive society.

The effects of these security risks extend far beyond our places of worship. Synagogues, mosques, and community centers are not only places of spiritual solace but also hubs of communal life. They are where our children go to school, where mothers gather for support, and where members of our communities, young and old, find a sense of belonging and purpose. It is imperative that we preserve these spaces as sanctuaries of peace and coexistence.



Minister Leblanc, we humbly request, indeed demand, your immediate attention and action on this matter. We call upon the Government of Canada to allocate the necessary funding and resources to enhance the security of our religious institutions. This support is not only vital in safeguarding our congregants but also in fostering a sense of calm and confidence within our communities.

The safety and security of all Canadians, regardless of their religious or cultural backgrounds, should be a paramount concern of the government. By ensuring that our places of worship and communal gathering are fortified against potential threats, we send a powerful message that our nation values the principles of tolerance, inclusivity, and religious freedom.

Additionally, we want to emphasize our willingness to collaborate with the government in any way possible to address these pressing security concerns. Our communities are rooted in a spirit of unity, and we are ready to work hand in hand with government agencies to ensure the safety of our places of worship and the broader community. We firmly believe that by fostering this collaborative relationship, we can enhance the effectiveness of security measures and collectively work towards a safer and more harmonious Canada. Your consideration of our request is deeply appreciated, and we eagerly await your response to begin this important dialogue

We kindly request that you respond to this letter as soon as possible. Our communities are feeling increasingly anxious and vulnerable, and your prompt attention to this matter would go a long way in reassuring them that their concerns are taken seriously. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss this critical issue further and explore the steps that can be taken to enhance the safety and security of our religious institutions.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to the well-being of all Canadians.

Sincerely,



Rabbi Saul Emanuel
Executive Director

