

## Montreal Antisemitism

Country-wide, hate crimes are most prevalent in our large metropolitan centres, where populations are more dense and diverse, such as Toronto, Calgary, and Montreal. Over the years, centres have responded with the creation of special hate crime units to varying degrees.

Civil society must respond to the needs of its community; Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies has diligently constructed a series of antisemitism and anti-racism workshops, primarily directed towards youth and student groups as well as the teachers who help mould our future generations.

While our main office is in Toronto, we pay close attention to our neighbouring provinces and act accordingly via outreach and specialized programming. There has been an increased activity in reported hate crimes since 2000. The following information is a sample of police-reported hate crimes from the past 10 years in Montreal and the province of Quebec:

### 2010

#### January:

Windows are smashed at a Jewish day school.

#### March:

A synagogue is desecrated, religious objects are ruined, and the bima (lectern) is defaced with a swastika.

#### April:

A visibly Jewish pregnant woman is mugged as she walks through a park.  
Passers-by at a Holocaust commemoration event shout antisemitic slurs.  
Pro-Israel students are chased by a group of assailants in Gatineau, shouting antisemitic slurs and wielding a machine.

#### May:

A Jewish history teacher finds swastikas penned on her desk after a lesson about the Holocaust.  
A Montrealer posts antisemitic videos on the internet on an ongoing basis.

#### June:

Antisemitic graffiti in a heavily Jewish neighbourhood leaves the community fearful.  
A rock is thrown through a synagogue window.

#### August:

A group of boys target a Jewish home in St. Agathe for a home invasion. They later shoot BB guns at Jewish residents of the town on a public street.

#### December:

A website financed in part by politicians includes virulently antisemitic material.

### 2009

#### January:

A young man wearing a kippah is assaulted on a public street.  
Seniors in a Jewish residential building receive anonymous phone calls to their apartments, threatening that "1000 Jews will die".

#### February:

Jewish students on a Grade 6 ski trip to Saint-Sauveur are taunted with antisemitic slurs.

#### April:

A visibly Jewish man is beaten up in a park.  
A sign at a Mexican restaurant in Labelle reads: "September 11 because of Jews".

#### May:

A flyer depicting Jews as genocidal murderers is distributed throughout the Outremont area.  
Vandals deface a park bench in Masonville with the words "Jews sit here only", marking off half of it as a 'Jew-free' zone.

**June:**

A blog describes Hassidic Jews in Outremont as unwanted foreign invaders.

**September:**

A publicly-posted sign in Pointe-Claire reads: "9-11 was an inside job. Learn the truth about the Jews". Four synagogues in the same Montreal area are vandalized and their windows are smashed during the night of the 25th of September, just before the holiest day of the Jewish year, Yom Kippur.

**November:**

A local synagogue in Sainte Agathe is vandalized with swastikas.

**2008****February**

Harassment: A Jewish patron at a gas station is spat upon by a fellow customer after being identified as a Jew.

**April**

Firebombing of a JCC on the second night of Passover.

**May**

Hassidic boy beaten outside the Skver Toldos Jewish School, the school that was firebombed in 2006.

**June**

Summer home owned by a Jewish family is torched in Val-David.

**September**

A speaker is recorded as saying there is a "Kosher Food Tax" as part of a "Jewish conspiracy to drive up prices in supermarkets", which means that Quebecers "have to pay for the Jews".

A speaker is applauded for saying that immigrants are "buying their way" into Quebec, citing Jews as the worst case because they are "the trampoline of money in the world."

**October**

A Jewish couple was swarmed and assaulted by eight individuals who yell "Jew, Jew".

**November**

A man claims that the accommodation controversy in Quebec "is the fault of the Jews," alleging they control the justice system.

Digital hate, blog post: Jews "should stop playing the game of little victims in exile and make an effort to become real citizens in the countries where they live".

**2007****January**

Several Arabic-speaking men break the window of a kosher restaurant and then throw a lit firecracker inside.

**April**

A homemade explosive device is detonated outside Ben Wieder Jewish Community Centre. No damage; the Centre was closed for Passover.

**May**

Teenaged religious boy assaulted, knocked unconscious close to Skver-Toldos Jewish Boys School at Ducharme and Bloomfield. This same school was firebombed in 2006.

Orthodox Jewish woman sitting in her parked car with her infant daughter are pelted with rocks by 2 Arabic-speaking men.

**June**

A visibly Jewish teenager is riding on the bus when three teenagers throw peanuts at him and yell, "Jew, Jew, dirty Jew".

A Rabbi's summer home razed in Val-David, a 60 minute drive from Montreal.

3rd fire in less than a month at Val-David summer camp; private home razed.

**July**

A Jewish family discovered a decapitated pig floating in their backyard swimming pool. Three men threw rocks at a group of congregants waiting outside their Synagogue, shouted "this is revenge for Lebanon".

A Jewish bystander is physically assaulted and a Jewish prayer shawl is publicly desecrated at an anti-Israel rally; open support for Hezbollah is expressed from the crowd.

**September**

Firebombing of an Orthodox Jewish school.

A group of teenagers outline a Star of David on the ground using tape, spit on it, and invite other passersby to join in and do the same.

**December**

At the Liberal Leadership Convention, Delegates are urged not to vote for Bob Rae because his wife is Jewish.

**2006****September**

Masked man attacks Taldo Yakov Yosef Orthodox school. Damage minimal.

**2005****January**

Antisemitic comments were printed in the media following an agreement - later struck down - to increase the amount of funding received by Jewish schools in the province.

**March**

A hockey team coach reported to have made antisemitic remarks, comparing Jews to cheats and liars, in front of his teenaged players and their parents.

**August**

Break and Entry at the Val Morin Orthodox summer camp Synagogue, 60km West of Montreal. 300 holy books desecrated; campers awoke to find many books in toilets and the nearby lake.

**2004****February**

A university student called out in a crowded area, "I am not an Arab but I F\*\*\*ing hate Jews, man".

**March**

An Arab student at an adult educational facility announced to other students, "Now we're going to kill all the Jews".

**April**

Messages taped to building indicated that the vandalism done to the building was a response to events in Middle East.

**May**

Eight headstones vandalized at Black River Memorial Gardens.

A convoy of cars drove through a predominantly Orthodox Jewish neighborhood; the passengers waved Palestinian flags and shouted antisemitic epithets.

Orthodox Jewish children were pelted with eggs from a moving vehicle.

Flyers found in public school yards and elsewhere calling for "Killing Juis any wear you find them [sic]."

**June**

Beth Israel Cemetery, Quebec City; 20 headstones overturned over a 2-day period.

A university bookstore sells antisemitic material, including Mein Kampf.

**September**

A French newspaper reporter was accused of being a "lobbyist for Jews" after speaking out against

antisemitism in Canada.

**2003**  
**March**

An elderly Jewish woman was pushed and threatened at a local Laundromat by two teenaged girls. The woman was called a "Zionist filthy pig".

**May**

An Orthodox Jewish woman, returning from Synagogue on the Sabbath, was beaten up by four men.

**August**

Numerous tombstones knocked down in a Jewish cemetery.

**2002**  
**February**

A theatre running a movie with Jewish content is attacked by firebombing.

**March**

A Jewish university student was choked in front of a Hillel information table, while the perpetrator called out, "F\*\*k you, you Jewish bastards."

A synagogue was defaced.

**April**

At a soccer game, 15 participants overheard shouting "Death to Jews" in Arabic and French throughout the match. At the game's completion several Arab-speaking youths jumped the fence and assaulted a group of Jewish students, threatening them with knives.

At some time between the time of posting and the time of delivery, letters sent by a Synagogue to its board members were marked with symbols equating Jewish Star of David with a swastika.

**May**

The only synagogue in Quebec City was firebombed by a 27-yr old man, who had also been spotted in the area muttering antisemitic remarks; no injuries.

**September**

At Concordia University campus riots surrounding scheduled speech by Benjamin Netanyahu; Rabbis and other Jews were assaulted.

**2001**  
**January**

Newsletter from radical extremist separatist group called "Mouvement de Libération Nationale du Québec" (MLNQ) contained a caricature of a Hassidic Jew, with the following caption: "If Quebecers looked like these people we would also laugh at them".

**March**

In a political science class at Concordia University, one student witnessed another state in front of the professor: "The Talmud obliges Jews to kill all non-Jews."

**May**

Chomedy Synagogue: 14 windows including one stained glass window were shattered.

Jewish high school students were shot at with a paint ball gun from a moving vehicle just outside school grounds.

**June**

Concordia University campus: "Stop Jewish Apartheid", "End Jewish Occupation", "Israel is a racist State", and Star of David being equated to a swastika.

**August**

Montreal-based web site [www.islamway.com](http://www.islamway.com) contained antisemitic messages, including a recruitment call to train in Afghanistan for jihad (holy war).

**September**

Concordia University Student Union (CSU) publishes article called 'Uprising', detailing Israel as terrorist state. Another article by CSU VP Laith Marouf states that the 'Jewish' Rector (Frederick Lowry) knows how much money the university owes to Zionists.

**October**

On Thanksgiving, a visiting priest in Montreal was reported to have delivered a sermon on several occasions alleging that Jews were responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus.

**December**

Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights (SPHR) at McGill University distributed material from the Holocaust-denying Institute for Historical Review, which claimed that Israel was creating an "ethnic bomb" that targeted Muslims but not Jews. A speaker invited by the SPHR at McGill made antisemitic remarks and statements during the question and answer period, accusing Jews of being "Christ killers."

**2000****July**

A rabbi was harassed and insulted on a Montreal bus by 10-15 youths. Two women who came to his aid were assaulted and spit upon.

**October**

A Jewish man was attacked by two men at a STCUM station in Montreal. He was knocked unconscious and received a concussion. Bystanders intervened when the attackers tried to throw him onto the subway rails. Rallies at a pro-Palestinian event, witnesses heard the following chants: "kill the Jews;" placards equating the Star of David with the Nazi swastika were carried by several participants.

**Sources:**

The sources for the hate incidents reported are Statistics Canada, The B'nai Brith League of Human Rights Reports, The Canadian Jewish News, Sun Media, The Montreal Gazette, The Suburban, The Toronto Star, The Globe and Mail, CBC News (online archives), The Ottawa Citizen, and The National Post.