



## Whitby Mayor responds to call from community; visits Simon Wiesenthal's legacy of tolerance promotion in Canada



*L-R: Sheldon Adelson (FSWC member), Councillor Lorne Coe, Constable Keith Richards, Mayor Pat Perkins, Superintendent Jim Douglass, Avi Benelolo (FSWC President & CEO), Josh Hacker (FSWC Community Outreach Coordinator) & Melissa Mikel (FSWC Director of Education)*

**March 20, 2009, Toronto** – Mayor Pat Perkins and a team of representatives from the Town of Whitby recently travelled to Toronto to meet with the leadership of Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center (FSWC), one of the country's leading NGOs combating on the side of tolerance, social justice and human rights in Canada and around the world. The visit included a tour of the Center's Resource and Leadership Training Center.

Sheldon Adelson, a volunteer member of the Center's Community Liaison Program, coordinated the visit, which is part of ongoing efforts to help communities gain additional insights into the extent of anti-Semitism and intolerance in Canadian society.

"Whitby is an ever expanding Town," said Mayor Perkins. "We are committed to empowering residents and civic leaders with the knowledge they need to foster tolerance and understanding, and maintain a community of which everyone can be proud, and in which we can all thrive."

Mayor Perkins was joined by Durham Regional Police Service Superintendent Jim Douglass, Constable Keith Richards and Councillor Lorne Coe.

"We're rallying the energy and the willingness of our donors, a group that is spread across the country and numbering more than 25,000," said Avi Benelolo, President and CEO, FSWC. "We're especially happy to share our resources and knowledge with municipal leaders like those representing the Town of Whitby. Together we can create open dialogue and foster greater understanding of the challenges facing our communities in terms of racism and the spread of hate."

The FSWC Community Liaison Program is run by a team of 15 members and donors who reach out to local mayors and councillors. Launched in the fall of 2008, the program hopes to develop relationships with communities across Ontario to foster dialogue that promotes tolerance and understanding.

### **About Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies**

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies is a Canadian human rights organization dedicated to fostering tolerance and understanding through community involvement, educational outreach and social action. Visit: [www.fswc.ca](http://www.fswc.ca) for more information.

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### **For more information, please contact:**

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### **DIRECT ACTION**

FSWC IS SUPPORTED BY CONCERNED CANADIANS. PLEASE CALL 416-864-9735 TO HELP MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE OR VISIT US AT [WWW.FSWC.CA](http://WWW.FSWC.CA)

**SPIRIT OF HOPE BENEFIT: MAY 31, 2009**

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