

Karen James, Board Chair

Community Memorial

October 28, 2018

Thank you, Rabbi Infeld.

I'm Karen James, chair of the Board of Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver.

We were horrified by the news from Pittsburgh yesterday. Our hearts are broken.

In times like these we are reminded how close we all are, no matter where we live.

We are truly one extended family, and we feel the loss personally. We support the mourners in Pittsburgh as though they were our own family – because they are.

As it says in the Talmud, *Kol Israel averim ze l'ze*. All Israel is responsible for one another.

And so it is with broken hearts but unbroken resolve that we stand in solidarity with our Jewish family in Pittsburgh, and we offer them our deepest condolences.

We have been in touch with Jewish organizations across the world, and I want to reiterate what Jewish Federations of North America said: “We make this sacred and solemn vow that we will stand united and in partnership with good people

everywhere to work together towards the day when no community is vulnerable to such attacks.”

We are heartened by the broad support our community continues to receive from friends, from other faith-based and ethno-cultural groups, and from elected officials across the political spectrum. I would like to thank everyone who has reached out.

We would like to thank the following elected officials who have joined us here today:

- The Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and Member of the Legislative Assembly for Coquitlam-Maillardville;
- The Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology, and Member of the Legislative Assembly for Surrey-Whalley;
- Ravi Kahlon, Parliamentary Secretary for Sport and Multiculturalism, and Member of the Legislative Assembly for Delta North;
- George Chow, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Vancouver-Fraserview;
- Teresa Wat, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Richmond North Centre;

- Michael Lee, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Vancouver-Langara;

As well as

- Suzanne Anton, former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of British Columbia;
- Vancouver Police Department Deputy Chief Constable Howard Chow; and
- Irene Lanzinger, president of the BC Federation of Labour.

I would now like to welcome The Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and Member of the Legislative Assembly for Coquitlam-Maillardville, who will say some words on behalf of the provincial government.