Someday, worldwide, Jewish communities are reported to be experiencing a rise in incitement in all its forms. It could come as no surprise that we are not immune from that trend, even in Calgary.

Two weeks ago, Calgary Jewish Federation received a piece of antisemitic, white supremacist hate mail celebrating "Expulsion History Month." Through our partners at CJTA (The Centre for Jewish and Interfaith Affairs), we learned that several other Federations had received the same hate mail.

The week before, Chabad Lubavitch Calgary received a different hate mail message. It matched letters sent to several synagogues across Canada in December which featured a swastika and blood-soaked Star of David. In both cases, Federation notified Calgary Police, who are investigating in collaboration with their counterparts across Canada in December which featured a swastika and blood-soaked Star of David. In both cases, Federation notified Calgary Police, who are investigating in collaboration with their counterparts across Canada in December, which featured a swastika and blood-soaked Star of David. In both cases, Federation notified Calgary Police, who are investigating in collaboration with their counterparts across Canada in December, which featured a swastika and blood-soaked Star of David. In both cases, Federation notified Calgary Police, who are investigating in collaboration with their counterparts across Canada in December, which featured a swastika and blood-soaked Star of David. In both cases, Federation notified Calgary Police, who are investigating in collaboration with their counterparts across Canada in December, which featured a swastika and blood-soaked Star of David. In both cases, Federation notified Calgary Police, who are investigating in collaboration with their counterparts across Canada in December, which featured a swastika and blood-soaked Star of David. In both cases, Federation notified Calgary Police, who are investigating in collaboration with their counterparts across Canada in December, which featured a swastika and blood-soaked Star of David. In both cases, Federation notified Calgary Police, who are investigating in collaboration with their counterparts across Canada in December, which featured a swastika and blood-soaked Star of David. In both cases, Federation notified Calgary Police, who are investigating in collaboration with their counterparts across Canada in December, which featured a swastika and blood-soaked Star of David. In both cases, Federation notified Calgary Police, who are investigating in collaboration with their counterparts across Canada in December, which featured a swastika and blood-soaked Star of David. In both cases, Federation notified Calgary Police, who are investigating in collaboration with their counterparts across Canada in December, which featured a swastika and blood-soaked Star of David. In both cases, Federation notified Calgary Police, who are investigating in collaboration with their counterparts across Canada in December.

Hate mail is but one form of antisemitic intimidation—and a far greater problem is posed by the abundance of hate posted on the internet. Much of the hateful messaging on the internet is not new, however, digital media has exponentially accelerated the rate at which haters can publicize their propaganda. We may not be able to prevent online hate, but we certainly have a role to play in tracking and tracing the people and groups who post hateful material.

PROSECUTING HATERS POSSESSES SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES. FOR EXAMPLE, OFFENSIVE OPINIONS WHICH WE WOULD PERCEIVE TO BE "HAFEEF," MAY NOT MEET THE VERY HIGH BAR SET IN OUR CRIMINAL CODE DEFINING HATE SPEECH. IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY, THERE IS A FINE BALANCE BETWEEN PROTECTION OF MINORITIES FROM HATE AND ALLOWING FREEDOM OF SPEECH. BUT EVEN IF PROSECUTION IS UNLIKELY, IT IS IMPORTANT TO TRACK AND MONITOR THOSE WHO PROPAGATE HATE. THE CALGARY POLICE SERVICE MONITORS INCIDENTS MOTIVATED BY HATE, EVEN WHEN CHARGES CANNOT BE LACED.

In addition to the hate mail received recently, Federation has been working with Calgary Police on the local website which has published several antisemitic diatribes. From that experience, we learned that it is important to record and report before publicizing the hate material in order to give the police time to properly investigate.

If you see hate online, take a screenshot or photo and record as much information as you can about the account. Avoid sharing the post or flagging the offensive nature of the post with the person posting—the post could be removed and publicizing the post prematurely can jeopardize an investigation.

Together in our local community and across our partnerships, we will continue to identify and address hate, denounce discrimination and promote respectful, thoughtful dialogue in both our private and public conversations.

For more information about Federation’s Community Relations work or to report incidents of hate—be it graffiti, mail, online messages, or harassment, contact me or Kara Goodwin, Community Relations Director at kgoodwin@jewishcalgary.org.

Jared Shore
Chair, Community Relations Committee
Calgary Jewish Federation
Local Partner of CJTA

Jewish Calgary invites you to the Community Commemoration of YOM HASHOAH

DATE

APRIL 11

TIME

6:30 PM

HOLOCART MEMORIAL WALL

Calgary JCC

Our commemoration continues

7:30 PM

Beth Tzedec Congregation

Contact Sarah for information at 403-444-3162 or
shapiro@jewishcalgary.org.

For more information contact Judy Shapiro at 403-444-3153
or jshapiro@jewishcalgary.org.

*Some conditions apply.