

I am writing this message as I am sitting on a plane, accompanying my youngest daughter entering her first year of university. Ironically, she is returning to the city where she was born, with a strong Jewish identity formed from her upbringing in Edmonton. When the flight attendant began the safety demonstration, it reminded me of a piece of advice from Gerry Almendraes, Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) national security advisor, when he visited this week.

What if, at every event and service, we started with a reminder about safety exits and protocol in case of an emergency? In less than one minute, we make everyone situationally aware and create a culture of security.

During Gerry's one-day trip to Edmonton, we accomplished a lot of work together. He facilitated a Back to School/Back to Shul situational awareness and Run, Defend, and Hide workshop at Beth Israel Synagogue. We visited Talmud Torah, Beth Israel, Congregation Beth Shalom and Temple Beth Ora. We connected with volunteers who handle security efforts and assess buildings and operations.

We met with Constable Freddie Challenger from the Edmonton Police Service Hate Crimes Unit and discussed how important it is for our community to continue to be attentive and to declare unwanted interactions or things they notice, like graffiti and banners. Beyond these incidents, it is critical that we track them and be vigilant to them. The Organization for the Prevention of Violence [published their latest report on hate crimes in Alberta](#), and I recommend you take the time to read it.

I look forward to Gerry returning later this fall, where he will spend more time in Edmonton assisting our community. The Jewish Federations across Canada are fortunate in having CIJA as our advocacy agent and partner, as evidenced by their recent work addressing the Leith Marouf scandal with our elected officials. In the words of Shimon Koffler Fogel, President and CEO, *"It is important that the public and elected officials not only condemn these funding failures out of consideration to Jewish Canadians but because, fundamentally, such hateful views are antithetical to Canadian values. These values should be the core of our rejection of CMAC and Marouf and the new vetting processes that will be implemented."* Consider signing up for the CIJA newsletter. [Visit their site](#) where you can learn more about their advocacy efforts.

We are excited about reconnecting with the entire community during Brunch and Broadway on Sunday, September 18. This special event launches the United Jewish Appeal campaign and celebrates Dianne and Irving Kipnes' impact on our community, and most recently, with their support of the people in Ukraine.

Included is a hassle-free way to enjoy entertainment straight out of Broadway. No lost luggage or cancelled flights! Rachel Zatcoff, an up-and-coming performer who starred in Yiddish Fiddler on the Roof (among many others) is appropriate for all ages—introduce your older children to a top-notch performance or take advantage



of the free babysitting with your delicious kosher brunch. [Purchase your tickets by September 16.](#)

*S. Lewitt*

Stacey