



CIJA

Election 2023

Jewish Community Priorities

ALBERTA

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs is the advocacy agent of Jewish Federations across Canada

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The Centre for Israel
and Jewish Affairs

CIJA's mission is to preserve and protect the quality of Jewish life in Canada through advocacy.

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) is the advocacy agent of the Jewish Federations of Canada. We are a national, non-partisan, non-profit organization representing more than 150,000 Jewish Canadians affiliated through local Federations across Canada.

What We Do

We build relationships with elected legislators and government officials, media, academia, civil society, and other faith and ethnic communities to ensure greater understanding of the issues that impact the Jewish community.

We combat antisemitism and discrimination in all its forms. We advocate for fundamental rights and freedoms, social justice, and educating Canadians about the important role Israel plays in Jewish life.

We connect Jewish communities to strong local and national networks in every Canadian province and worldwide as the Canadian affiliate of the World Jewish Congress.



CJF's mission is to ensure the continuity of the Jewish people and Jewish traditions. We work to encourage affiliation, Jewish education, advocacy, and engagement.

Calgary Jewish Federation strives to create a vibrant, caring, welcoming, and inclusive Jewish community locally, in Israel, and around the world. We work with our partner, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, to advocate on behalf of the Jewish community on domestic and social policy issues and on Canada's support for the people and land of Israel.

What We Do

At the heart of our work is our goal to improve the lives of the most vulnerable members of our worldwide Jewish family. Federation-supported programs reach out to the elderly, to children and adults with disabilities, and to those facing poverty and hunger. We promote and advance Jewish education by providing subsidies for day school education and support for other formal and informal learning experiences.



Jewish Federation
OF EDMONTON

**We provide a safety net for our most vulnerable,
strengthening our community today and for generations
to come.**

The Jewish Federation of Edmonton mobilizes and develops resources and strengthens relationships, providing leadership at home, in Israel, and around the world.

What We Do

At the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, our goal is to touch the lives of every member of our community and to connect them with each other and with fellow Jews around the world. Every program we fund and every service we support works to achieve this.



Investing in Jewish Life in Alberta

Jewish communal institutions are at the heart of each community.

From schools to synagogues, food banks, and seniors centres, Jewish communities have flourished in part due to the long-standing physical spaces maintained over generations. With increasing security needs and costs of construction rising across the province, community centres are in need.

We thank the Government for setting up the Alberta Security Infrastructure Program and request more to be done through it, for all communities.

Recommendations

- » Continue funding and increasing the scope of the Alberta Security Infrastructure Program. This grant has been as valuable for our community as it has been for others, and we believe that enhancements to it, including broadening the scope of what is fundable, will be even more beneficial. Ensuring that non-profit organizations can apply for private security guard funding is a key component of their safe operation.
- » Broaden the Community Facility Enhancement Program grant or create a new grant dedicated to cultural and religious community spaces. This new program should allow communal institutions, such as community centres, synagogues, mosques,

and other religious facilities, to access sustained funding through a streamlined application process and improved response times. This program should also allow for building enhancements that improve the quality of life for the community, such as the addition of a seniors' residential complex or daycare centre, to be built within existing community properties.

- » Adapt current and future provincial grant guidelines to acknowledge the difference between Jewish religious institutions and Jewish cultural institutions for the express purpose of expanding funding opportunities. Currently, all institutions are considered the same, leading to disqualification of many organizations in accessing many funding opportunities. Category clarification and separation would ensure that organizations with Jewish names are not excluded from consideration by grant evaluators based on an assumption of religious service and program delivery, even if not the case.
- » Provide grant funding for agencies to deliver food security initiatives. Due to inflation, many community members are struggling with food security. A grant to support the subsidization of kosher food for low-income seniors, couples and families is needed now more than ever.



Combating Antisemitism and Hate in Alberta

A diverse Alberta is a strong Alberta.

Hate crimes are rising across the globe, including in Canada. According to Statistics Canada, in 2021, Jews were, once again, the most targeted religious community, subjected to ten times more police-reported hate crimes than any other religious group in the country. This trend is echoed in Alberta, where, anecdotally, (provincial statistics are not yet available) we can attest to a sharp rise in incidents since the most recently released data, which saw hate crimes targeting Alberta's Jewish community increase by 260% from 2017 to 2018. Behind each of these incidents is a Jewish Albertan family affected by antisemitism.

Recommendations

- ✓ Adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism. To combat antisemitism effectively, we must identify it. Created in 2016 by experts from 34 countries, the IHRA definition is the most widely recognized educational tool to combat antisemitism. No funding is required to adopt it.

- » Implement formal training for local and provincial law enforcement on addressing antisemitism based on the provincially adopted IHRA definition. This will ensure that hate crimes are properly identified and categorized and that victims are treated appropriately during all interactions. It will also contribute to accurate reporting of hate crime incidents.
- » Improve the system to report and act on hate crime. This will reinforce community safety and ensure Jewish Albertans are confident to reach out to law enforcement when an incident occurs. Reporting by police forces should track both religious and ethnically motivated hate crimes.
- » Based on the clarity provided by applying the IHRA definition, enhance penalties for those who spread hate or commit hate crimes. Stricter consequences for those who perpetuate hate will contribute to a greater sense of safety and wellbeing for the Alberta Jewish community.
- » Ensure that those who sit on provincial and municipal anti-racism committees understand the distinction between antisemitism and racism. Antisemitism is unique and increasingly prevalent across the political spectrum, and all of us must do more to call out specific hate.
- » Expand Holocaust education in the Alberta curriculum. Increasing public awareness by teaching about the atrocities of the Holocaust is critical to honouring Jewish memory, meaningfully declaring never again, and encouraging responsible citizenship for all Albertans. As Alberta Education is now renewing the curricula in grades 7 to 12, we ask that Holocaust education be incorporated into that expansion.



Dignified Support for Seniors

After spending years building a prosperous and strong Alberta, seniors deserve to retire with dignity.

Unfortunately, because of a lack of access to kosher food and other ethnoculturally relevant services in long-term care homes, many Jewish seniors must choose between their faith and their wellbeing.

Recommendations

- » Expand the Seniors Special Needs Assistance Program within the Ministry of Seniors and Housing to include kosher food as an eligible item. This is a cost-effective way for low-income seniors to order food from certified kosher suppliers.
- » Support the ability of seniors to choose to age in place. Calgary Jewish Federation is working toward building an “age-in-place” facility on currently owned campus land and will link older adults to the Paperny Family Jewish Community Centre (JCC) and other campus organizations and programming. More information can be found under the “Capital Projects” section. *(Please see page 13.)*
- » Fund additional opportunities for non-profit organizations to build new residences for seniors to ease pressure on the housing market.



Enchancing Local Community Services

Ethnoculturally appropriate community services are critical, effective, and cost-efficient.

For generations, Jewish agencies across Alberta have been leaders in providing life-changing and life-sustaining social services to the elderly, low-income and young families, and people with special needs.

Recommendations

- » Maintain and expand partnerships with ethnoculturally appropriate, community social service agencies, by ensuring that CIJA, the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, and Calgary Jewish Federation are included in ongoing poverty reduction and social policy consultations.
- » Further support the disability community through mechanisms such as AISH (Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped) for those over 18 and programs that benefit Albertans under 18.
- » Increase funding access to support adult community members living with a disability who, due to financial barriers, are unable to participate in cultural offerings.
- » Improve access to and tracking protocols of LGBTQ+ healthcare and ensure that Albertans are leading the country with access to equitable healthcare. Using new data will achieve better outcomes and more equitable health treatment for all.



Alberta is well positioned to be at the forefront of technology and innovation.

The COVID-19 pandemic drastically changed how we work, skyrocketing a global demand for information technology. Israel is a global innovation and technology hub ranked seventh overall on the 2021 Bloomberg Innovation Index and, according to the 2019 World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report, spends the most on R&D as a percentage of GDP.

Recommendations

- » Advance Alberta economic development by taking a trade mission to Israel to explore establishing new bilateral agreements to spur business-to-business collaboration. Strengthening trade ties with Israel can spark investment, innovation, job creation, and economic growth.
- » Advance research opportunities and partnerships between Israel and Alberta. There are already several partnerships between post-secondary institutions and business sectors. Increasing trade and developing relationships with each sector would facilitate sharing of best practices and transfer of knowledge, benefiting both Alberta and Israel.



Capital Projects in Calgary

The Paperny Family JCC serves as a gathering and engagement hub for people of all backgrounds in southwest Calgary, while maintaining its Jewish culture. The JCC is privately funded and supported but not at levels that ensure its future viability.

Recommendations

- » \$10M capital funding for physical and cosmetic upgrades to support the JCC's next many decades of community vitality and engagement.
- » \$30M government support, half of the total \$60M for a new "age-in-place" seniors centre project to reside on currently owned campus land. This will link seniors to the Paperny Family JCC, which houses many community facilities, programming, and other campus organizations.
- » \$40M dedicated to re-location of Jewish community services to one central campus, including moving the Calgary Jewish Academy School to Calgary's Jewish Community Campus, alongside Beth Tzedec Congregation.



Capital Projects in Edmonton

Edmonton

Edmonton's Jewish community is undergoing a renewal, with interprovincial growth bringing new families and professionals into the city. However, the community organizations lack access to capital to create inclusive and welcoming spaces to service growing needs.

Recommendations

- » Total of \$11M in funding to support the community's renewed growth:
 - \$6M for a new Jewish community centre hub in Edmonton to aid the community's own philanthropy efforts.
 - \$2M dedicated to repair of schools, synagogues, and community facilities.
 - \$3M for a new cemetery and burial services facility inside the new Edmonton Jewish Cemetary.

2022-2025

Jewish Holiday Calendar

Jewish Holiday	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Shabbat	Begins sunset every Friday Ends nightfall every Saturday		
Rosh Hashanah	Begins sunset of Sunday, September 25, 2022 Ends nightfall of Tuesday, September 27, 2022	Begins sunset of Friday, September 15, 2023 Ends nightfall of Sunday, September 17, 2023	Begins sunset of Wednesday, October 2, 2024 Ends nightfall of Friday, October 4, 2024
Yom Kippur	Begins sunset of Tuesday, October 4, 2022 Ends nightfall of Wednesday, October 5, 2022	Begins sunset of Sunday, September 24, 2023 Ends nightfall of Monday, September 25, 2023	Begins sunset of Friday, October 11, 2024 Ends nightfall of Saturday, October 12, 2024
Sukkot	Begins sunset of Sunday, October 9, 2022 Ends nightfall of Sunday, October 16, 2022	Begins sunset of Friday, September 29, 2023 Ends nightfall of Friday, October 6, 2023	Begins sunset of Wednesday, October 16, 2024 Ends nightfall of Wednesday, October 23, 2024
Shemini Atzeret	Begins sunset of Sunday, October 16, 2022 Ends nightfall of Sunday, Monday 17, 2022	Begins sunset of Friday, October 6, 2023 Ends nightfall of Saturday, October 7, 2023	Begins sunset of Wednesday, October 23, 2024 Ends nightfall of Thursday, October 24, 2024
Simchat Torah	Begins sunset of Monday, October 17, 2022 Ends nightfall of Tuesday, October 18, 2022	Begins sunset of Sunday, October 7, 2023 Ends nightfall of Sunday, October 8, 2023	Begins sunset of Thursday, October 24, 2024 Ends nightfall of Friday, October 25, 2024
Chanukah	Begins sunset of Sunday, December 18, 2022 Ends nightfall of Monday, December 26, 2022	Begins sunset of Thursday, December 7, 2023 Ends nightfall of Friday, December 15, 2023	Begins sunset of Wednesday, December 25, 2024 Ends nightfall of Thursday, January 2, 2025
Purim	Begins sunset of Monday, March 6, 2023 Ends nightfall of Tuesday, March 7, 2023	Begins sunset of Saturday, March 23, 2024 Ends nightfall of Sunday, March 24, 2024	Begins sunset of Thursday, March 13, 2025 Ends nightfall of Friday, March 14, 2025
Pesach	Begins sunset of Wednesday, April 5, 2023 Ends nightfall of Thursday, April 13, 2023	Begins sunset of Monday, April 22, 2024 Ends nightfall of Tuesday, April 30, 2024	Begins sunset of Saturday, April 12, 2025 Ends nightfall of Sunday, April 20, 2025
Shavuot	Begins sunset of Thursday, May 25, 2023 Ends nightfall of Saturday, May 27, 2023	Begins sunset of Tuesday, June 11, 2024 Ends nightfall of Thursday, June 13, 2024	Begins sunset of Sunday, June 1, 2025 Ends nightfall of Tuesday, June 3, 2025



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