

Ministre de la Justice
et procureur général du Canada



Minister of Justice
and Attorney General of Canada

L'honorable / The Honourable David Lametti, c.p., c.r., député, P.C., Q.C., M.P.
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H8

February 15, 2022

His Worship Fred Eisenberger
Mayor of the City of Hamilton

(via email)

Dear Mr. Mayor:

Thank you for your correspondence of September 1, 2021, sent on behalf of Hamilton City Council, in which you share the Council's support for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' resolution entitled *Strengthening Canada's Hate Speech Laws*. Please excuse the delay in responding.

I appreciate the time you have taken to express Hamilton City Council's concerns. Please be assured that your correspondence has been shared with the appropriate departmental officials.

The Government of Canada recognizes the harmful impacts that hate crime has on our communities and agrees that we must remain vigilant in combatting hate speech.

In June 2021, the Government introduced in the House of Commons former Bill C-36, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Canadian Human Rights Act and to make related amendments to another Act (hate propaganda, hate crimes and hate speech)*, which proposed to clarify the definition of "hatred" for two of the three hate propaganda offences in the *Criminal Code*. The Bill also aimed to create a new peace bond specifically designed to prevent hate propaganda offences and hate crimes, and to re-enact a reformed section 13 of the *Canadian Human Rights Act* (CHRA) to combat hate speech online.

Although Bill C-36 died on the Order Paper when the 2021 election was called, I am mandated to work with my colleague the Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, Minister of Canadian Heritage, to implement legislation to address serious forms of harmful online content, and to hold social media platforms and other online services accountable for the content that they host. This includes strengthening the CHRA and the *Criminal Code* to deal more effectively with online hate, and reintroducing measures to enhance hate speech provisions, such as the re-enactment of former section 13.

Furthermore, in July 2021, virtual national summits on Islamophobia and antisemitism were held, during which the Government committed to a renewed focus on dedicated resources to help combat Islamophobia, antisemitism, and all forms of hate.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'D' followed by a cursive 'Lametti'.

The Honourable David Lametti, P.C., Q.C., M.P.
(he/him)
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada