

Minister of Justice
and Attorney General of Canada



Ministre de la Justice
et procureur général du Canada

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

November 15, 2022

His Worship Fred Eisenberger
Mayor of the City of Hamilton

(by email)

Dear Mr. Mayor:

Thank you for your correspondence, sent on behalf of the City of Hamilton, concerning Bill C-229, the *Banning Symbols of Hate Act*. Please excuse the delay in responding.

As you know, Bill C-229 is a Private Member's Bill that was introduced into the House of Commons by Member of Parliament Mr. Peter Julian on February 3, 2022. I can assure you that, as with any legislation that proposes to amend a federal Act for which I am responsible, I will follow Bill C-229 closely as it makes its way through Parliament.

As you may be aware, in June 2021, I 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*, based on Supreme Court of Canada jurisprudence. The Bill also aimed to re-enact a reformed section 13 of the *Canadian Human Rights Act* that would allow a person to complain to the Canadian Human Rights Commission where someone communicates hate speech online, which could result in an order to remove the hate speech. The purpose of those proposed reforms was to provide Canadians with clarity about the meaning of "hatred" and "hate speech".

Although former Bill C-36 died on the Order Paper when the 2021 election was called, I continue to work with my colleague the Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, Minister of Canadian Heritage, to develop and introduce legislation as soon as possible to combat harmful online content. This legislation would seek to protect Canadians and hold social media platforms and other online services accountable for the content they host.

Additionally, the *Budget Implementation Act, 2022, No.1*, which received Royal Assent on June 23, 2022, creates a new *Criminal Code* offence of wilfully promoting antisemitism by denying, condoning, or downplaying the Holocaust other than in private conversation.

Our government will continue to work with our partners to ensure that our criminal laws are effective in deterring hate crimes and promoting a safe, peaceful, and prosperous society for everyone.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Lametti', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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