



**NATIONAL
COUNCIL
OF CANADIAN
MUSLIMS**

Your Voice. Your Future.

**National Council of Canadian Muslims
(NCCM)**

**2014 ODIHR Hate Crime Report,
Submitted April 30, 2015**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

About NCCM.....	3
Areas of action	3
Report of Hate Crimes.....	4
About This Report	4
Context	6
Advocacy around Hate Crimes	6
Disaggregated figures.....	8
4-Year TREND.....	8
Incidents.....	9
Attacks on Individual.....	9
Attacks on Property / Institutions.....	13
Threats to Individuals and Institutions.....	19
APPENDICES: Pictures.....	20

ABOUT NCCM

The National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) is a national, not-for-profit, non-partisan grassroots organization that professionally represents the human rights and civil liberties concerns of Canadian Muslims (and by extension those of all Canadians).

AREAS OF ACTION

NCCM approaches its human rights and civil liberties mandate by focusing on 4 areas of action:

- Anti-Discrimination Case Work
- Community Education & Outreach
- Public Advocacy
- Media Engagement

NCCM advocates on behalf of Canadian Muslims and others who have experienced discrimination and hate crimes based on their religion. It offers suggestions and advice to individuals who file complaints with NCCM. NCCM also provides assistance in mediating cases with employers, educators, and public institutions to help resolve complaints and to help avoid what can be costly and time-consuming legal avenues.

NCCM offers regular seminars and workshops on Islamic practices, anti-discrimination, and media engagement.

It also produces a number of publications, which include guides outlining Islamic religious practices for journalists, employers, educators, and health care providers. NCCM also distributes “Know Your Rights” pocket guides in both English and French. These publications are regularly requested by government departments, local and national media outlets, police services, hospitals, schools, private firms, and various non-profit groups.

REPORT OF HATE CRIMES

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Data Collection

As in previous years, the data in this report is assembled by the inclusion of documented cases of hate crimes or hate incidents reported to NCCM's intake staff as well as those cases reported in the media.

Some incidents are reported both to NCCM and covered in the media. Where a public media report of the incident exists, it has been included in this report. The name(s) of victims of individual attacks are only included where the name has already been publicly reported in the media.

Report represents a fraction of actual hate crimes & incidents

Only a fraction of actual hate crimes and incidents are reported to police authorities and a similar small percentage is reported to NCCM. When hate crimes or incidents are reported to NCCM, NCCM encourages the victim to simultaneously report the incident to police if they have not already done so. NCCM's experience indicates that crimes committed against Canadian Muslim institutions are likely more frequently reported to authorities than crimes against individuals.

While the outcome(s) of hate crimes/incidents investigated by authorities are not always made public, NCCM's general experience is that "minor incidents" (defined as those not involving serious physical injuries or major property damage) receive minimal investigative resources from authorities and very few criminal proceedings are actually launched.

Incorporation of Toronto Police Services Data

The Toronto Police Service (TPS) is the largest municipal police force in Canada in the country's largest and most diverse city. Its Hate Crimes Unit publishes clear and timely hate-crime reports online annually.

New in NCCM's report this year is the incorporation of this data. Sixteen additional hate crimes against Muslims were documented by TPS in 2014. There was only one common hate crime reported to both NCCM and the TPS that year, however this was classified by the TPS as a crime motivated by hatred towards ethnicity while the victim reported it as an anti-Muslim crime to NCCM. It is included in this report.

National picture

Ideally, NCCM would include data from other major urban centres as well, including, for example, Montreal, Ottawa, Calgary, and Vancouver. However, NCCM is not aware of any other similar police reports available online at this time for 2014.

Due to the lack of consistent national reporting, this report's overall figures likely underestimate the actual numbers of anti-Muslim incidents and hate crimes in Canada. Further, this report includes incidents which may not fit the definition of a hate crime according to Canadian criminal law but which authorities may have investigated and/or classified as 'hate incidents'.

Hate Crimes & Hate Incidents

Canadian police services report data on hate crimes only, not 'hate incidents'. Police data is submitted annually to Statistics Canada. The federal agency publishes these police-reported hate crimes on the agency's website; the most recent published report is from 2012. Police-reported hate crimes are reported a full year after general crime data for the previous year is made available by Statistics Canada. This causes a two-year lag between reporting and full public disclosure of the data.

Also, data on hate crimes is categorized based on various motivating factors. These factors include both ethnicity and religion, among other factors. However, it is difficult to distinguish when perpetrators of hate crimes are motivated by a hatred to a particular ethnicity or race, or due to a connection (perceived or otherwise) to a person's Islamic identity. In this report, for example, as mentioned earlier, a hate crime that the victim felt was clearly motivated by anti-Muslim hatred was classified as being motivated by ethnicity alone.

Finally, it is important to echo Statistics Canada's note that "according to police services, higher rates of police-reported hate crime in certain jurisdictions may reflect differences or changes in the awareness, reporting and investigation of these incidents by police and community members."¹

CONTEXT

In 2014, the most significant and high profile development in Canada that likely had an impact in the incidence of hate crimes and hate incidents was the tragic killings of two Canadian soldiers at the hands of individuals linking themselves to violent extremist ideology.

These two incidents occurred in October, 2014.

Following these murders, unequivocally condemned publicly by Canadian Muslim community members and leaders, there was an almost [immediate spike](#) in the number of cases of anti-Muslim incidents and hate crimes reported to the NCCM.

ADVOCACY AROUND HATE CRIME

The NCCM regularly issues press releases following the reporting of hate crimes or hate incidents affecting either Canadian Muslim community members, or members of other minority groups, including Canadian Jewish and Canadian Sikh communities, for example.

The NCCM's public statements are regularly covered in local and national, and sometimes international, media. The NCCM aims to raise awareness around hate crimes/incidents and to encourage victims to come forward to report incidents to their local police services, as well as to relevant community organizations for documentation purposes.

¹ Statistics Canada, Police-reported Hate Crimes, 2012, Retrieved April 30, 2015: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/140626/dq140626b-eng.htm>

NCCM staff provide guidance and support to victims, as well as to community leaders reporting on behalf of institutions, whenever a crime or incident is reported. The NCCM also encourages communities to refer to its [“Community Safety Guide”](#) for ways to safeguard as best as possible from potential hate-motivated harm, and how to respond if/when a crime or incident occurs.

The NCCM also recognizes the critical role community leaders and elected officials play in standing united and speaking out against hate of any kind or in any form committed against anyone or against any institution. The NCCM regularly calls on elected officials and leaders to unequivocally condemn acts of hatred and violence.

Finally, the NCCM frequently highlights the importance of creating positive, cohesive, and welcoming communities in order to ensure that each and every citizen feels both valued and welcome. Canada is renowned for its multicultural mosaic.

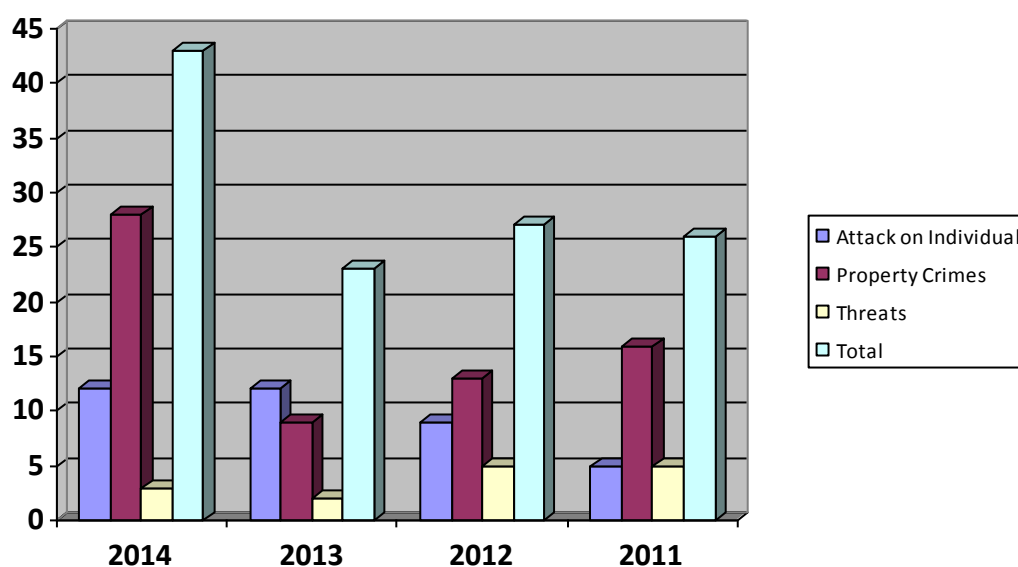
DISAGGREGATED FIGURES

This report references and contains information about 43 hate crime incidents divided as follows:

- 12 physical attacks on individuals (or groups of individuals)
- 28 property attacks on Muslim institutions
- 3 threats against Muslim institutions

4-YEAR TREND

As referenced above, we have updated our data for the past four years with data collected from the Toronto Police Service. The incidence of anti-Muslim hate crimes or incidents reported to NCCM, the Toronto Police, or in the media has risen sharply overall in 2014. The major change for 2014 has been the proportion of hate crimes taking the form of attacks on property, whereas attacks on individuals and threats have remained steady.



INCIDENTS

ATTACKS ON INDIVIDUAL(S)

Date & Location	Description and Additional Sources ²
1. April 9, 2014 Hamilton, Ontario	<p>A teenage girl was racially assaulted trying to enter her apartment building by a 67-year-old man. The man began yelling racial slurs at her in the lobby of the apartment building. The man yelled at her to leave the building and became more aggressive, trying to kick her. Another tenant intervened and helped restrain the man, while the teenage girl ran to her apartment.</p> <p>Reported at:</p> <p>http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/news/man-charged-with-racial-assault-on-teenage-girl-1.2604345</p>

Date & Location	Description and Additional Sources ²
<p>2. May 24, 2014</p> <p>Ottawa, Ontario</p>	<p>Shots were fired at a vehicle carrying five muslim women who were wearing <i>hijabs</i>. Shots were fired on Highway 417 eastbound late at night on Friday. A 45-calibre bullet pierced the passenger-side door and a second bullet hit the side window of the rear seat.</p> <p>Reported at:</p> <p>http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/shots-fired-outside-elgin-street-bar-on-queensway-overnight-1.2653094</p>
<p>3. July 18, 2014</p> <p>Hamilton, Ontario</p>	<p>Two brothers were attacked on their way home from a late prayer session at a downtown mosque, during the holy month of Ramadan. Twin brothers were riding their bikes back from the mosque when a group of 10-12 people gathered at a corner began yelling and mocking them. One suspect pulled out a pocket knife and another yelled a “racial epithet”. One of the brothers suffered a severe wound on the right side of his face and lower lip as well as cuts on his right foot. The other brother fell off his bike and had a concussion.</p> <p>Reported at:</p> <p>http://www.thespec.com/news-story/4638671-police-investigating-attack-as-possible-hate...%2021/07/2014</p>

Date & Location	Description and Additional Sources ²
<p>4. July 26, 2014</p> <p>Toronto, Ontario</p>	<p>A Muslim woman was going to attend the AlQuds day rally with a friend. They were both physically attacked by protesters opposing the rally. Police are investigating and may have arrested four to five people.</p> <p>Reported at: http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/publications/files/reports/2014hatecrimereport.pdf</p> <p>Toronto Police Service : Classified under ethnicity http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/publications/files/reports/2014hatecrimereport.pdf</p> <p>See Appendix 1</p>
<p>5. September 12, 2014</p> <p>Calgary, Alberta</p>	<p>A Calgary <i>imam</i>, Syed Soarwardy, was attacked by a driver while heading towards the Genesis Centre to lead the Friday congregation after parking his car in the parking lot. The driver chased the <i>imam</i> to hit him while shouting racist slogans and accused him of being a terrorist. Although the <i>imam</i> ignored the slurs, the driver drove and hit the imam. The <i>imam</i> called 911 and reported the incident.</p> <p>Reported at: http://calgary.ctvnews.ca/calgary-imam-attacked-1.2005185</p>

Date & Location	Description and Additional Sources ²
<p>6. September 26, 2014</p> <p>Pickering, Ontario</p>	<p>Six Muslim students were assaulted with a weapon on their way home from a movie theater at night. The group was assaulted by four individuals who first chased them yelling racial / religious slurs. The assault involved a baseball bat and resulted in injuries. The assailants were apprehended and charged.</p> <p>Reported at:</p> <p>http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/muslim-students-attacked-in-apparent-kingston-ont-hate-crime-1.1991230</p>
<p>7. October 26, 2014</p> <p>Halton, Ontario</p>	<p>A pregnant Muslim woman received a hateful note on the windshield of her car when she parked in the Sears Maplevue parking lot in one of the “baby and expectant mothers” parking spots. The note stated</p> <p>“You parked in a baby space for mothers. Typical Islamists!”</p> <p>Reported at:</p> <p>http://www.insidehalton.com/opinion-story/4948487-hateful-note-leaves-burlington-woman-in-tears/</p> <p>http://www.cbc.ca/newsblogs/yourcommunity/2014/11/myexperiencewithracism-canadians-share-their-stories-with-cbcca.html</p>

ATTACKS ON PROPERTY / INSTITUTIONS

Date & Location	Details
1. April 8, 2014 Montreal, Quebec Ahmadiyya Muslim Community	<p>A welcome sign belonging to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community which read: "Welcome to Sydney. Love for all, hatred for none" was vandalized. A large chunk was ripped out of the centre of the sign.</p> <p>Reported at:</p> <p>http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/montreal-islamic-centre-gets-axe-thrown-through-window-1.2603381</p> <p>See Appendix 2.</p>
2. May 20, 2014 Montreal, Quebec Assahaba Islamic Community Centre	<p>A man with sword was arrested trying to vandalize the Assahaba Islamic Community Centre while attempting to throw a Molotov Cocktail through a window.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five attacks on the same centre since April 2014, including someone throwing an axe into the window • Mid-April a letter containing white powder was sent to the community centre's director, Adil Charkaoui • At the start of May, an item was thrown through one of the building's windows with the message, "Kill Islam"

Date & Location	Details
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Front door was broken in one incident. <p>Reported at:</p> <p>http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/man-with-sword-stopped-by-stun-gun-outside-islamic-centre-1.2647822</p>
<p>3. July 21, 2014</p> <p>Thornhill, Ontario</p> <p>Jaffari Community Centre</p>	<p>Offensive comments were found scrawled outside a mosque and community centre in Thornhill. Messages of a hateful nature were spray painted on the sidewalk, as well as symbols spray painted on a sign in front of the centre.</p> <p>Reported at:</p> <p>http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/vandals-spray-anti-muslim-graffiti-at-thornhill-islamic-centre-1.2712958</p> <p>See appendix 3.</p>
<p>4. September 15, 2014</p> <p>Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta</p> <p>Fort Saskatchewan's Muslim community</p>	<p>The Fort Saskatchewan's Muslim Community was vandalized with anti-Islamic insults twice in one week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 11, 2014 a red cross was spray painted across the front of the centre • September 15, 2014 the centre was egged. Hate messages were scrawled on the eggshells. <p>Reported at:</p> <p>http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/anti-muslim-vandals-strike-fort-saskatchewan-home-twice-1.2712958</p>

Date & Location	Details
	1.2767643 See appendix 4.
5. September 26, 2014 Windsor, Ontario Scizzors Inc.	<p>Windsor Police started investigating a fire that they say was intentionally set at a hair salon. Firefighters were called to put out the fire. The salon's owner reported that the store was vandalized before, earlier in the week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Front windows where shot with a pellet gun • Spray painted racist graffiti on the windows calling the owner an Arab and telling him to get out. <p>Reported at:</p> <p>http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/police-probe-suspicious-fire-at-erie-street-salon-1.2778938</p> <p>See appendix 5.</p>
6. September 26, 2014 Pickering, Ontario Pickering Islamic Centre	<p>A glass door was shot out at the Pickering Islamic Centre, while people were there worshipping. Police believed that a high-powered BB gun or a pellet gun was used.</p> <p>Reported at:</p> <p>http://www.durhamregion.com/news-story/4883018-shot-fired-through-door-of-pickering-islamic-centre</p>
7. October 14, 2014 Hamilton, Ontario Mayoral Election	<p>A swastika was spray painted over a campaign sign for Hamilton mayoral candidate Ejaz Butt.</p> <p>http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/news/sign-for-muslim-candidate-for-mayor-defaced-with-swastika</p>

Date & Location	Details
Sign	1.2797795 See appendix 6.
8. October 24, 2014 Cold lake, Alberta Cold Lake Mosque	<p>Cold lake Mosque was vandalized, RCMP received the call about 6:30 a.m. on Friday October 24, 2014.</p> <p>Windows on either side of the front entrance were broken, smashed by bricks, and the words “Canada” and “go home” were spray painted on the building with red spray painted.</p> <p>By Friday afternoon, residents had removed most of the graffiti and covered one broken window with a sign which reads "Love Your Neighbour."</p> <p>Reported at:</p> <p>http://calgary.ctvnews.ca/cold-lake-residents-help-clean-up-vandalized-mosque-1.2069658</p> <p>http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2014/10/24/cold-lake-mosque_n_6043002.html</p> <p>See appendix 7.</p>
9. October 27, 2014 Toronto, Ontario Municipal Election sign	<p>Three Muslims Candidates for Toronto’s municipal election were targeted with hateful messages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hateful messages were scrawled on some of Ward 2 council candidate Munira Abukar's campaign signs. • A Toronto District School Board trustee candidate, Ausma Malik, was heckled at a candidates’ debate, as well as the subject of thousands of flyers which were distributed throughout the ward which accused her of being a

Date & Location	Details
	<p>supporter of the Toronto 18 terrorist cell and a proponent of Sharia law. One flyer even has a photo of Malik superimposed over a yellow and green Hezbollah flag.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Also in Toronto, a city council candidate, Mohammad Uddin, claimed he had been the target of a steady stream of Islamophobic insults. He tweeted a photo of one of his campaign signs defaced with the words "F--- Islam." Uddin said that racist graffiti has been discovered outside his campaign office. <p>Reported at:</p> <p>http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2014/10/24/islamophobia_the_ugly_side_of_the_municipal_election.html</p> <p>http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2014/10/12/munira-abukar-toronto_n_5973692.html?utm_</p> <p>See appendix 8.</p>
<p>10. October 31, 2014,</p> <p>Ottawa, Ontario</p> <p>Dar As Sunnah Mosque</p>	<p>Dar As Sunnah Mosque in Ottawa was vandalized and Ottawa Police were investigating a possible hate crime. A rock was thrown through a window of the mosque.</p> <p>Reported at:</p> <p>http://www.ottawasun.com/2014/10/31/rock-thrown-through-mosque-window</p> <p>See appendix 9.</p>

Date & Location	Details
11. November 8-9, 2014	Four mosques were vandalized in three cities in Quebec. Signs were left at three of the mosques, with signs saying "Islam-Out of my Country". A rock was thrown through the window of a fourth mosque in St. Jean Richilieu as well.
	<p>Reported at:</p> <p>http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/quebec-city-st-jean-sur-richelieu-mosques-vandalized-1.2829698</p>
	See Appendix 10
12. November 21-22, 2014	Beer and alcohol bottles were thrown at the centre. Glass and windows were broken and religious symbols were drawn in the snow nearby.
Kingston, Ontario	<p>Reported at:</p> <p>http://cornwallfreenews.com/2014/11/islamic-centre-in-kingston-ontario-vandalized-kps-see-public-assistance-nov-24-2014/</p>
Kingston Mosque	See Appendix 11

THREATS TO INDIVIDUALS AND INSTITUTIONS

Date & Location	Details
1. October 24, 2014 Vancouver, British Columbia The British Columbia Muslim Association	<p>RCMP investigating threats sent to the B.C. Muslim Association in the wake of two separate attacks on Canadians soldiers during beginning of October, 2014. The Organization received multiple messages, mainly via email, that threatened the general Muslim population in the province.</p> <p>Reported at: http://bc.ctvnews.ca/b-c-muslim-association-threatened-following-ottawa-shootings-1.2070297 </p>
2. November 26, 2014, Chateauguay, Quebec Quebec Mosque	<p>A bomb threat was called in to a Quebec mosque.</p> <p>Reported at: http://montreal.ctvnews.ca/mosque-in-chateauguay-target-of-bomb-threat-1.2120000 </p>

APPENDICES: PICTURES

APPENDIX 1:





APPENDIX 2:

APPENDIX 3:





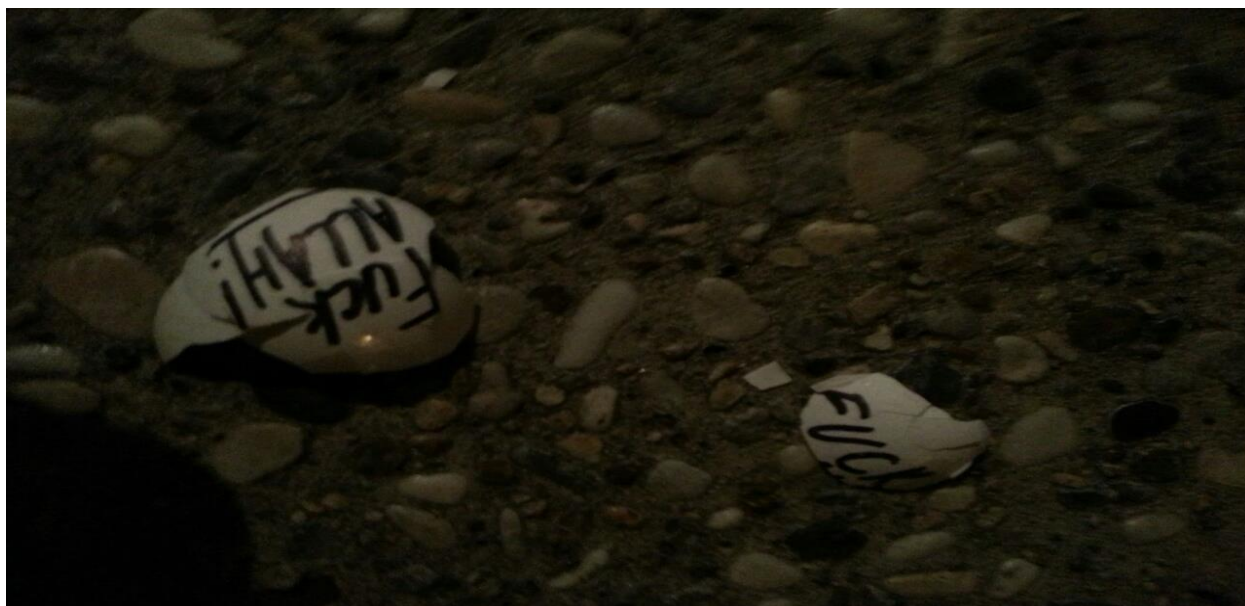
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APPENDIX 4:

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APPENDIX 6:



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APPENDIX 8:





APPENDIX 9:



APPENDIX 10:



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APPENDIX 11:



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