

June 9, 2021

Statement from the Anti-Racism & Respect Advisory Committee & Diversity Thunder Bay on the Terrorist Attack in London Ontario

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We are shocked by the news about the horrific and deliberate killing of the Afzaal family as they were enjoying their usual evening walk this last Sunday, June 6, in London, Ontario (because of their Islamic faith).

On behalf of Diversity Thunder Bay and the City of Thunder Bay Anti-Racism & Respect Advisory Committee, we send our sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of the victims.

As our hearts weep at the loss of four members of this family and the worry we all carry for the young survivor who will grow up without his family by his side, we collectively struggle to understand the reasons behind such hate that led to this horrifying crime.

We condemn in the strongest sense the repeated acts of violence and terrorism against Muslim people in Canada. The hatred and racism against Muslim and other racialized groups has been on the rise in Canada and cannot be tolerated any longer. Hatred and discrimination of any kind has no place in our society today. This heartbreaking tragedy is a reminder that Islamophobia and Xenophobia are real, deadly and unfortunately existing and persisting in Canadian society.

Islamophobia, Xenophobia left unchallenged and allowed to flourish sadly lead to these horrific and tragic attacks. We stand together with our Muslim communities in Thunder Bay and in London as they mourn and try to recover from yet another act of terrorism. In addition, we absolutely reject and condemn hatred, racism and Islamophobia.

We must continue to be vigilant in our fight against systemic racism and we call on our political leaders locally, provincially and nationally, to adopt tough measures and policies so we can collectively eradicate these senseless and horrific terrorist attacks from happening in Canada or around the world. We must not allow ourselves to become complacent to these attacks, it is our collective duty to stand up and call out hatred, racism and discrimination in all forms.

Signed:

Jason Veltri

Councillor Cody Fraser

Walid Chahal

Rebecca Johnson

Chair, Anti-Racism & Respect Advisory Committee

Vice-Chair, Anti-Racism & Respect Advisory Committee

Co-Chair, Diversity Thunder Bay

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