



July 18, 2017

To: The Honourable Rachel Notley, MLA  
Premier of Alberta

Dear Premier Notley:

On behalf of Canadian Muslims from across the country, including residents of Alberta, we would like to extend our appreciation at the government's recent announcement that it will undertake consultations to assess how it can do more to combat racism, Islamophobia, and promote inclusive communities.

The National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM), an independent, non-partisan civil liberties & advocacy organization, along with the Alberta Muslim Public Affairs Council (AMPAC), which works to promote civic engagement and multicultural co-operation, look forward to supporting this effort and contributing to the conversation.

We are pleased to have already participated in consultations with Minister of Education David Eggen and Minister of Labour Christina Gray on this topic, and look forward to assisting this critical strategy to ensure that all Albertans feel included as contributing members of the province.

We would point to the efforts similarly underway in Ontario where the provincial government has created an Anti-Racism Directorate, led by Minister Michael Coteau. There, a three-year anti-racism strategy has been formulated following a series of consultations across the province. Anti-Semitism, anti-Black racism, anti-Indigenous racism, as well as Islamophobia have been identified as key priority areas to focus population-specific anti-racism initiatives. [The strategy includes](#) instituting legislation to mandate and authority to undertake a host of initiatives, including the collection of race-based data, public education, research and evaluation.

Considering recent reports of anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant groups and militias forming in Alberta, already terrorizing certain mosque congregations, addressing anti-Muslim sentiment in particular has taken on new urgency.

It's time to do more to ensure that communities are protected from those who seek to do them harm, based on their religious, cultural, or racial identities. All levels of government have a responsibility to examine ways in which hate is tackled and neutralized in order to ensure the safety, well-being, and cohesiveness of our communities.

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We look forward to working together towards meaningful change and outcomes to create a made-in-Alberta solution to these critical challenges we collectively face.

Sincerely,

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

**Alberta Muslim Public Affairs Council (AMPAC)**