



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CANADIAN MUSLIMS

Your Voice. Your Future.

National Council of Canadian Muslims

(NCCM)

2013 ODIHR Hate Crime Report

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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

As in previous reports, the data in this report is assembled from individual reports received by NCCM's office and reports 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.

Only a fraction of actual hate crimes are reported to police authorities and a similar small percentage is reported to NCCM. When hate crimes 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 Muslim institutions are likely more frequently reported to authorities than crimes against individuals.

While the outcome(s) of hate crimes 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.

CONTEXT

In 2013, the most significant development in Canada that likely had an impact in the incidence of hate crimes was the proposed Charter of Secular Values. The *Charter*, which would prevent individuals donning religious garb deemed to be 'ostentatious' (including hijabs, kippas, large crosses, and turbans) from working in the public and para-public sectors and restrict access to religious accommodation in Quebec was announced in the summer of 2013 and later introduced in the form of proposed legislation by the government of Quebec.

The public discussion of the Charter and Quebec values might explain why, unlike previous years, the majority of hate crimes reported in 2013 were comprised of attacks against individuals with over 90% of attacks against individuals involving Muslim women wearing hijabs (Islamic head-coverings). This trend towards attacks on Muslim women is also a departure from the general hate crime trends previously recorded in Canada which identified young males

as the most likely victims of hate crimes (see Allen, Mary & Boyce, Jilian, *Police-reported hate crime in Canada, 2011*, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics).

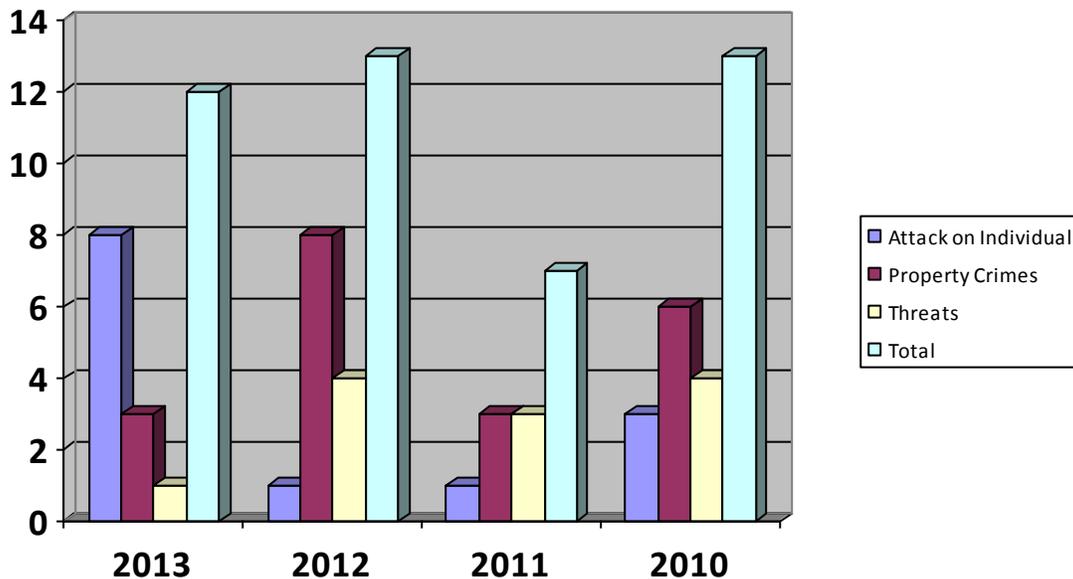
DISAGGREGATED FIGURES

This report contains information about 12 hate crime incidents divided as follows:

- 8 physical attacks on individuals (or groups of individuals)
- 3 property attacks on Muslim institutions
- 1 threat to a Muslim institution

4-YEAR TREND

The incidence of anti-Muslim hate crimes reported to NCCM or in the media has remained steady over the past four years with the exception of 2011 where there were markedly fewer reports. The major change for 2013 has been the proportion of hate crimes taking the form of physical attacks on individuals.



INCIDENTS

ATTACKS ON INDIVIDUAL

Date & Location	Description and Additional Sources ¹
April 22, 2013 Toronto, Ontario	<p>A Muslim woman wearing hijab (Islamic head-covering) was assaulted while walking in a retail plaza. The male assailant approached her, made an utterance, assaulted her and possibly spat on her. The matter was investigated as a hate crime by the Toronto Police Service.</p> <p>Reported at:</p> <p>http://www.torontosun.com/2013/05/01/man-accused-of-spitting-on-muslim-woman</p>
April 24, 2013 Surrey, British Columbia	<p>A Muslim woman who wears hijab (Islamic head-covering) was assaulted by a female assailant. The women first stated shouting names at the victim including calling her a terrorist on a public bus. The assailant followed the victim off the bus and tried to pull off her headscarf. Two witnesses intervened and called emergency services.</p> <p>Reported at:</p> <p>http://www.alameenpost.com/articles.aspx?categoryname=Letters&newsid=5111</p>

¹ The name of the victim is included in the bottom left of the cell where it has already been made public.

Date & Location	Description and Additional Sources ¹
<p>September 2, 2013</p> <p>Ste-Foy, Quebec</p>	<p>A Muslim woman wearing hijab (Islamic head-covering) and her family were assaulted by a female assailant in a shopping mall. The assailant approached the women in the mall and started to insult her and tell her to change her religion. The victim's son asked the women to stop and the assailant spit on him. An altercation ensued and the police were called. The incident was captured on tape by mall security cameras.</p> <p>Reported at:</p> <p>Badia Senouci http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/quebec-muslim-badia-senouci-told-change-your-religion-1.1855675</p>
<p>September 17, 2013</p> <p>St. Catherine's, Ontario</p>	<p>A Muslim teenager wearing hijab (Islamic head-covering) was attacked after leaving an Islamic Centre in the evening to buy a snack. Three female assailants approached her from behind and started making bigoted remarks: "Isn't it against your religion to be alone?" A physical confrontation ensued during which the victims' hijab was removed and her nose injured.</p> <p>Reported at:</p> <p>http://www.macleans.ca/politics/land-of-intolerance/</p>
<p>October 5, 2013</p> <p>Kingston, Ontario</p>	<p>6 Muslim students were assaulted with a weapon on their way home from the 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>

Date & Location	Description and Additional Sources ¹
<p>November 5, 2013</p> <p>Calgary, Alberta</p>	<p>A Muslim women and her mother were asked to leave an Aldo's store in a local mall. They went to complain to the security office. The guard was not sympathetic. When the women went to leave, the security blocked their way. Once outside the mall, the guard told them they could not take the bus at that spot, made threats and ridiculed the elder women's English. The latter part of the incident was recorded by cell phone camera.</p> <p>Reported at:</p> <p>http://calgary.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=1038116&binId=1.1201914&playlistPageNum=1</p>
<p>November 2013</p> <p>Montreal, Quebec</p> <p>Mylène Pichette</p>	<p>A Muslim women wearing the hijab (Islamic head-covering) was attacked by two men in Montreal. She was walking to a physiotherapy appointment in her neighborhood when she saw two men approaching. One spat on her face while the other insulted her. She was called "dirty immigrant" by her assailants and was told "you with the hood, go back to your country". One of the assailants completely removed her headscarf. The Montreal police started an investigation.</p> <p>Reported at:</p> <p>http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2013/11/29/graeme-hamilton-quebec-values-charter-sending-tolerance-civilized-discussion-out-the-window/</p>

Date & Location	Description and Additional Sources ¹
<p>December 2013</p> <p>Montreal, Quebec</p> <p>Sama Al-Obaidy</p>	<p>A Muslim woman wearing the hijab (Islamic head-covering) was attacked by a woman on the Montreal Metro. The woman first insulted her. She then tried to remove the hijab and was told that “her hijab and herself do not belong in Quebec.”</p> <p>Reported at:</p> <p>http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/hijab-wearing-woman-attacked-in-metro-urges-others-to-don-religious-symbols-1.2494575</p>

ATTACKS ON PROPERTY / INSTITUTIONS

Date & Location	Details
<p>January 15, 2013</p> <p>Sydney, Nova Scotia</p> <p>Ahmadiyya Muslim Community</p>	<p>A welcoming 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/nova-scotia/muslim-group-shocked-by-vandalism-in-sydney-1.1390507</p> <p>See Appendix 1.</p>

Date & Location	Details
March 6, 2013	The exterior of the Guelph Muslim Society mosque was vandalized. Numerous spray-painted graffiti markings were made on the outside of the building:
Guelph, Ontario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a corrugated wall was scrawled in red paint: “Please learn English.”
Guelph Muslim Society Mosque	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • windows were defaced with: “U R dead. Go home.” • other walls were defaced with Nazi swastikas, one backward. • graffiti also included derogatory references to Arabs and a large scrawl urging, “ET go home” • Some windows were simply spray painted to mar them;
	<p>Reported at:</p> <p>http://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/hate-crimes-unit-called-in-to-investigate-graffiti-on-guelph-mosque-1.1185883#ixzz2MskTojOc</p>
	See Appendix 2.
September 1, 2013	A Saguenay mosque was vandalized with the vandal(s) splashing it with pig’s blood. A letter filled with anti-Islamic rhetoric was also sent to the mosque and to a local French-language CBC station. The letter stated the red liquid splattered outside the building was pig’s blood.
Saguenay, Quebec	Reported at:
Saguenay Mosque	<p>http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/marois-decries-vandalism-at-saguenay-mosque-splashed-with-what-may-be-pigs-blood/article14095348/</p>
	See appendix 3.

THREATS TO INDIVIDUALS AND INSTITUTIONS

Date & Location	Details
December 2013 Vancouver, British Columbia	RCMP evacuated gatherers at a North Vancouver mosque after police received a call there was a bomb in the building. The threat came from an unknown caller but the officers and police dogs could not find any trace of explosive.
North Vancouver Mosque	Reported at: http://www.vancouver.sun.com/life/Bomb+threat+called+North+Vancouver+mosque/9336230/story.html

APPENDICES: PICTURES

APPENDIX 1:



APPENDIX 2

APPENDIX 3:

