

# Confronting Antisemitism in Canada

## Relevant Jurisprudence and Best Practices for Our Campuses and Our Communities

● Sunday, November 20 | 11:00-12:30 | Pre-Event Reception: 10:30-11:00  
Room FSS 4007, Faculty of Social Sciences Building, 120 University Private, University of Ottawa  
Parking Available — Open to the Public

Over the past several years, the precipitous rise in antisemitism in Canada has touched all sectors of society, including higher education. Coincident with this broader trend, campuses across the country have seen the emergence of organized campaigns to defame, delegitimize, and demonize Israel and Zionism—often under the false guise of promoting social justice.

Like in the U.S., the U.K., Europe, and other countries, in Canada, this has led to a deteriorating climate for Jewish faculty, students, and staff. Jews are increasingly reporting that they feel the need to hide large parts of their identities on campus to “fit in” and “get along.” The boundary between legitimate criticism of Israel and Israel-related antisemitic hate speech is often poorly understood, despite the availability of useful tools such as the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism. The bedrock democratic principle and value of free speech is also often misunderstood, with many incorrectly believing that Jewish victims experiencing hateful and bigoted rhetoric have little recourse.

This panel will draw on the expertise of scholars and practitioners to identify and discuss the relevant Canadian and provincial laws that bear on the question of balancing freedom of expression in general, and academic freedom in particular, with the protection of the Jewish minority—on campuses and beyond. The legal duties and obligations of university leaders of Canadian campuses, including Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) officers, will also be explored.

### PANELISTS



**Michal Cotler-Wunsh**  
Senior Policy and Strategy Advisor  
and Former Member of Knesset



**Adam Dodek**  
Faculty of Law  
University of Ottawa



**Jacques Frémont**  
President and Vice-Chancellor  
University of Ottawa



**Richard Marceau**  
Vice-President, External Affairs  
and General Counsel  
The Centre for Israel and Jewish  
Affairs

Moderated by: Miriam F. Elman, Executive Director, Academic Engagement Network (AEN)

Co-Chair: Cary S. Kogan, Ph.D., Professor, School of Psychology, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ottawa

Co-Chair: Deidre Butler, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Religion (Jewish Studies), Director, Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies, College of Humanities, Carleton University

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Max and Tessie  
Zelikovitz Centre  
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