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# The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

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To: Finance and Administration Committee  
From: Chief Administrative Officer  
Report: #2026-A-10  
Date: April 14, 2026

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**Subject:**

Together Against Hate Durham Initiative Policy Implementations

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**Recommendation:**

Receive for information.

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**Report:**

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 This report summarizes the activities and outcomes of the Together Against Hate Durham campaign and presents evidence-based, community informed policy implementations to strengthen Durham Region's response to hate activity.
- 1.2 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 Together Against Hate Durham (TAHD) is an initiative funded by the Canadian Race Relations Foundation's (CRRF) National Anti-Racism Fund. A \$50,000 grant was provided to the Region to create an anti-hate campaign to inform and empower residents to recognize and report hate by creating educational materials to increase public awareness around hate activity and build community capacity.
- 2.2 In 2025, public spaces in Durham were defaced with antisemitic graffiti and vandalism, and many Muslim communities endured multiple acts of violence and property damage. Online hate surged at an alarming pace, social media posts filled with hateful rhetoric and extreme views fueled misinformation, fear, and eroded public safety and trust.

2.3 Many hate-related incidents remain unreported due to fear of reporting, uncertainty about whether the incident qualifies as a hate crime or hate incident, and limited awareness of available supports. The TAHD campaign sought to address these gaps by increasing community knowledge and awareness related to identifying, understanding, and reporting hate.

2.4 TAHD has four core stages:

- a. **Coalition Building:** The coalition building process included a comprehensive mapping of existing partners and collaborators within Durham Region. The coalition met from June 2025 to October 2025 to create public education resources and shape policy recommendations. The coalition includes 40 participating organizations and over 65+ active members (list of all coalition member organizations can be found in Appendix A).
- b. **Public Awareness Campaign:** On October 20, 2025, the anti-hate initiatives webpage was published on a webpage on [durham.ca/Anti-Hate](http://durham.ca/Anti-Hate). Informational brochures, posters, post cards, and videos were created and uploaded to the site. All content conveys a 'common language' encouraging residents to use positive discourse when challenging and speaking up about hate.
- c. **Anti-Hate Conference:** On November 7, 2025, 250 participants attended the TAHD conference to inform the policy implementations in this report. Attendees included members of the public, Regional Councillors, municipal and provincial government employees, coalition members, and community organizations.
- d. **Policy Implementation:** Data was collected from the conference and online measurement tools further develop the public policy implementations. They were also assessed by Trent University students to ensure policies are evidence-based and reviewing used an equity lens.

### 3. Data Collection

3.1 Data to inform the policy recommendations was collected through policy-focused sessions from the November 7<sup>th</sup> anti-hate conference, academic review by Trent University and Ontario Tech students and faculty, a youth engagement survey, and a community survey.

### 4. Together Against Hate Durham Accomplishments

4.1 **Anti-Hate Website and Toolkit:** The [durham.ca/Anti-Hate](http://durham.ca/Anti-Hate) site hosts a toolkit which features curated links to external resources that support anti-hate education and awareness, developed collaboratively with coalition members through a shared research process. As a permanent addition to the Region of Durham's website, this webpage will be continuously updated as new resources become available.

- 4.2 **Videos:** [Five anti-hate videos](#) were collaboratively developed with coalition members through thoughtful discussion drawing on members' professional expertise and lived experiences. These video concepts were also adapted into complementary campaign materials, including posters and brochures, to ensure consistent messaging across accessible formats that support different learning styles.
- 4.3 **Brochures:** The brochure series complement the video campaign by reflecting community-identified needs using inclusive, trauma-informed language. They are designed to support diverse learning styles.
- 4.4 **Posters and Postcards:** Brochure content has been condensed to fit posters and postcards, ensuring community agencies can easily share the information and residents can access it in an easy and convenient format.
- 4.5 **Print Distribution:** Copies of campaign materials were mailed to community organizations such as local-area municipalities, Indigenous organizations, community recreation centres, school boards and senior centres

## 5. Building on Together Against Hate Durham Accomplishments

- 5.1 The coalition and local communities identified the following five program and policies to build and strengthen this work:
1. Demographic-based data collection on hate incidents
  2. Youth advisory council guide
  3. Public service education and training
  4. Durham Region anti-hate advisory table
  5. Advocacy for equity considerations to forthcoming Bill C-9 "Combatting Hate Act"
- 5.2 Regional staff will advance these programs and policies in collaboration with partners across Durham Region's eight local area municipalities, ensuring inclusive, coordinated approaches to community decision-making and program development.
- ## 6. Campaign Impact
- 6.1 The TAHD campaign had a measurable and positive impact on increasing awareness, strengthening community capacity, and enhancing readiness to respond to hate in Durham Region. Across all survey groups—youth, community members, conference attendees, and coalition partners—the campaign exceeded its key performance indicators (KPI) and demonstrated strong engagement and satisfaction levels:

a. **Youth Engagement Pre-Campaign and Post-Campaign Survey**

- Out of a class of 22 youth under 18, 77.8% reported increased knowledge of how to recognize and report hate after participating in campaign activities.
- 72.2% of youth and 81.8% of community respondents reported confidence in supporting individuals impacted by hate
- Youth expressed stronger readiness and motivation to intervene, with advocacy confidence increasing from Pre campaign launch 27.3% to post campaign launch 44.4%.

b. **Conference Attendee Survey**

- Out of 41 conference attendees surveyed, 80.5% increased knowledge of hate recognition and how to respond.
- 87.8% of conference attendees reported increased confidence in advocating against hate, surpassing the KPI target by more than 20%.
- 78% conference participants indicated they felt prepared to mobilize or advocate for anti-hate initiatives in their communities.
- 92.7% of conference attendees indicated they would attend a similar event in the future.

6.2 This data demonstrates that the TAHD campaign successfully increased public awareness, enhanced confidence to respond to hate, and strengthened multi-sector collaboration across Durham Region. These outcomes demonstrate a strong foundation for the policy implementations proposed in this report.

## 7. Relationship to Strategic Plan

7.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following Strategic Direction(s) and Pathway(s) in Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:

a. **Connected and Vibrant Communities**

- C5. Improve digital connectivity and multi-channel access to information, resources, and service navigation.
- C7. Create accessible, lively, and culturally welcoming public spaces, including opportunities to access nature.

b. **Healthy People, Caring Communities**

- H1. Implement preventive strategies to support community health, including food security.
- H2. Collaborate with partners to respond to complex social issues that improve community safety and well-being, including mental health and addictions.

- H3. Integrate and co-ordinate service delivery for positive life outcomes, including investments in poverty prevention, housing solutions, and homelessness supports.
  - H4. Support the development of healthy children and youth, including access to affordable and quality child care.
- c. Resilient Local Economies
- R3. Develop, attract, and support a skilled and qualified workforce, including youth and newcomers.
  - R5. Cultivate and promote local arts, culture, quality of place, and tourism that embrace urban excitement and country charm.
- d. Strong Relationships
- S1. Enhance inclusive opportunities for community engagement and meaningful collaboration.
  - S2. Build and strengthen respectful relationships with First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and urban Indigenous communities.
  - S3. Collaborate across local area municipalities, with agencies, non-profits, and community partners to deliver co-ordinated and efficient services.
  - S4. Advocate to the federal and provincial government and agencies to advance regional priorities.
  - S5. Ensure accountable and transparent decision-making to serve community needs, while responsibly managing available resources.
- 7.2 This report aligns with/addresses the following Foundation(s) in Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:
- a. People: Making the Region of Durham a great place to work, attracting, and retaining talent.
  - b. Processes: Continuously improving processes to ensure we are responsive to community needs.
  - c. Technology: Keeping pace with technological change to ensure efficient and effective service delivery.

## 8. Conclusion

- 8.1 The TAHD initiative has provided the Region of Durham with a strong and community-informed foundation for advancing anti-hate policies and programs. Through comprehensive public education, coalition engagement, and evidence-based research, the initiative has increased awareness of hate activity, strengthened residents' confidence to intervene and support impacted communities, and highlighted the need for coordinated action across sectors.

- 8.2 The policy implementations outlined in this report reflect the priorities identified by residents, service providers, community organizations, and youth. Advancing these policies aligns with the Region's strategic priorities and its commitment to building safe, inclusive, and connected communities.
- 8.3 For additional information, contact: Allison Hector-Alexander, Director, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at 905-668-7711, extension 3893.

**9. Attachments**

Attachment #1: Appendix A: List of Together Against Hate Durham Coalition Member Organizations

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signed By

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Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair  
Chief Administrative Officer

## Appendix A

### List of Together Against Hate Durham Coalition Member Organizations

1. Ajax Public Library
2. Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade
3. All Things Equitable Inc.
4. Bawaajigewin Aboriginal Community Circle
5. Beth Zion Congregation
6. B’Nai Shalom v’Tikvah
7. Black HR Professionals of Canada
8. Chabad Jewish Centre of Durham
9. Christian Faith Outreach Centre
10. Clarington Diversity Advisory Committee
11. Community Development Council Durham
12. Conseil des Organismes Francophones de la Région de Durham
13. Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag Child and Family Services
14. Durham Children’s Aid Society
15. Durham College
16. Durham Community Action Group
17. Durham Community Foundation
18. Durham District School Board
19. Durham Regional Police Services
20. Feed the Need in Durham
21. Kenyan Women in Canada Association
22. Lakeridge Health
23. Ministry of Attorney General
24. Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services
25. Municipality of Clarington
26. National Council for Canadian Muslims
27. NorthStar
28. Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association
29. Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences
30. Ontario Tech University
31. Oshawa Senior Community Centres
32. Pickering Anti-Black Racism Taskforce
33. Region of Durham
34. Their Opportunity
35. Town of Ajax
36. Town of Whitby
37. Trent University Durham—GTA
38. Victim Services of Durham Region
39. Whitby Public Library
40. Young Women’s Christian Association Durham