

Canadian Delegation to the  
Organization for Security & Cooperation  
in Europe



ENGLISH only  
Délégation du Canada auprès de  
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération  
en Europe

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE  
TALKING POINTS OF YVES BEAULIEU, CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES  
INTERVENTION ON THE OCCASION OF THE DISCUSSION ON THE  
DRAFT DECLARATION ON VIOLENT HATE INCIDENTS IN THE OSCE  
REGION  
770<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
23 JULY 2009**

- Canada deeply regrets that this important Declaration could not be endorsed by all of us.
- This would have represented a very small - but very important step in the right direction.
- It would have recognized that we, the participating States, cannot afford to be complacent, and must act vigorously against this phenomenon.
- Hate crimes and discrimination are a significant source of violence in the OSCE region today. The OSCE's comprehensive approach to hate crimes - identifying set standards for the rights of persons belonging to minority groups and seeking early resolution to discrimination and potential hate crimes - is a major value added and *raison d'être* for our Organization.
- Very recently two major institutional pillars of our Organization, the ODIHR and the HCNM expressed concern over the continuing discriminatory treatment and exclusion of minorities and the recent escalation in hate-motivated incidents and racist rhetoric in our region.
- Acknowledgement of the phenomenon is the first step in addressing it.
- The OSCE has proven, again and again, to be an important venue where participating States, together with civil society, review and assess progress in the implementation of agreed commitments. The adoption of this Declaration would have sent the necessary political signal that the OSCE is concerned and is ready to continue dealing with the issue.
- Again, we very much regret that we could not adopt this Declaration promptly and by doing so sending out a clear and unequivocal message – that the OSCE region will be no sanctuary for hate.

Thank you.