

FOUNDATION

FOR A PATH



FORWARD



Islamophobia in Canada

Testimony by Foundation for a Path Forward

Land Acknowledgement

“We acknowledge the shared, unceded traditional territory of the Musqueam Squamish and Tsleil-waututh and other Coast Salish Peoples on whose land (Surrey, B.C.) we work, pray, play and learn.

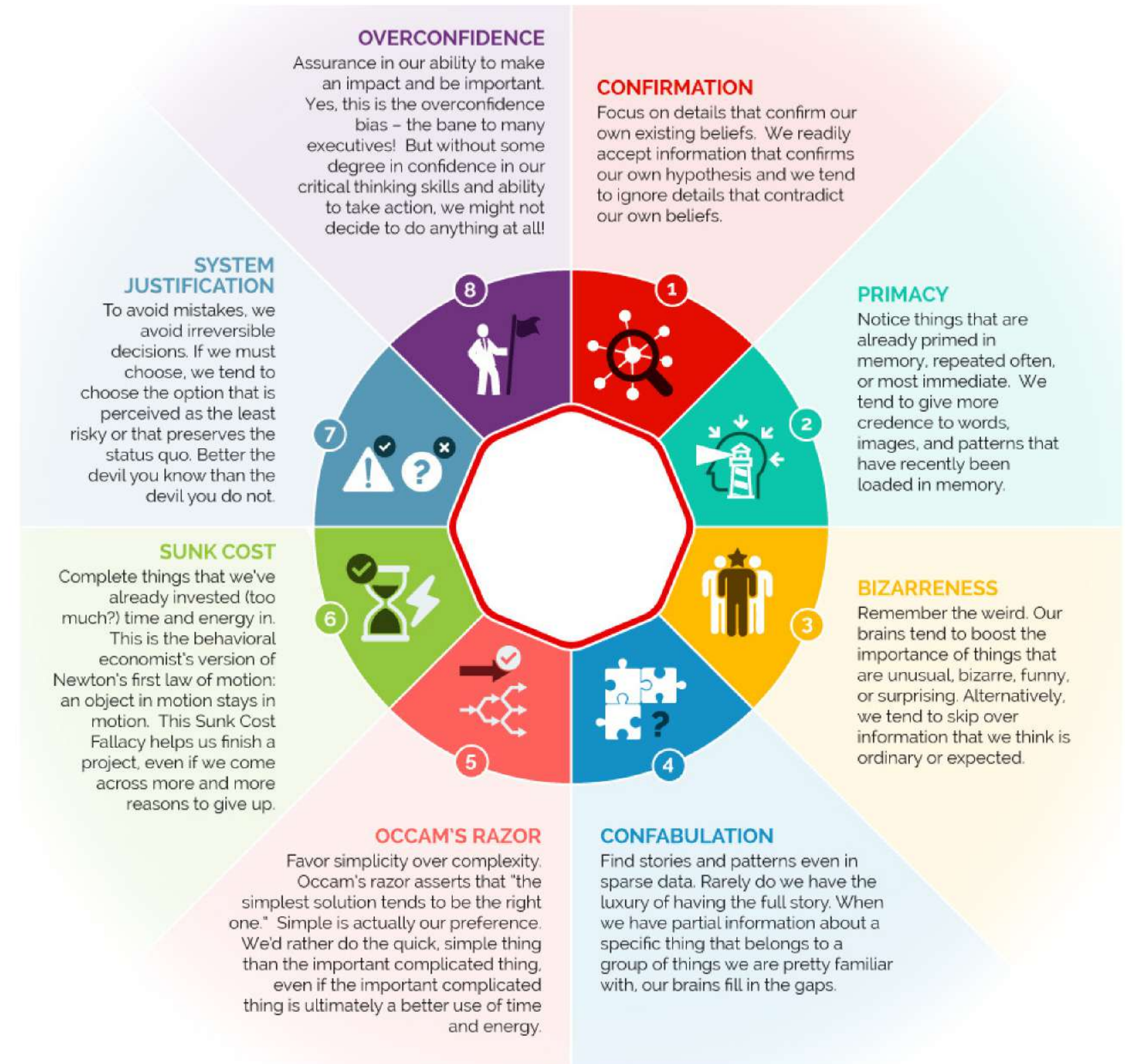
We affirm our commitment to the principles of Truth and Reconciliation with the First Peoples of Turtle Island (Canada)”



How to be Culturally Competent?

Compassion and Respect is the Key

- Know your **biases**.
- Are your policies and procedures **inclusive**?
- Do you have a **diverse** staff and board?
- Do you have **access** to diverse resources?
- Is your **programming** inclusive?
- Do you and your co-workers share **culture**?



The Plurality & Diversity of Muslims

Cultural Competency is an Ethical
Responsibility.

This presentation is a general portrayal of
Islam and Canadian Muslims and the
issues they face.



Islam and Muslims

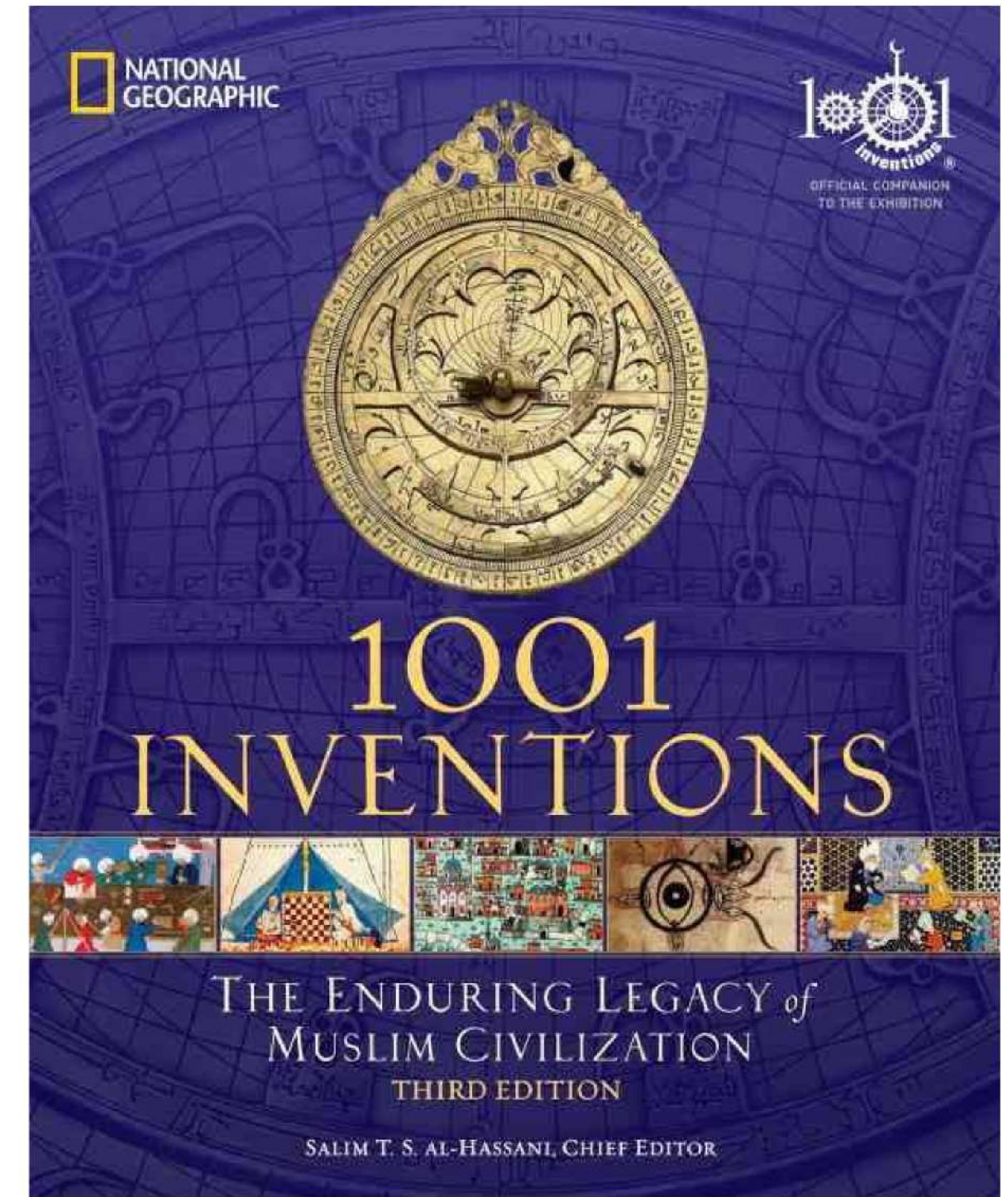
- Abrahamic Tradition
- Allah, The Prophet Muhammad (Peace be Upon Him), and the Quran
- 5 Pillars of Islam
 - Declaration of Faith
 - Prayer
 - Fasting
 - Compulsory Charity
 - Pilgrimage to Makkah



History of Islam and Muslims

Muslim Inventions

- Coffee & Cafes!
- Universities
- Algebra (Sorry)
- Hard soap
- Sugar mills
- Early syringe
- Arabic numerals
- Drug trials
- Spinning wheel
- First pin-hole camera
- Modern chemistry
- The crank-shaft
- Inoculation
- Windmills
- Magnifying glasses
- Mechanical clocks
- Astrolabes



For more information please refer to www.ihmcanada.com

Contemporary Muslims

Famous Muslims

- Muhammad Ali
- Bella Hadid
- DJ Khaled
- Mahershala Ali
- Dave Chappelle
- Ice Cube
- Lupe Fiasco
- Akon
- Dr. Öz



Canadian Muslims



The Hon. Omar Alghabra
Canadian
Minister of Transportation



The Hon. Maryam Monsef
First Muslim Federal
Cabinet Minister



Ginella Massa
First Hijab Wearing
Prime-Time News Anchor



K'naan
Musician



Azem Kadri
Former Toronto Maple Leafs Player



The Hon. Ahmed Hussen
Canadian
Minister of Immigration



Zarqa Nawaz
Little Mosque on the Prairie
TV Series Creator



Naheed Nenshi
First Muslim Mayor
of Calgary

Core Values of Islam

Justice

- Equality of Human Beings
- Sanctity of Life
- Anti-Racism
- Respect and Obedience to Parents
- Humans are Stewards
- Responsible for all of God's Creations
- Relations with Other Communities
- Other Value Systems
- Knowledge and Education
- Rule of Law

Beneficence

- Benefiting people
- Charity and Righteousness
- Best of Humanity
- Neighbour's Rights
- Plurality/Diversity is Allah's Will
- Mercy and Forgiveness
- Compassion

Core Value: Diversity of Humanity

“O humankind, Allah created you from a male and a female and have **made you into nations and tribes for you to know one another.**

Truly, the noblest of you with God is the most pious. Truly, God is All-Knowing, All-Aware.”

- Quran 49:13

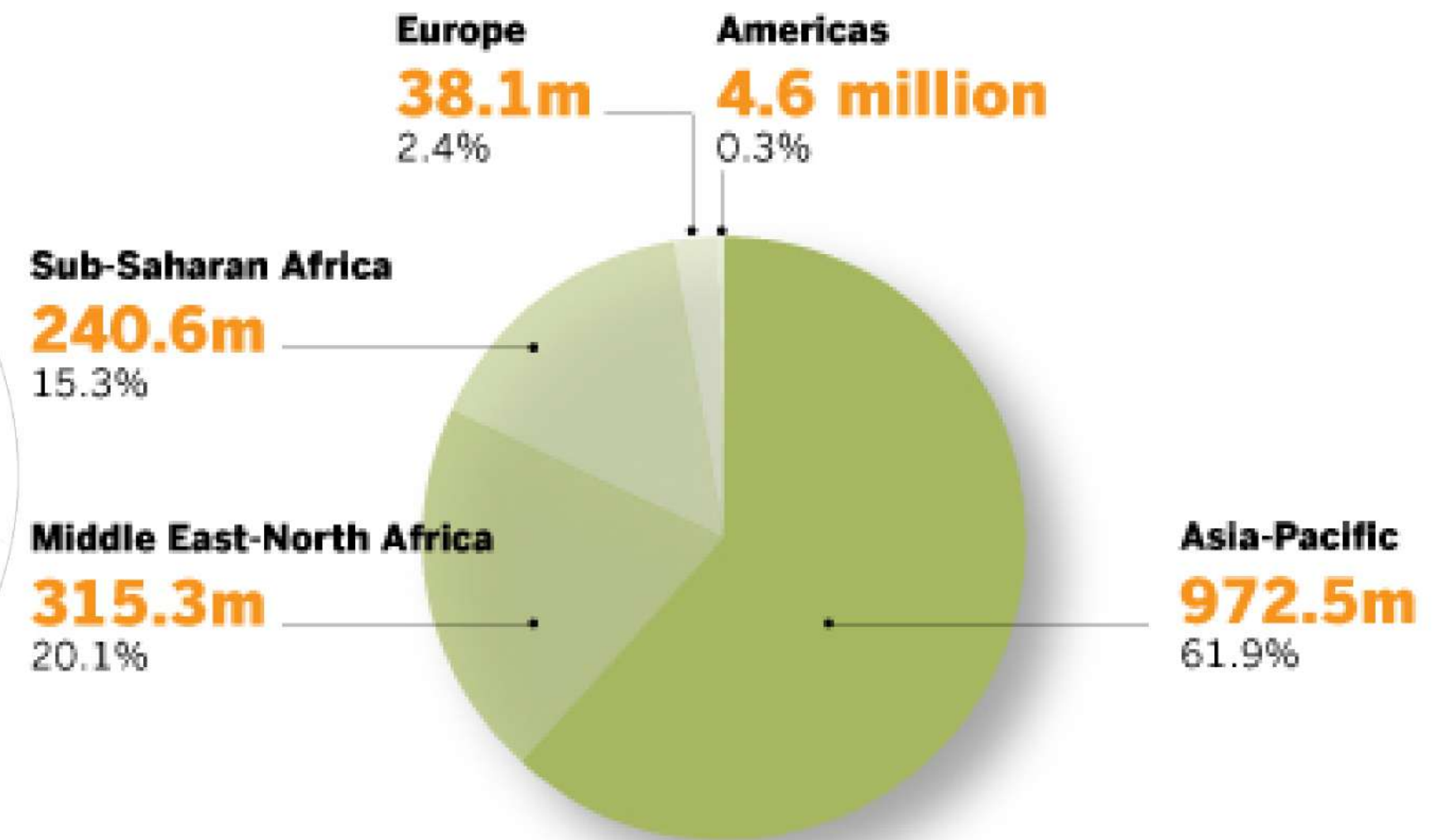
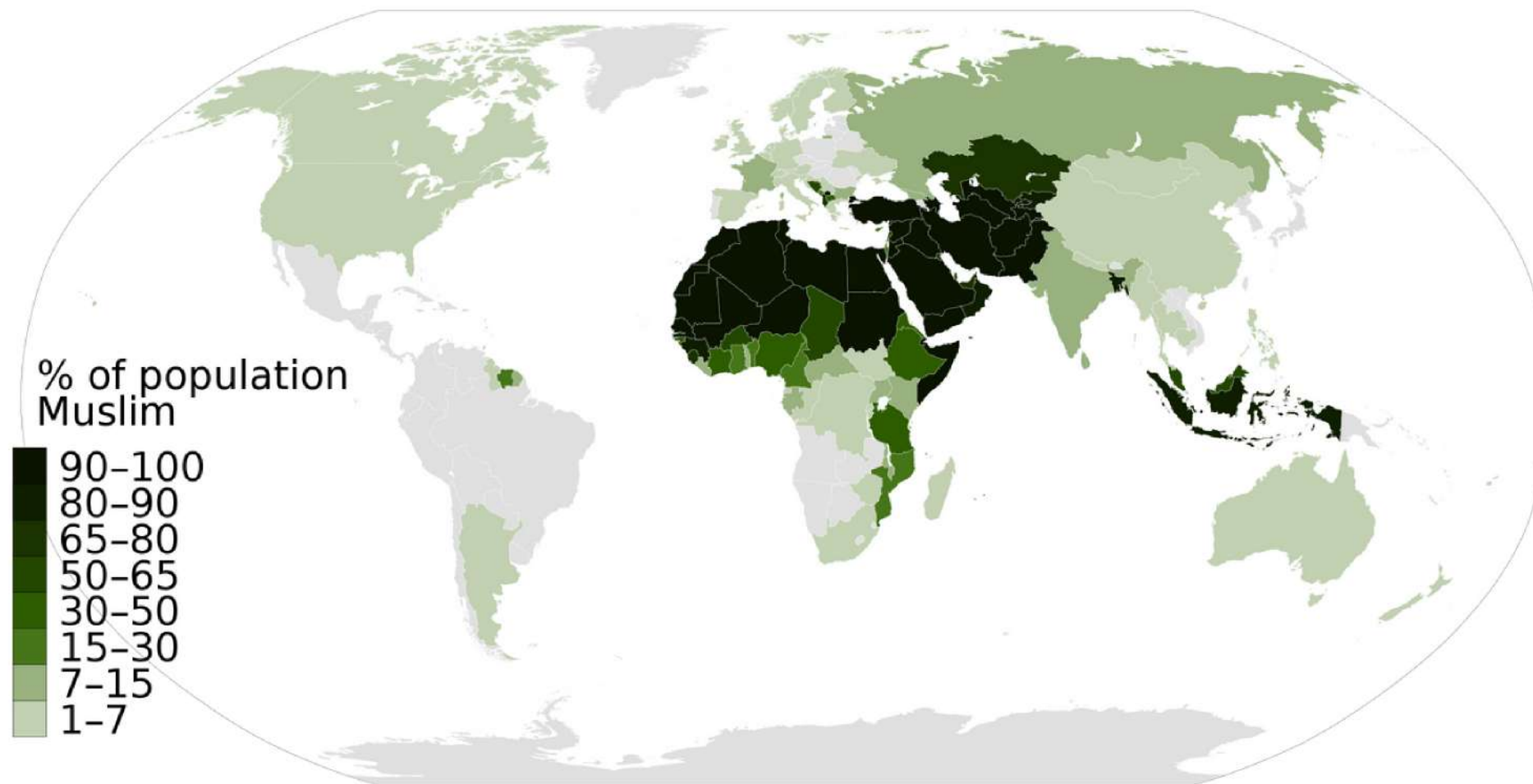
Core Value: Anti-Racism

“O people! Your God is one and your forefather (Adam) is one. **An Arab is not better than a non-Arab and a non-Arab is not better than an Arab, and a white person is not better than a black person and a black person is not better than a white person, except in piety.**”

- Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

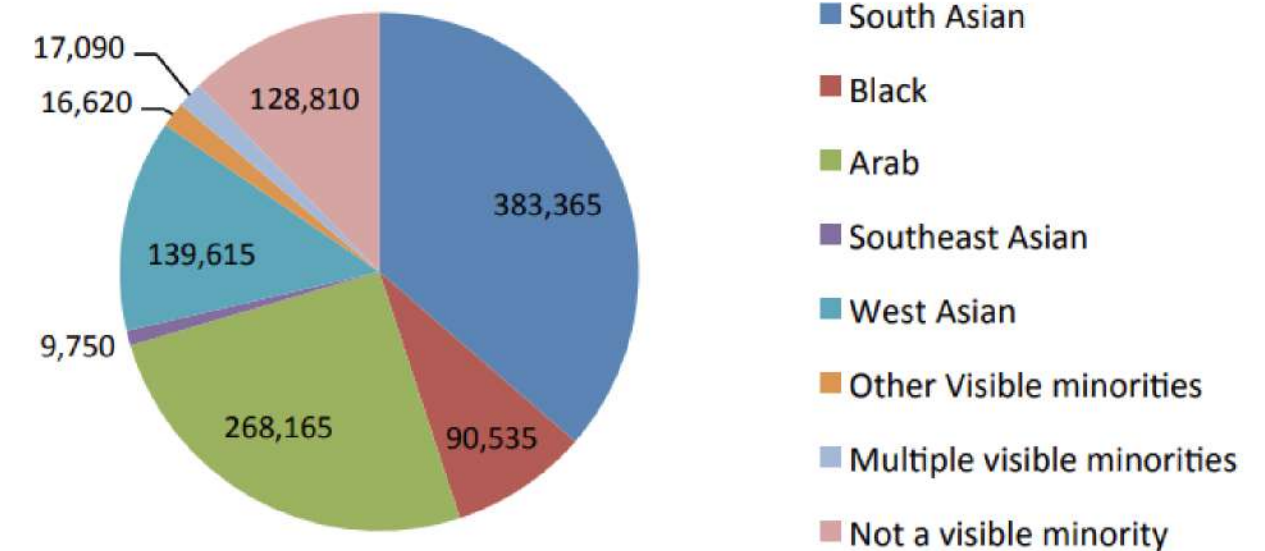
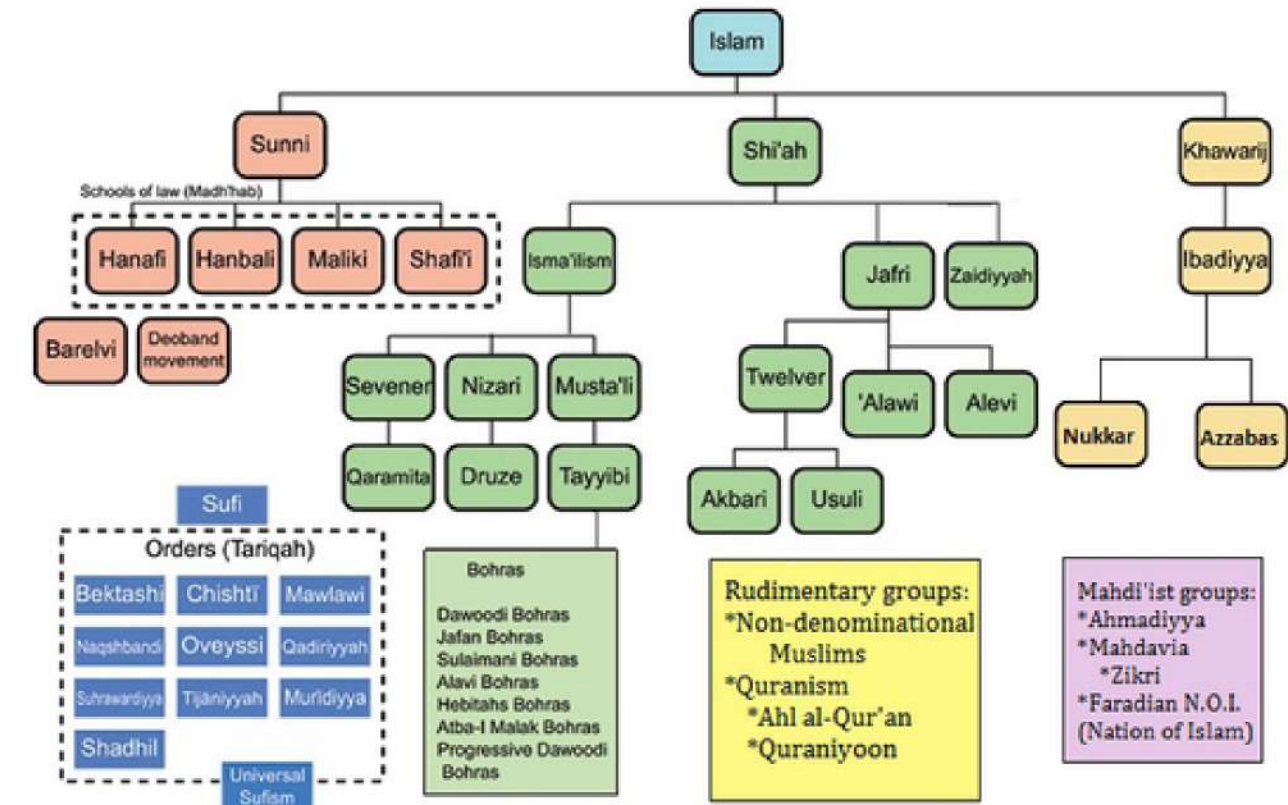
The Muslim World

- 1.9 Billion Muslims (1 in every 4 people)
- 50 Muslim majority countries
- 50+ Countries with Islam as second Largest Religion



Muslims in Canada

- First Muslim born in Canada in 1854 - Br. James Love.
- Second largest religion in Canada.
- 1million+ Muslims in Canada.
- Culturally and ethnically diverse.
- Various levels of religious commitment and practise.
- 100+ Different Cultures.
- Not a monolith.



Islamophobia

- What is Islamophobia?
 - Islamophobia is gendered
 - Islamophobia intersects with other systems of racism.
- What is Islamophobia not?
- Why do some people hate Muslims?
- What does the Law say?



Common Elements of Islamophobia

- Islam is monolithic and cannot adapt to new realities
- Islam does not share common values with other major faiths
- Islam as a religion is inferior to the West.
- It is archaic, barbaric and irrational.
- Islam is misogynist.
- Islam is a religion of violence and supports terrorism.
- Islam is a violent political ideology.

Source: Berkley University

Islamophobia in Canada

Victims of Islamophobia

- 47% of police reported victims are women. (Stats Can)
- Quebec City Mosque shootings.
- Toronto mosque attack.
- Alberta attacks against Muslim women.
- London terrorist attack.

Online Hate

- Most attacked group online (17%).
- BC is first when accounting for population.
- Top 3 search terms (Remove Kebab, Kebab Removal, Kill Muslims).



Public Perceptions of Islam and Muslims

- 46% of Canadians have an unfavourable view of Islam.
- >50% of Canadians would find it “acceptable” for one of their children to marry a Muslim.
- 56% of Canadians believe that Islam suppresses women’s rights.
- 52% of Canadians feel that Muslims can only be trusted “a little” or “not at all”.
- 42% of Canadians think discrimination against Muslims is “mainly their fault”.
- 47% of Canadians support banning headscarves in public (compared with 30% of Americans).
- 51% support government surveillance of mosques (as compared to 46% of Americans).

Source: 2017 (Angus Reid et al)

Stereotypes and Generalization

All Christians?



KKK
- United States

All Jews?



Kahane Fundamentalists
-Israel | Palestine

All Muslims?



ISIS
- Syria and Iraq

Media Portrayal of Muslims

- The 2017 Quebec mosque shooting received **six times less** coverage in American media than the 2014 Parliament Hill attack by Michael Zehaf-Bibeau, a convert to Islam – even though the mosque shooting involved **six times more deaths**.
- Terms related to the **Quebec mosque shooting** on the websites of the CBC, the *Globe and Mail*, and the *Toronto Star* yielded **194 relevant results**, in contrast to **768 for the Boston Marathon bombing** – even though the Quebec mosque shooting **occurred in Canada, and was more fatal**.
- A 2017 study from the University of Georgia found that “attacks by Muslim perpetrators [in the United States] received, on average, **449%** more coverage [in American media] than other attacks.”

Media Portrayal of Muslims

- The warping of the public's perception of Islam and Muslims is accentuated by the portrayal of our community in traditional media. For instance, in the United States, The New York Times portrays Islam and Muslims more negatively than cancer, cocaine and alcohol.
- According to researchers from Toronto-based 416 Labs, the findings are important since the media plays a powerful role in influencing public perceptions, and this kind of reporting is likely to negatively distort perceptions of Islam and Muslims for those who read the Times.
- The study looked at New York Times headlines from the period 1990-2014. Researchers found that Islam and Muslims were “consistently associated with negative terms,” at least 57 percent of the time, says the study. Only 8 percent of news headlines about Islam/Muslims was positive.

Post 9/11 and its effects on Canadian Muslims

- Increase in hate crimes against Muslims
- Suffering backlash
- Racial profiling
- Mistrust of intelligence and security services
- Demonization of Islam in the media
- Dehumanization of Muslims around the world
- Trauma among refugees
- Muslim women (and Sikh men) easy targets



Case Study: Syrian Refugees

- Refugees from brutal civil war
- 44,000+ In Canada
- Many well adjusted (academic, business, cultural successes)
- Mental health and PTSD
- Victims of attacks in B.C.
- Afraid of coming to the police (police in their country were criminal)
- Communication differences
- Islamophobia on streets, transit, and schools.
- Afraid of reporting because they can lose their PR

VANCOUVER | News

Muslim teen in hijab punched repeatedly during alleged hate crime on transit

VANCOUVER | News

Muslim woman speaks out about being harassed at Vancouver bus stop

CANADA

Pepper-spray attack on refugees treated as 'hate-motivated crime': Vancouver police

British Columbia

Hijab-wearing B.C. women say they fear being targeted by white supremacists after deadly London truck attack



Online Hate & Disinformation



What are Hate Crimes?

“Police-reported hate crime is defined as a criminal violation against a person or property motivated by hate, based on race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, or any other similar factor.”

Statistics Canada 2022

Police Reported Hate Crimes

- 80%+ Hate Crimes not reported
- In 2020 - 2,669 criminal incidents that were motivated by hate. Largest number recorded since comparable data became available in 2009.
- Between 2019 and 2020, the number of police-reported crimes motivated by hatred of a race or ethnicity increased 80%, from 884 to 1,594.
- Fewer hate crimes targeting religion for the third consecutive year, after peaking in 2017. Primarily due to fewer hate crimes targeting the Muslim population, which declined from 182 to 82 incidents in 2020 (-55%).
- Hate crimes targeting the Black and Jewish populations remained the most common types of hate crimes reported by police, representing 26% and 13% of all hate crimes, respectively. These were followed by hate crimes targeting the East or Southeast Asian population (11%) and those targeting a sexual orientation (10%).

White Supremacist Ideology

The Canadian Security Intelligence Service warned in 2020 that neo-Nazis and white supremacists are among the extremist groups that are using the collective social trauma of the COVID-19 pandemic to spread disinformation and conspiracy theories aimed at radicalizing others.

Transatlantic White Supremacist terrorism, organized, connected, and spread online is the gravest threat to not just Muslims and racialized minorities in B.C. and North America, but to all Canadians and our Democracy.

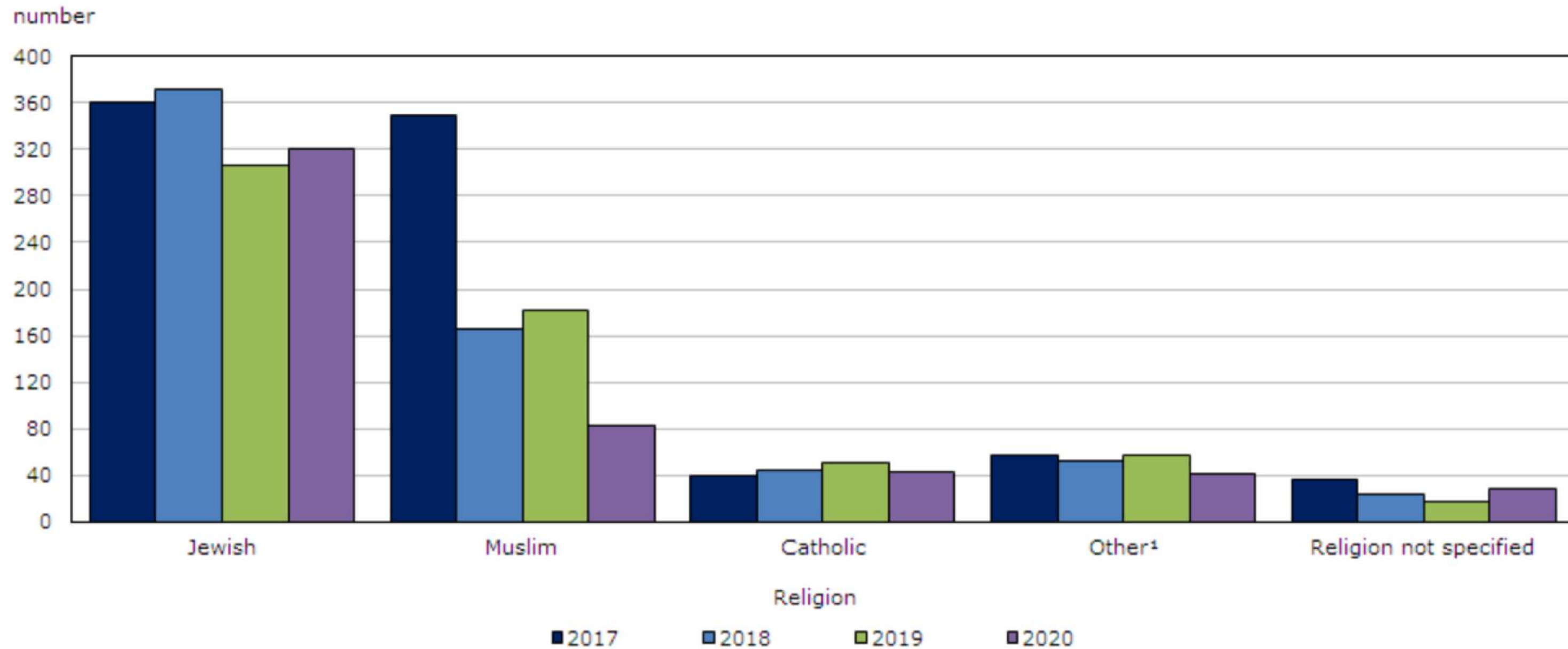
White Supremacist Ideology

The Great Replacement Theory is a far-right conspiracy theory, which says Western liberal elites, specifically Jewish elites, are bringing in immigrants who are black, Muslim, and non-white to replace white people in North America, Europe, and Australia.

Using data from organizations such as Moonshot and Google Jigsaw we are able to trace the spread of these beliefs through Google searches. We find that anti-Muslim bigotry and Islamophobia are among the most searched for racist terms on Google search.

Hate Crimes Motivated by Religion

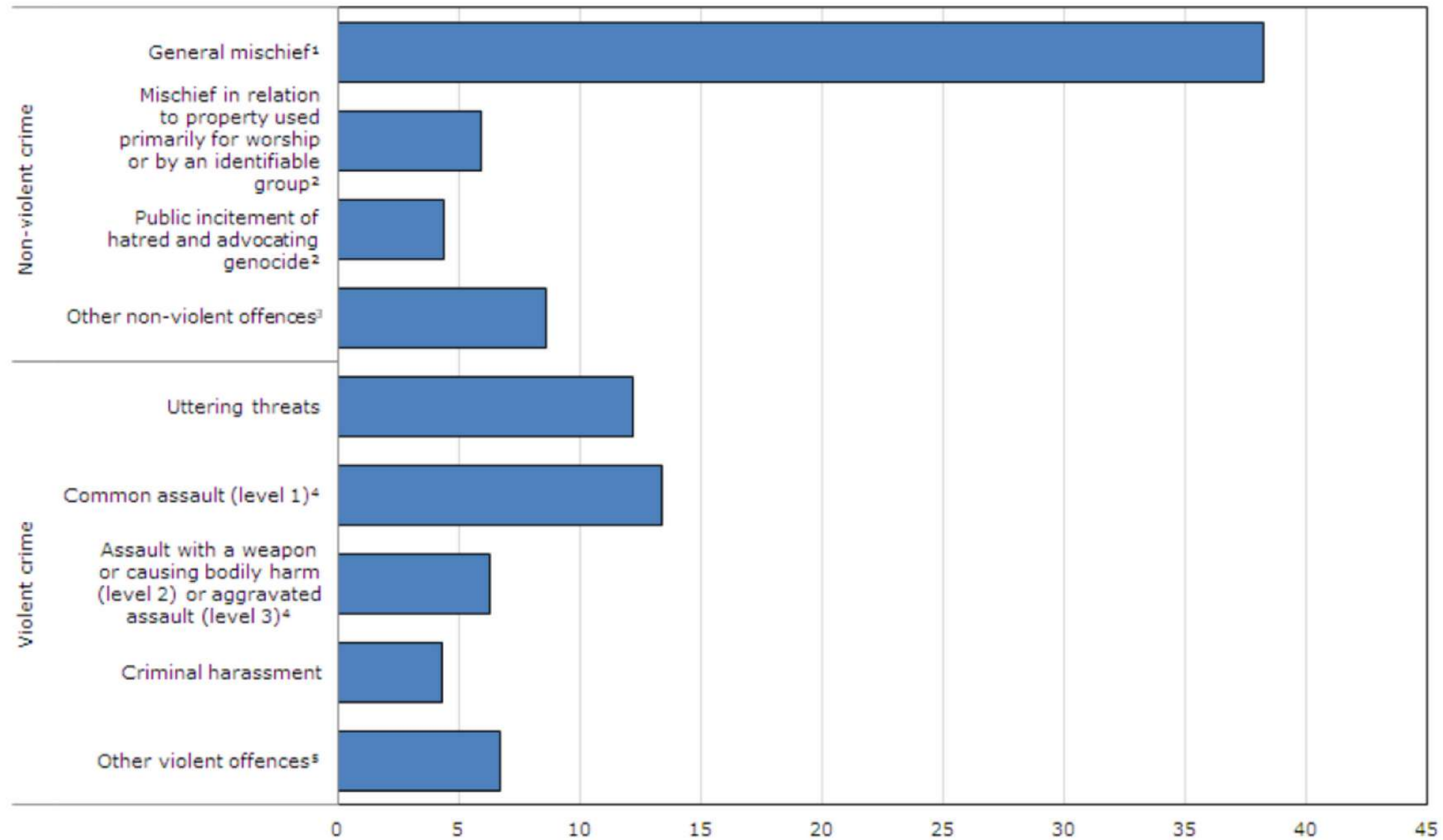
Chart 9
Number of police-reported hate crimes motivated by religion, Canada, 2017 to 2020



Hate Crimes by Type

Chart 3
Police-reported violent and non-violent hate crimes, by type of offence, Canada, 2020

Most serious violation



Islamophobic Hate Crimes - Violent Attacks

- 11 Islamophobia motivated murders in Canada since Quebec City Mosque Shootings.
- Highest murder rate in G7 countries.
- 47% were women or girls (higher than the national average of 34%).
- 17% of all hate online is directed towards Muslims.
- Violent hate crimes targeting the Muslim population (28%) were more likely to occur in an open area.
- Quebec City Mosque shootings (6 people killed, 5 injured - White Supremacist Terrorist) .
- Toronto mosque attack (Mohamed-Aslim Zafis killed by O9A)
- Alberta attacks against Muslim women. 20 attacks reported in the last year - Black, women, Muslim (most attacks remain unreported).
- London terrorist attack (4 members & 3 generations of the Afzal family killed by WST)
- 2022 Mississauga Mosque Attack - Assailant stopped by congregants

Online Hate Data

- What is spreading online hate and real world violence?
- Top 3 search terms (Remove Kebab, Kebab Removal, Kill Muslims).
- Conspiracy theories (25,000 searches over course of research for Great Replacement, White Genocide in Canada).
- White supremacist top 3 search terms: Hitler Was Right, Hitler IS right, Hitler Hero
- Anti-Asian hate terms (CCP Spies, etc.)
- White supremacist search terms by postal code (BC data - 24,799 violent far right searches - highest concentration at UBC)
- Muslims most attacked group online (17%).

Moonshot and Statistics Canada 2021

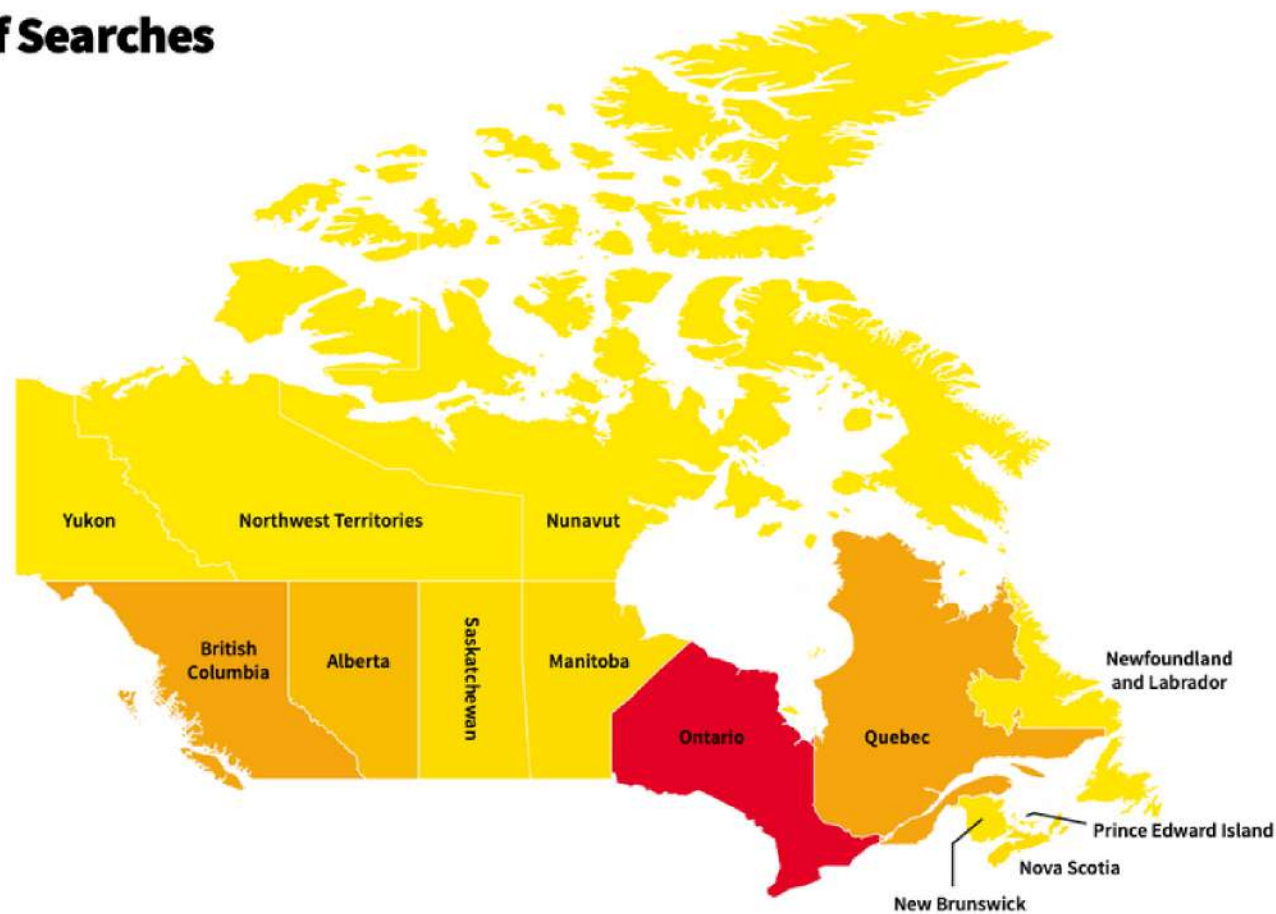
Online Hate Trends in Canada

- What is Moonshot | Jigsaw
- Canada wide problem

Absolute Searches

Ranking of Provinces and Territories by Absolute Number of Searches

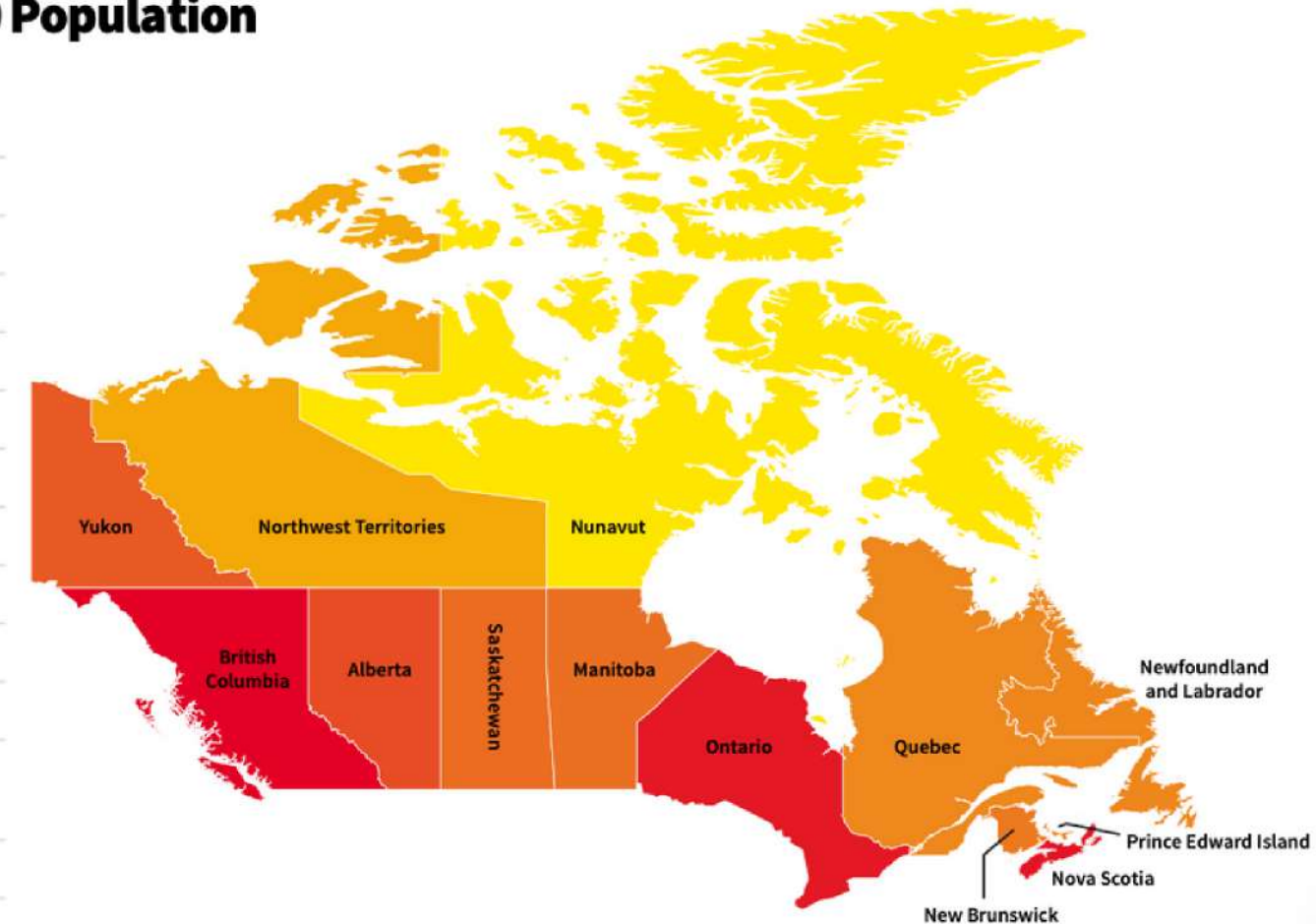
Province / Territory	Impressions
Ontario	69,544
Québec	25,244
British Columbia	24,799
Alberta	17,631
Nova Scotia	4,687
Manitoba	4,655
Saskatchewan	4,156
New Brunswick	2,537
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,585
Prince Edward Island	468
Yukon	151
Northwest Territories	103
Nunavut	29



Weighted Searches

Ranking of Provinces and Territories Weighted per 100,000 Population

Province / Territory	Impressions
British Columbia	514.81
Nova Scotia	491.37
Ontario	489.97
Alberta	411.35
Yukon	392.63
Saskatchewan	357.07
Manitoba	347.88
New Brunswick	333.97
Prince Edward Island	307.85
Québec	300.74
Newfoundland and Labrador	299.73
Northwest Territories	231.36
Nunavut	76.32

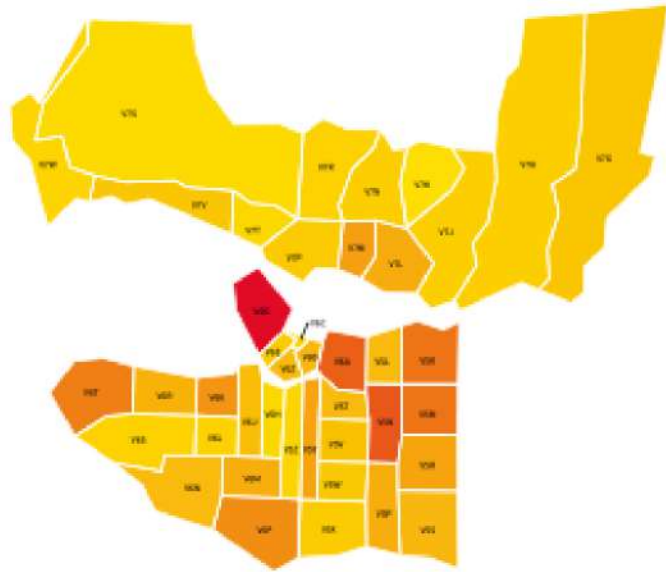


Online Hate and Islamophobia Trends

Vancouver

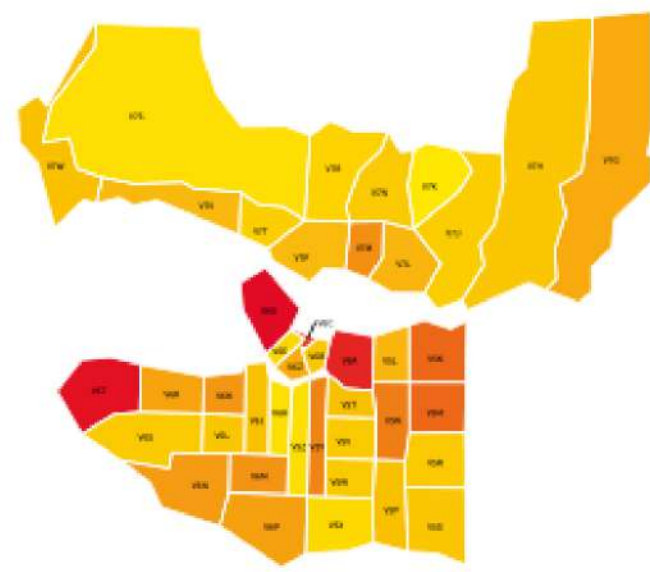
Most Active Neighbourhoods by Absolute Number of Searches

FSA	Value
V6G	550
V5N	336
V6A	319
V5K	266
V5M	265
V6T	244
V6P	205
V6K	192
V7M	164
V5Y	155



Most Active Neighbourhoods by Absolute Number of Searches Weighted per 10k Population

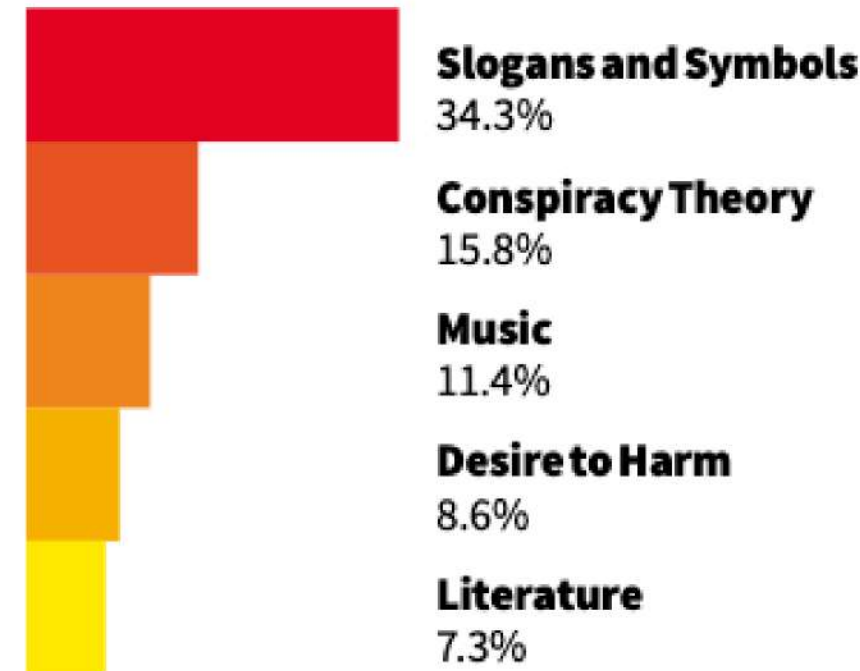
FSA	Value
V6G	202.22
V6T	191.79
V6A	170.42
V6C	144.87
V5K	115.57
V5M	114.95
V5N	95.88
V5Y	90.11
V7M	81.26
V6M	77.07



Top 10 Influential Personality Searches

Keyword	Impressions	% of Total
Hitler was right	879	47.80%
Hitler is right	346	18.81%
Hitler hero	169	9.19%

Top 5 Redirect Categories



Top 3 Keywords per Language

English Keyword	% of total
1488	10.7%
The Kalergi Plan	9.3%
Remove Kebab	6.6%

"1488 is a combination of two popular white supremacist numeric symbols. The first symbol is 14, which is shorthand for the "14 Words" slogan: "We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children." The second is 88, which stands for "Heil Hitler" (H being the 8th letter of the alphabet)."

Islamophobia and Anti-Government Hate

- Rampant Islamophobia emboldens anti-government and anti-democratic extremism.
- Supporters of the “freedom convoy” have used COVID-19 vaccine mandates as a rallying cry and hatred has been used to empower and bind the movement together. Leaders of the movement are using common populist tools to turn frustrations into rhetoric of rage and symbols of fear.
- Extremists in Canada are increasingly cherry-picking aspects of various violent ideologies to form their own belief system, in a phenomenon known as "salad-bar extremism," "This 'salad bar' extremism, originally used to describe an emerging phenomenon in the U.S., is now present in Canada," a report released Thursday by the Organization for the Prevention of Violence (OPV) reads.
- Threats and attacks against elected officials, including Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland, MP Jagmeet Singh and many others has become common online - and in the real world.

Practical Solutions for Municipal Governments

Addressing Hate Crimes

1. **Pass Street Harassment Bylaws with Ticketing Authority**

Addressing Systemic Racism

1. **Community Funding for Local Anti-Racism Initiatives**
2. **Build Anti-Racism Mayoral Advisory Circles/Councils**
3. **Public Education Campaigns to Confront Hate** (e.g. Islamophobia)
4. **Celebrating the History of All Canadians** (e.g. Black History Month)
5. **Invest in Alternative Community Safety Measures** (Community partnerships and engagement, in addition to policing)
6. **Increase Opportunities for Young Canadian Racialized or Religious Minorities in City Decision Making**

Adapted from the National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM)

Practical Solutions for Individuals

Addressing Digital Illiteracy

1. Increased focus on digital literacy skills in schools and for senior citizens.
2. Education focused on dis/mis information (e.g. House Hippos).
3. Develop active political (democratic) engagement skills.
4. Understanding how algorithms and social media are used (or misused - weaponization).

Addressing Community Siloization

1. Cultural competency education for schools and government organizations
2. Increasing awareness on importance of reporting
3. Facilitated direct engagement with other communities on shared concerns (e.g. mental health, climate change, etc.)