

Hate crimes on the decline

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The guidelines define hate crime as a criminal violation motivated by hate, based on race, national or ethnic origin, language, skin colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation or any other similar factor.

A suspected hate crime is a criminal offence against a person or property with reasonable suspicion that it is motivated by hate/bias/or prejudice, and cannot be proven to be solely motivated by hate.

A hate/bias incident involves behaviour that, though motivated by bias against a victim's race, religion, ethnic/national origin,

gender, age, disability or sexual orientation, is not a criminal act.

Hostile speech or other disrespectful or discriminatory behaviour may be motivated by bias, but is not necessarily criminal in nature.

They become crimes only when they directly incite others to commit violence against identifiable groups or if they place a potential victim or group in fear of their safety.

The three types of acts comprise the hate-related occurrences statistics, as reported by police.

CORRECTION: In the Thursday, March 9 edition in the article Conservative Party leadership candidates address 800 party faithful (pg. 4-5), the quote attributed to Erin O Toole was attributed in error. Those words were spoken by Pierre Lemieux. The IFP regrets the error.

CLARIFICATION: In the Thursday, March 9 edition in the article Citizen of the Year named, Dave and Dale Cox were chosen by The Glen Williams Town Hall Board as Citizens of the Year in 2015. The originating material was supplied by the Town of Halton Hills.

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