

# FUNDING TO SUPPORT POLICE INITIATIVES TO FIGHT HATE CRIMES

Halton Regional Police Service has been awarded \$1.2 million in government funding to enhance its ability to combat hate within the region.

Issued through the Ministry of the Solicitor General's community safety and policing program, the grant will be distributed over a three-year period during the launch of the initiative #NoHateInHalton — promoting respect, equity and inclusivity in our community.

Hate and bias motivated crimes are an increasing concern for members of the community and for police. Police investigate any allegations or reports of incidents motivated by hate or bias and understand that crimes motivated by hate continue to be significantly under-reported to police, stated a release issued by Halton police.

The "transformative" grant will be used to address several

strategic priorities under the multi-year #NoHateInHalton Initiative, including:

- Community consultations to identify opportunities for removing barriers to reporting hate or bias motivated crimes; how to enhance the service's response to acts motivated by hate or bias; and how to best support those impacted by such incidents.

- Increasing personnel assigned to hate and bias motivated crime response.

- Enhanced training for all members, on how to best respond to acts of hate and bias and support those impacted.

- Expansion of the annual #NoHateInHalton awareness campaign in educational facilities across the region.

- Establishment of an annual hate crime symposium, hosted by the Halton police, to facilitate collaboration between community

stakeholders across all pertinent sectors.

- Identification of opportunities for new partnerships and avenues for public education to enhance the region's community safety and well-being efforts to eliminate hate.

No one should be targeted based on race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other similar factor, stated the release.

"Hate has no place in our region," said Halton police Chief Stephen J. Tanner. "In the coming years, the Halton Regional Police Service looks forward to executing on these strategic, expanded efforts to combat hate, and to increasing our proactive work alongside community partners to reduce and eventually eliminate



Graham Paine/Metroland

Last year, White Oaks Secondary School bleachers, turf and track were spray painted with racist language and images.

hate within the region of Halton."

If you are victimized or have information related to a hate or bias motivated crime, you are encouraged to contact police. Information can also be submitted anonymously to Crime Stoppers. "See something? Hear something? Know something? Contact Crime Stoppers" at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or through the web at [www.haltoncrimestoppers.ca](http://www.haltoncrimestoppers.ca).

The following is a list of valuable support services and re-

sources in Halton Region for victims of hate or bias motivated crimes:

- Halton Regional Police Service Victim Services Unit: 905-825-4777 ext. 5239
- Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868
- R.O.C.K. Crisis Response: 905-878-9785
- Halton Multicultural Council (HMC Connections): 905-842-2486
- Thrive Counselling: 905-637-5256 or 905-845-3811



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