



April 8, 2025

BY EMAIL

The Honourable Arif Virani
Minister of Justice
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Email: arif.virani@parl.gc.ca

Re: Protecting Canadian Values: Ban the Nazi Swastika in Canada

At its Regular Council Meeting held on March 17, 2025, Council supported the enclosed correspondence dated February 26, 2025, from the Regional Municipality of Durham requesting that the Provincial Government pass legislation banning the public display of Nazi symbols and iconography including the Nazi swastika (hakenkreuze). Council of the Town of Essex calls upon the Provincial Government ban the display of Nazi symbols to ensure a future free from hate.

Council accordingly passed the following resolution:

R25-03-128

Moved By Councillor Verbeek
Seconded By Councillor Allard

That the correspondence from the Regional Municipality of Durham dated February 28, 2025, requesting that the Government of Canada pass legislation banning the public display of Nazi symbols and iconography be received and supported; and

That a letter of support be sent to The Honourable Arif Virani, Minister of Justice, and B'nai Brith Canada.

Carried



We trust you will find this satisfactory. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Malandruccolo".

Joseph Malandruccolo
Director, Legal and Legislative Services/Clerk

jmalandruccolo@essex.ca

Enclosure

cc: B'nai Brith Canada.



February 28, 2025

The Honourable Arif Virani
Minister of Justice
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Virani:

**RE: Motion regarding Protecting Canadian Values: Ban the
Nazi Swastika in Canada, Our File: C00**

**The Regional
Municipality of
Durham**

Corporate Services
Department –
Legislative Services
Division

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**Alexander Harras
M.P.A.
Director of
Legislative Services
& Regional Clerk**

Council of the Region of Durham, at its meeting held on February 26, 2025, adopted the following recommendations of the Committee of the Whole, as amended:

“Whereas in recent years, Nazi iconography has surfaced with alarming frequency in the public sphere, used by an increasing number of groups and individuals to promote hate and instill fear within Canadian society; and

Whereas since the atrocities of WWII, the Nazi swastika, also known as the hakenkreuze, has become universally synonymous with systematic violence, terror and hate. Its growing presence in our country poses a threat to every single Canadian citizen, undermining the core values of equality, diversity, and inclusion that define our nation, and

Whereas eighteen countries have already taken action to ban these symbols, it is imperative that Canada follow suit;

Therefore be it resolved, that Durham Region Council supports B’Nai Brith’s call to the Government of Canada to pass legislation banning, with exceptions for certain educational and artistic purposes, the public display of Nazi symbols and iconography, including the Nazi swastika (hakenkreuze). Specifically, demanding that the Government of Canada immediately:

1. Ban the Nazi swastika (hakenkreuze)

2. Ban all Nazi symbols and iconography

Durham Region Council agrees that the people of Canada are counting on the federal government to ensure a future free from hate, where every Canadian is protected, valued, and respected; and

That a copy of this motion is sent to all Canadian Municipalities.”

Alexander Harras

Alexander Harras, M.P.A.
Director of Legislative Services & Regional Clerk
AH/tf

c: B'nai Brith Canada
All Canadian Municipalities