

**In Response to the Statement by Chair Alexander Brown on Events in Washington, D.C.
January 11, 2021**

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/News/Article-Details/ArtMID/474/ArticleID/1579/Statement-by-Chair-Alexander-Brown-on-Events-in-Washington-DC>

Thank you Alexander.

We welcome the various statements regarding the recent events in the US.

There was a large group who stormed the US Capitol in an insurgence to take over the building, including White Supremacists and Neo-Nazis. While it is paramount to acknowledge that the rhetoric conveyed anti-Black racism, the insurrection was also overtly antisemitic. Thank you for including that in your message.

With this in mind, it is important to remember that the imagery that is pervasive throughout the media may be triggering for the Jewish community, Jewish teachers and Jewish students. Jewish students in classrooms may not be readily identifiable to teachers and may be experiencing trauma. Our current online circumstances make this even more challenging. As a result, it is important they are included and validated in discussions.

Antisemitic incidents have been on the rise. According to the [2019 B’Nai Brith Annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents](#), “for the past five years, there has been a disturbing upward trend in antisemitism across Canada, with 2019 being the fourth consecutive record-setting year.” The TDSB has not been immune to these incidents of hate; in fact we have seen an ever-increasing number of antisemitic events in our schools, including assaults.

Below please find the link to our proprietary website which was developed to provide TDSB teachers with resources on Holocaust Education and Antisemitism. Please note it has been updated to reflect the events of the past week. It is our hope that Superintendents will share this with their Learning Networks.

<https://sites.google.com/tdsb.on.ca/tdsb-holocaust-and-genocide/home>

We must strategically build powerful movements to fight back against all forms of racism and hate. United we can make a difference.

With thanks,

Shelley, Rachel & Alexandra

Shelley Laskin, Rachel Chernos Lin and Alexandra Lulka Rotman
Trustee Members of the TDSB Jewish Heritage Committee

The Toronto District School Board is proud to support Heritage Months so that students in our schools can be proud of their backgrounds and others can learn from them. The TDSB’s Jewish Heritage Committee (JHC) is made up over 70 staff across every level of the system as well as Trustees. Since its inception in 2015, JHC activities have always been focussed around teaching and learning – impactful, innovative, and inspirational work with kids in fighting Antisemitism, and all forms of hate.