

CANADA’S NEW POLICY ON PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD

A concise breakdown for community leaders and activists

WHAT HAPPENED

The Carney government’s announcement of its intent to recognize Palestinian statehood at the U.N. in September represents a departure from the fundamental principles it previously outlined as prerequisites for recognition.

In June, Prime Minister Carney said there must be a [“Zionist Palestinian state,”](#) recognizing the Jewish people’s right to live in safety in their homeland. As recently as July 24, Foreign Minister Anand [affirmed “necessary steps” for statehood](#), including the return of all Israelis hostages and disarming Hamas.

On July 30, following [a phone call with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas](#), the Prime Minister shifted Canada’s position from being anchored in *conditions* to one predicated on three *promises*:

ABBAS’ PROMISES	WHY THEY ARE NOT CREDIBLE
<i>Governance Reform</i>	It is important to note that President Abbas is in the twentieth year of a four-year term, in addition to being notorious for corruption and failing to live up to previous commitments on democratic reform.
<i>Elections in 2026 for which “Hamas can play no part.”</i>	Canadian recognition is slated to take place long before any elections will be held. The last Palestinian legislative elections were in 2005. According to the polls , the winner of an election would be convicted terrorist Marwan Barghouti or Hamas’ Khalid Mishal. In fact, Palestinian diplomats are already telling Canadian media that this commitment cannot be delivered.
<i>Demilitarize the Palestinian state</i>	Abbas has previously committed to this. However, history and present conditions show that the PA has no practical ability to put this promise to action vis-a-vis Hamas and other terror groups, including those active in the West Bank. It is also important to note that the PA continues to pay imprisoned terrorists and their families.

WHY IT'S WRONG



- Even under the most generous interpretation, this policy shift is an **empty symbolic gesture** that advances neither Palestinian nor Israeli interests, and does nothing to alleviate the region's tragic humanitarian crisis or move the cause of peace forward.
- At worst, Canada's new approach **rewards and emboldens Hamas**, which has openly celebrated the growing international momentum toward recognition. Following Canada's and others' announcements, Hamas **cut off contact with mediators** involved in ceasefire and hostage negotiations—further stalling progress.
- **By basing this policy on the assurances of a deeply discredited Palestinian leader**, Canada risks paving the way for **another failed pseudo-state**—one that could, like Gaza in 2006, fall into the hands of terrorists and perpetuate conflict rather than resolve it.

KEY QUESTIONS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS



- **Why didn't Canada make the release of Israeli hostages a precondition for recognizing a Palestinian state?** While the Prime Minister has called for the hostages' release, his announcement also made clear that Canada intends to proceed with recognition in September—regardless of whether the hostages are freed.
- **Where is Canada's credible plan to ensure Hamas is disarmed and removed from power in Gaza?** If a Palestinian state must be demilitarized—as the Prime Minister himself has stated—how can recognition proceed when, for 20 years, the Palestinian Authority has failed to disarm or restrain Hamas?
- **How can Canada base such a major policy shift on the credibility of Mahmoud Abbas and his so-called commitments?** Under Abbas, the Palestinian Authority has paid over \$1 billion to terrorists and their families—with roughly 5 percent of its annual budget in 2022 devoted to these payments. He has avoided elections for two decades and maintains a long record of corruption.

- **What are you doing about the alarming rise in violence, discrimination and hatred targeting Canadian Jews?** When the Canadian government takes one-sided positions against Israel, extremists and antisemites are emboldened to increase their attacks and intimidation of Canadian Jews in public space and institutions.

ADVOCACY TIPS FOR ENGAGING PUBLIC OFFICIALS



- **Listening is as important as advocating.** After sharing your perspective, ensure to give space for your elected representative to respond. Take careful notes. Ask follow-up questions. But don't give them the "out" of simply listening to you.
- **Make it personal.** If you have family or friends in Israel, or have been to the country recently, share your personal experience and make it clear that real lives are at stake.
- **Be clear, calm, and reasonable—especially when refuting misinformation.** This issue is largely new territory for many elected officials. Your goal should be to open their minds as much as possible to the fact that this policy is misguided.
- **Ask: What concrete steps will you take following our conversation today?** If your elected officials says that they agree with you about these issues, put them on the spot and ask what meaningful action they will take.
- **Let us know how the conversation went.** These meetings can be a valuable source of advocacy insights. After your conversation, **please take a moment to email your contact on the CIJA team** to let us know the results of your meeting (write us at info@cija.ca).