TOKENISM OF ANTI-ZIONIST JEWS PERPETUATES ANTISEMITISM

Canadian. Jewish. Advocacy.

Tokenism of anti-Zionist Jews perpetuates antisemitism.

Here's what you need to know:

Engaging solely with anti-Zionist Jewish voices constitutes tokenism and can be seen as antisemitic. Tokenization happens when a few unrepresentative Jewish voices are depicted as speaking for the entire community. In many progressive spaces, only anti-Zionist Jews, a minority who oppose Israel's existence and safety, are included. Extremist groups often use these anti-Zionist Jews to legitimize their antisemitic messages. Many mainstream groups also intentionally or unintentionally legitimize their anti-Jewish biases and opposition to Jewish self-determination by engaging in tokenism.
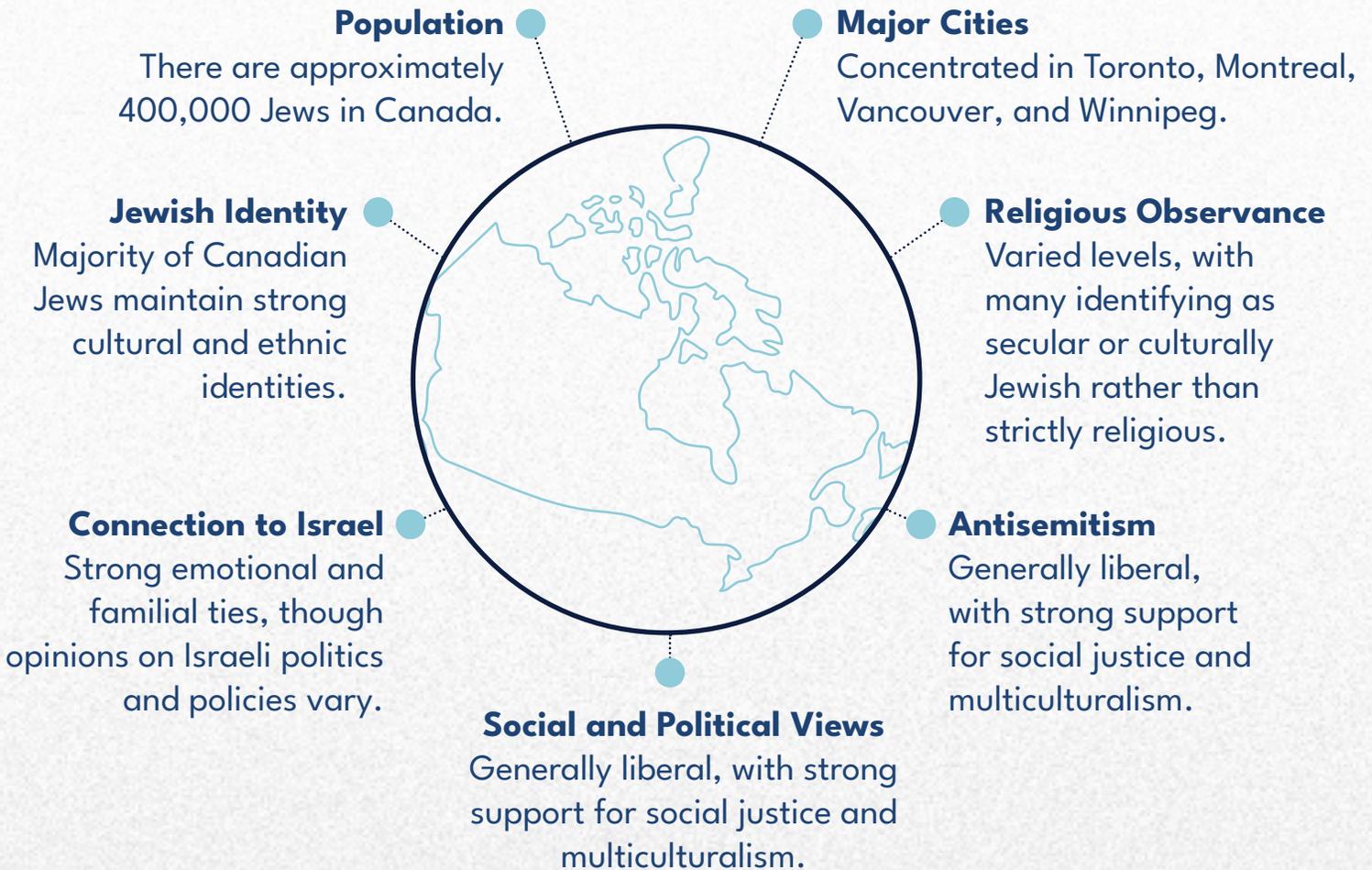
By understanding and acknowledging the diversity of Jewish opinions and ensuring a broader representation of Jewish voices, discussions regarding Israel and Jewish identity can be more inclusive, balanced, and reflective of the mainstream Jewish community.

Who comprises the Canadian Jewish community?

Summary of Findings on Jewish Identity
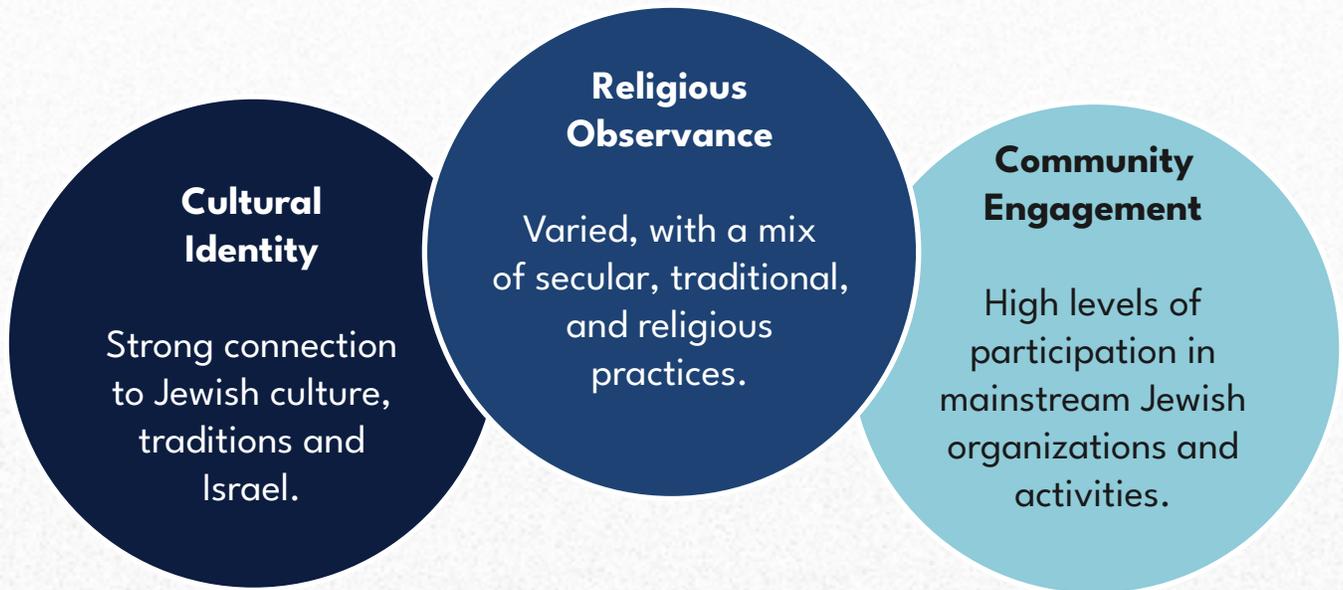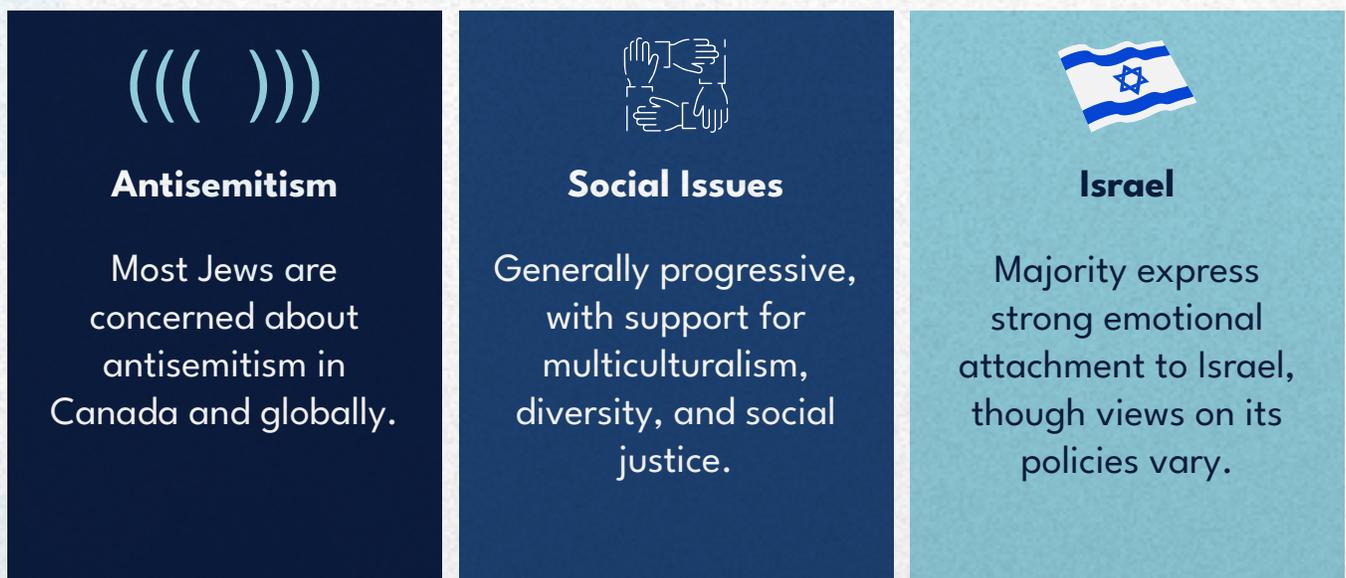
(Robert Brym's 2024 Survey)

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population
There are approximately 400,000 Jews in Canada.

Major Cities
Concentrated in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, and Winnipeg.

Jewish Identity
Majority of Canadian Jews maintain strong cultural and ethnic identities.

Religious Observance
Varied levels, with many identifying as secular or culturally Jewish rather than strictly religious.

Connection to Israel
Strong emotional and familial ties, though opinions on Israeli politics and policies vary.

Antisemitism
Generally liberal, with strong support for social justice and multiculturalism.

Social and Political Views
Generally liberal, with strong support for social justice and multiculturalism.

Summary of Canada's Jewish Community
(2018 Survey)

VALUES + BELIEFS

Cultural Identity

Strong connection to Jewish culture, traditions and Israel.

Religious Observance

Varied, with a mix of secular, traditional, and religious practices.

Community Engagement

High levels of participation in mainstream Jewish organizations and activities.

POLITICAL + SOCIAL VIEWS

Antisemitism

Most Jews are concerned about antisemitism in Canada and globally.

Social Issues

Generally progressive, with support for multiculturalism, diversity, and social justice.

Israel

Majority express strong emotional attachment to Israel, though views on its policies vary.

Summary of Canada's Jewish Community
(2018 Survey)

KEY FINDINGS FROM THE DATA

Zionism

Only 3% of Canadian Jews are anti-Zionist.

91% support Israel's existence.

from Robert Brym's 2024 Survey

Religious Diversity

33% identify as Reform, 26% as Conservative, 15% as Orthodox, and 26% as secular or cultural Jews.

Community and Belonging

77% feel a strong sense of belonging to the Jewish people.

Connection to Israel

53% have visited Israel, and 30% plan to visit in the future.

Background: Why Tokenism is Harmful

What is Tokenism?

- **Superficial Inclusion**: Involving individuals from underrepresented groups to appear inclusive.

- **Symbolic Participation**: Using minority members to represent diversity without giving them real power or voice.

General Harms of Tokenism

- **Undermines Authenticity**: Reduces complex identities to simplistic symbols.

- **Creates Pressure**: Individuals may feel burdened to represent their entire community.

- **Perpetuates Stereotypes**: Reinforces narrow and often inaccurate portrayals.

- **Stifles Genuine Progress**: Obscures the need for deeper, systemic change.

Tokenization in the Jewish Community

- **Selective Representation**: Highlighting specific groups to align with certain narratives or ideologies.

- **Erasure of Diversity**: Ignoring the broad spectrum of Jewish experiences and beliefs.

Issues with Highlighting Anti-Zionist Jewish Organizations Exclusively

- **Unrepresentative**: Groups such as IJV and JVP do not represent the broader Jewish community.

- **Fringe Narratives**: These organizations often reflect minority viewpoints within the Jewish population.

- **Political Agendas**: Centering these groups can serve narrow ideological purposes rather than promoting genuine understanding.

Impact on the Jewish Community

- **Perpetuates Erasure**: Ignores the voices and perspectives of the majority of Jewish people.
- **Misrepresentation**: Distorts public perception of Jewish beliefs and values.
- **Divisiveness**: Can create or exacerbate divisions within the community.

Conclusion

- **Genuine Inclusion**: Embrace the full spectrum of Jewish identities and perspectives.
- **Balanced Representation**: Ensure diverse voices are heard, not just those that fit a specific agenda.
- **Avoid Tokenism**: Strive for meaningful engagement rather than superficial inclusion.

NBC NEWS

TECH NEWS

4chan trolls impersonate Jewish people on social media to spread hate

The troll campaign provides yet another example of how online political discourse can be infiltrated and aggravated by outside groups.

Who are *Independent Jewish Voices & Jewish Voices for Peace?*
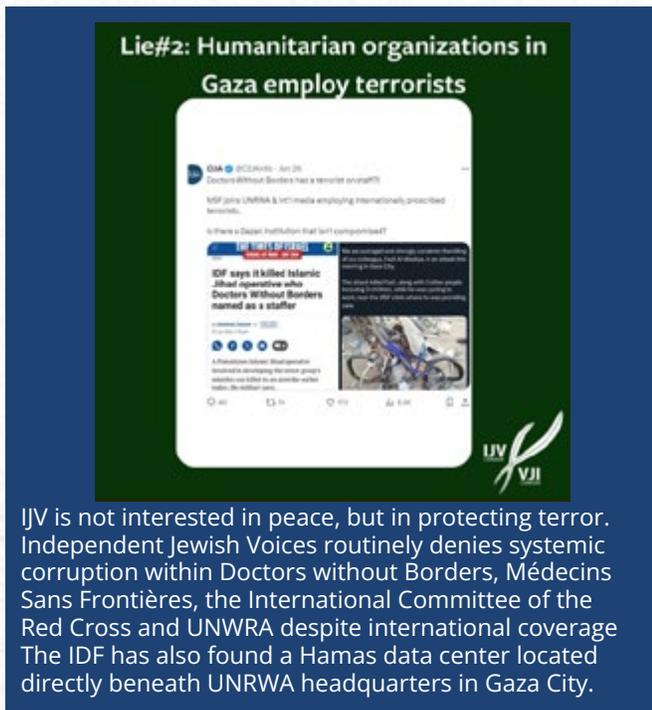
IJV is not interested in peace, but in protecting terror. Independent Jewish Voices routinely denies systemic corruption within Doctors without Borders, Médecins Sans Frontières, the International Committee of the Red Cross and UNWRA despite international coverage The IDF has also found a Hamas data center located directly beneath UNRWA headquarters in Gaza City.

Independent Jewish Voices (IJV) - Canada:

Independent Jewish Voices (IJV) is a Canadian counterpart to JVP, also positioning itself as a Jewish anti-Zionist organization. IJV focuses on opposing Israeli policies and advocating for Palestinian rights, often using strong and controversial rhetoric. As does JVP, IJV faces criticism for not representing the broader Jewish community in Canada. Their views and activities are considered by many to

be unrepresentative of most Jews, who support Israel's right to exist and seek a balanced approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Critics highlight that IJV's platforming in progressive spaces can lead to the erasure of mainstream Jewish voices and contribute to a narrative that unjustly singles out Israel and its supporters for condemnation.

JVP and IJV have recently been organizing with Samidoun, a propaganda arm of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Samidoun is also intimately connected to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), which is not only designated a terrorist organization by most western countries but has also openly boasted about its "blood brothers" relationship with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps of Iran another registered terrorist entity.

Both IVJ and JVP have distorted and inverted the memory of the Holocaust, have openly shared blood libels, have revisionist Jewish history (including the infamous "Jesus was a Palestinian"), and have celebrated terrorism of Israelis and Jews, from the Arab Revolt in Mandatory Palestine to the Hamas attacks in Israel on October 7, 2023.

During operation "Shield and Arrow", CNN news anchor Jake Tapper asserted Israel's right to self defense. Attempting to condemn Tapper, Dr. Hatem Bazian, a Muslim Palestinian, accidentally tweeted an action alert intended for the JVP twitter page from his personal Twitter instead, exposing that Jewish Voices for Peace only posits to be Jewish.

Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) - America:

Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) is an American organization that identifies as Jewish and anti-Zionist. The group promotes campaigns and actions against Israeli policies and purports to advocate for Palestinian rights. However, JVP has been criticized for its stances and actions that centre antisemitic rhetoric and marginalize mainstream Jewish perspectives. Critics argue that JVP's narratives and activities often serve to validate and amplify extremist views under the guise of Jewish representation, which can contribute to antisemitic sentiments by undermining the legitimacy and safety of Israel and its supporters. Further, the majority of JVP chapters have been initiated by non-Jews, and much of the organization's seed money is from Christians who theologically have saving Palestine as a church mandate, alongside deeply antisemitic Christian supersessionist beliefs that aspire to convert Jews. JVP has encouraged their non-Jewish members to post 'as Jews' on social media.

JVP openly endorsed the Mapping Project, a map depicting "Zionist organizations" in Massachusetts, including Jewish summer camps, disability centres, nonprofits, and more. Then they stated that "we need this resource in every city!" It didn't take long for the Mapping Project to appear on Goyim TV, a white supremacist video-sharing website, making it easier for white supremacists to target Jews (Roots Metal) and Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb, who sits on JVP's Rabbinical Council, visited Iran on a regime propaganda trip, despite the fact that Iranian Jews live as second-class citizens constantly under suspicion of the capital crime of "Zionism."

A better way forward

When seeking to understand Jewish identity, anti-Jewish bias, historical and contemporary antisemitism, and affirming Jewish Canadians, it is imperative that we do not allow for tokenization of a marginal, fringe perspective to dominate the conversation or to be overrepresented. Our strongest recommendation is to work with the institutional, organized Jewish community.

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) is the advocacy agent of Jewish Federations of Canada-UIA, representing Jewish Federations across Canada. CIJA represents the diverse perspectives and concerns of more than 150,000 Jewish Canadians affiliated with their local Jewish Federation.

As the Canadian affiliate of the World Jewish Congress, representative to the Claims Conference and to the World Jewish Restitution Organization, CIJA is also connected to the international organized Jewish community. Working in partnership with Jewish Federations and non-federated Jewish communities, CIJA identifies issues important to Canada's Jewish community. CIJA then designs and implements strategies to ensure that leaders in government, media, civil society, business, and academia understand the Jewish perspective and that it is considered in Canada's public policy discussion.

CIJA leads an extensive portfolio on *Unlearning Antisemitism* to the public sector, private corporations, non-profit organizations, academic networks, healthcare systems, school boards, and more. Our training is designed for institutions and organizations who wants to learn more about Jewish people and the impact of antisemitism, enhanced their intercultural competency, and execute truly diverse, equitable, inclusive anti-racism and anti-oppression strategies that do not marginalize, omit or exclude Jews.

Please be in touch with any inquiries.

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