



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 31, 2024

Official Statement from Mayor Ken Sim on the Horrendous Arson at Schara Tzedek Synagogue

VANCOUVER, BC – Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim released the following statement regarding last night’s horrendous arson at the Schara Tzedek Synagogue:

“Vancouver is a city that prides itself on its diversity, inclusivity, and respect for all communities. We will not tolerate acts of hatred and violence against any group.

“Last night, our city witnessed a heinous act of anti-Semitism when an individual attempted to burn down the Schara Tzedek Synagogue using an incendiary accelerant. We are grateful no one suffered physical harm as a result of this incident, but the impact on our community’s sense of safety cannot be overstated.

“This is an attack on a sacred place for Vancouver’s Jewish Community. To whoever has committed this crime, the VPD is using every resource they need to find and arrest you. We will not rest until you face justice.

“We are in constant contact with the VPD, and this investigation remains active and ongoing. Out of an abundance of caution, the VPD has deployed additional officers to all synagogues and Jewish schools across Vancouver to provide additional security and reassurance to community members.

“To our Jewish community - we stand shoulder to shoulder with you. Let there be no doubt: this was a hateful act of anti-Semitism. Together, we will rise above this act of hate and continue to work towards a city where everyone feels safe and respected.”

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