



HIPC DENOUNCES PRESENCE OF HATE-FUELED “ACTIVE CLUBS” IN HAMILTON

July 31, 2025

The Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (HIPC) is deeply alarmed by [recent reports from CBC investigative journalists](#) about the presence and growth of far-right “active clubs” operating in Hamilton parks and gyms. These groups are not benign social organizations. They are part of a transnational movement grounded in fascist ideology, white supremacy, misogyny, and violent extremism.

HIPC unequivocally condemns the presence of these hate-fueled organizations in our city. Their activities - whether covert or public - pose a serious threat to the safety of all Hamiltonians and are especially harmful to newcomers and longstanding racialized communities who already experience heightened risk of discrimination and violence.

This is not an isolated concern. According to Hamilton Police Services, hate incidents and hate crimes in the city rose significantly in 2024, with 297 reported incidents - more than double the ten-year average of 146 per year. Black, Jewish, and 2SLGBTQIA+ residents were most frequently targeted. Police attributed this increase in part to the rise in alt-right ideologies and anti-immigration rhetoric - trends mirrored by the growing influence of far-right extremist groups across Canada.

HIPC Anti-Racism Committee Chair Kim Martin states:

“Newcomers and racialized communities already face disproportionate barriers and discrimination. The organized presence of hate groups training in our public spaces sends a chilling message. This cannot be normalized. We must meet it with urgency, solidarity, and zero tolerance for hate in all its forms.”

HIPC’s own data indicates that many immigrants experience discrimination, especially if they are from racialized communities. Approximately one-third of Hamilton Immigrant Survey 2025 participants reported that they experienced discrimination in the past year, mostly targeted due to race or skin colour, ethnicity or culture, and immigration status.

Late last year, [HIPC spoke out about rising anti-immigrant rhetoric](#) in public and political discourse. Extreme rhetoric has moved from fringe platforms to more widely used [social media](#). The increased activity by “active clubs” and their public presence is a very visible outcome of a broader normalization of racism that we cannot ignore.

HIPC is an active member of the **Hamilton Anti-Hate Coalition** (formerly *No Hate in the Hammer*) and stands in solidarity with all organizations and residents working to uphold human rights, equity, and public safety.

As service providers and community members, many of us with lived experience of migration, we know that manifestations of hate create fear and uncertainty for newcomers in Hamilton. Reporting tools are only a first step in documenting hate occurrences. We need ongoing, meaningful funding to support those experiencing collective harm from hate-groups.

We encourage all Hamiltonians to take action by using and sharing the following community resources:

- The [Hamilton Anti-Hate Toolkit and Belonging Pledge](#)
- The [Hamilton for All Campaign](#), co-led by HIPC and community partners

Finally, HIPC calls for:

- **Increased public awareness efforts** to counter far-right recruitment and ideology
- **Expanded funding and support** for anti-hate initiatives, including support for those experiencing hate
- **Stronger policy responses** that protect the rights and dignity of all residents

HIPC sees the threat of fascism and white supremacy as endemic and permeating, and we denounce this. Together, we must remain vigilant, united, and committed to building an inclusive city for all.

About HIPC

The Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (HIPC) is a community table that brings together more than 30 local organizations that have a role to play in creating a welcoming community for newcomers to Canada. HIPC's [Community Plan 2025-2028](#) has a vision for Hamilton as a welcoming community where newcomers have a positive settlement experience and feel a sense of belonging. HIPC is funded by Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada and housed in the City of Hamilton's Economic Development Division.

For Direct Comment:

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