

TZEDECK JUSTICE

A publication of the Canadian Jewish
Congress, Pacific Region

March 2007

IN THIS ISSUE

- [Pacific News: Profiling Community Issues](#)
- [View Points: Working Towards Affordable Housing](#)

PACIFIC NEWS

Meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs



At the end of February, CJC National Chair Ed Morgan, CJC Pacific Chair Mark Weintraub and CJC Pacific Region Director Mira Oreck met with Minister of Foreign Affairs Peter MacKay in Ottawa to discuss the ongoing crisis in Darfur. CJC advocated a number of coordinated steps to stop the

still-unfolding genocide, including working with the United Nations and the African Union to directly intercede on behalf of the millions who are being persecuted, raped and murdered.

In addition to working with international organizations and individual nations, CJC recommended the government appoint a new special envoy to better understand what is happening on the ground and to push for a more coherent response from the international community.

In responding to all of the concerns raised, Minister MacKay informed the delegation that a new Africa Strategy is now before Cabinet and will soon be released publicly.

CJC Pacific Region Director Mira Oreck, Minister of Foreign Affairs Peter MacKay, CJC National President Ed Morgan, STAND Canada's Jonathan Laski and CJC National Pacific Region President Mark Weintraub are pictured above (from left to right).

Roundtable with the Mayor

In early February, CJC representatives were part of a Jewish community delegation that met with Mayor Sam Sullivan to provide feedback on a number of his recently announced initiatives, including Project Civil City, EcoDensity and the 311 phone line. The delegation strongly encouraged the Mayor and Council to build a comprehensive affordable housing strategy, noting the specific needs in the Jewish community. While broadly agreeing with the objectives of the Mayor's Civil City project, those present expressed that any meaningful approach to these complex challenges will require a sustained investment

IN PROFILE

John De Haas



Inspector **John De Haas** is a member of the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) and commands the Diversity & Aboriginal Policing Section (www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/police/diversity/DAPS/mandate.htm) under the Office of the Chief Constable. A member of the Jewish community whose mother grew up in Berlin in the 1930s, Inspector De Haas has a deep understanding of the many issues around tolerance, hate crimes and the need both for education and security. Since joining the VPD in 1978, Inspector Haas has seen and done a great deal during his distinguished career. He was President of the Police Union for eight years and has led the way on important innovations in policing that have benefited both his fellow officers and all Vancouverites.

WORTH READING

Times-Colonist

March 2, 2007

**Purim parade one of a kind
Jewish community organizes
rare outdoor celebration**
<http://www.canada.com/victoriatimescolonist/news/life/story.html?id=9fa1ba97-9cc1-4822-aca4-a7e8479744b6>
By Katherine Dedyne

by all levels of government.

CIJA Parliamentary Dinner

In mid-February, a Pacific Region contingent was among the more than 400 delegates who took part in the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA) Parliamentary Dinner and Democracy in Action Conference in Ottawa. More than 150 Members of Parliament from across the country took part in the event, which was a great opportunity to speak directly with government and opposition MPs on issues of concern to the Jewish community. At the dinner, all four party Leaders gave speeches to the hundreds assembled and spoke of their commitment to the Jewish community in Canada.

VIEW POINTS

Working Towards Affordable Housing in B.C.

Tony DuMoulin, Treasurer CJC Pacific Region



In the wake of the provincial budget introduced February 20 by Finance Minister Carole Taylor, CJC is renewing the call for a comprehensive approach to the housing crisis in B.C.

In order to bring attention to what we consider a top priority issue, CJC has consistently worked with all levels of government to encourage and support efforts aimed at addressing the complex and costly issues of adequate housing for all citizens: social housing; affordable housing; and eliminating ever-increasing, unacceptable levels of homelessness.

In recent months, CJC representatives have met with Vancouver Mayor Sam Sullivan, City of Vancouver Housing Director Cameron Gray and provincial Minister of Housing Rich Coleman. In these meetings and in other settings, we have been joined by Jewish Family Services Agency and the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver to speak out on behalf of the estimated 3,150 members of the Jewish community living below the poverty line in the Vancouver area.

We have spoken out about our larger responsibilities as citizens – rather than focusing solely on the needs of our own community, we look to the needs of all communities.

Although the initial provincial budget media coverage trumpeting \$2 billion in spending on housing was encouraging, the real story turned out, sadly, to be quite different.

Such an investment in social housing, affordable housing and a comprehensive plan to eliminate homelessness would be an extraordinary and welcome development. In truth, the \$2 billion budget includes a 10 per cent across-the-board income tax cut for all British Columbians making up to \$108,000, representing \$1.5 billion of the total investment.

Tax cuts, like this one, may be popular with many people, but they do not build housing or reduce homelessness.

CJC's Pacific Region Action Agenda calls for all levels of government to recognize the national emergency that is the housing crisis and devote the appropriate resources to change it. While the province's very modest new spending on housing

Chalk one up for modern Victoria kids stopping traffic to celebrate an ancient Hebrew victory. For the first time in ages, as many as 100 Jewish youth and some extroverted adults will march for several blocks up Pandora Avenue on Sunday in a Purim parade that's the closest thing to a Jewish Mardi Gras. Believed to be the only outdoor Purim parade in Canada, it celebrates the escape of the Jews from extermination at the hands of the Persians nearly 2,400 years ago thanks to the bravery of Esther....

Globe and Mail

February 16, 2007

Zundel down, Ahmadinejad to go

www.cjc.ca/template.php?action=oped&Rec=202

By Ed Morgan and Bernie Farber

Yesterday's decision of the German court in Mannheim, sentencing Holocaust denier Ernst Zundel to a five-year prison term on 14 counts of incitement, looks like the final knockout punch in a lengthy brawl between him and the legal systems of Canada and Germany. If only Holocaust denial itself were down for the count....

Jewish Independent

January 26, 2007

Sullivan seeks advice Vancouver mayor has meeting with community

<http://www.jewishindependent.ca/Archives/Jan07/archives07Jan26-01.html>

By Ron Friedman

Affordable housing was the main topic of conversation at Vancouver Mayor Sam Sullivan's office last Friday during a city hall meeting between Sullivan and invited leaders of the Jewish community. The mayor had asked the group to his office to discuss his Civil City project and to listen to their views on various social, economic and cultural issues....

CJC-PR EVENT

Submit Nominations for

(approximately \$375 million over four years) is a step in the right direction, a great deal more needs to be done to ensure that everyone has a roof over their head and a safe place to call home.

Adequate housing for all is not just the right thing to do – it's also the smart thing to do. We know, for example, that the healthcare and social services required for a homeless or inadequately housed person costs more than the cost of housing. It is the responsibility of our elected officials, and ours as citizens, to address the widespread housing crisis. We hope to play a constructive role engaging in this urgent project.

Officer Positions

The Canadian Jewish Congress, Pacific Region Nominations Committee invites all members of the community to nominate candidates for the Pacific Region Officers Elections to be held on May 9. Nominations must be received in writing, stipulating the position sought, no later than Friday, April 13, 2007.

All nominations should be submitted to:

Tony DuMoulin, Chair
Nominations Committee
CJC-Pacific Region
801-1166 Alberni St.
Vancouver, BC V6E 3Z3

For further information and a copy of the nominations form, please contact Mira Oreck, Director, Canadian Jewish Congress, Pacific Region at 604-622-4240 or by e-mail at cjcpr@cjc.ca.

Copyright CJC-Pacific Region. We respect your privacy. To be removed from this list, please email cjcpr@cjc.ca.