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## **Conservative Government Announces a Watered Down Version of Liberal Security Plan**

OTTAWA – In an act of political desperation, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Minister Stockwell Day announced a pilot project for a watered-down version of the Liberal security fund for ethno-cultural communities at risk.

“It’s pretty clear that this government has truly run out of ideas,” said Susan Kadis, Liberal Member of Parliament for Thornhill. “Stéphane Dion committed a future Liberal government to a Security Fund for at risk communities back in March and has consistently supported helping communities with particular security concerns stemming from hate crimes.”

On November 2, 2006, while a leadership candidate, Mr. Dion announced his support for the creation of a federal fund to offset the costs of security measures for at-risk communities.

In March of this year, Mr. Dion delivered a speech as Leader laying out a comprehensive justice strategy which committed a future Liberal government to a security fund to offset security costs for at-risk religious schools, community centres and places of worship.

On June 13, Mr. Dion announced the creation of a caucus task force, chaired by Mrs. Kadis, to move implementation of the Security Fund forward in a way that will help preserve the safety of ethnic and cultural at risk communities across Canada. The task force has since held consultations with community groups in Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax and will be meeting with groups in Edmonton shortly.

Following those consultations, members of the Liberal Caucus Task Force on Security Funding are questioning the Harper government’s approach to this issue.

" Based on what we’ve heard from communities across the country, the Conservatives hesitant 'pilot' approach leaves even bigger questions – such as

their willingness to commit to the retroactivity of the funds completely unanswered," said Mrs. Kadis.

"While this minority Conservative government has been blaming their inaction to date on public servants, the Liberal Party has been listening to groups at risk of being victimized by hate crimes, and a Liberal government will implement measures to protect these communities."

"It is clear the Liberal Party of Canada is working with the communities and groups that are affected and are getting results," said Senator Mobina Jaffer, Vice-Chair of the Task Force. "The government's upcoming announcement is proof positive that we're pushing this government towards doing what is in the best interest of Canadians."

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