



News Release

Susan Kadis, M.P., Thornhill

For Immediate Release

Thornhill – April 10, 2008 - Susan Kadis, Thornhill Member of Parliament and Chair of the Liberal Caucus Task-Force for Security Funding for At-Risk Communities was pleased to welcome Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion to Thornhill today.

Mr. Dion announced that a Liberal government will create a \$75-million Communities At-Risk Program to help fund security measures at ethno-cultural or religious places of worship, educational institutions and community centres. As many ethno-cultural religious communities have already invested significant funds on security measures, projects eligible for funding will be considered from Nov 29, 2005 on.

"Today's announcement builds on the Liberal Party's longstanding commitment to work in partnership with our ethno-cultural and religious communities to combat and defeat hate and racism," Susan Kadis said.

"The input the Task-Force heard across the country was compelling, not only relating to the physical destruction but also the psychological impact and trauma of these attacks. Security measures to protect the victims of these crimes was identified as being of critical importance. The Liberal Task-Force has put together a comprehensive plan that we believe will significantly help communities meet these challenges and help build a stronger, safer and more inclusive Canada," stated Mrs. Kadis.

"Ensuring the basic security of its citizens is one of the most important functions of any government," said Mr. Dion.

"Many ethno-cultural and religious organizations have spent significant funds on security measures at the expense of delivering core services to their communities. Many others simply do not have sufficient resources to implement needed measures to secure their facilities and reassure community members of their personal safety," said Mr. Dion.

The Liberal Caucus Task-Force undertook extensive cross country consultations. This program carries on the work begun by the previous Liberal government with the first National Justice Initiative Against Racism and Hate and its National Strategy to Combat Racism in 2005. The programs under those strategies focused on education and cross-cultural understanding as critical to combating the root causes of hate-related violence and vandalism.

"It is part of the important role any federal government must play in protecting the fundamental right of all Canadians to feel safe."



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