



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JAPANESE CANADIANS

### **STATEMENT ON LONDON, ONTARIO HATE KILLINGS**

Winnipeg June 14, 2021

It is hard to imagine the grief the Afzaal family and the Muslim community are experiencing in the aftermath of the June 6<sup>th</sup> hate-motivated attack in London, Ontario. The unspeakable violence which killed four members of one family, from three generations, and leaves the youngest severely injured and orphaned is unfathomable.

We grieve with those affected and commit to hearing their stories as part of the healing process. We must also ask whether we as individuals and as a nation have done enough to ensure that Muslims, and communities facing racism and discrimination are safe.

The Canadian government must quickly move forward with its proposed legislation against online hate and online activity that causes harm. Following the Christchurch attacks on Al Noor Mosque and Linwood Islamic Centre, New Zealand understood that terrorism does not happen in a vacuum. A royal commission was struck to examine media content with the intention to radicalizing hateful individuals.

Meaningful actions must take place. Members of the Muslim community in Canada have been calling for advocacy and actions that might lessen the possibility of future attacks on their community, and other communities victimized by hate. Specifically, leaders in the Canadian Muslim community such as the National Council of Canadian Muslims and the Muslim Association of Canada call for this to be treated as an act of hate and *terrorism*.

Canadians and Canada can do more. We must do more. The National Association of Japanese Canadians stands with members of the Muslim community in mourning and strongly condemns all forms of Islamophobia, hatred, racism, and violence by extremist groups and individuals.