



**NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF INDO-CANADIANS**  
(A Registered Not-for-Profit Organization)

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April 19, 2017

**Press Release**

**Position Statement on the Motion M-46 on ‘Sikh Genocide’ in the Ontario Legislature**

The National Alliance of Indo-Canadians (NAIC) is inundated with the concerns expressed by the community about the simmering discontent on the motion M-46, “I move that, in the opinion of this House, the Legislative Assembly of Ontario should reaffirm our commitment to the values that we cherish—justice, human rights and fairness—and condemn all forms of communal violence, hatred, hostility, prejudice, racism and intolerance in India and anywhere else in the world, including the 1984 genocide perpetrated against the Sikhs throughout India. We call on all sides to embrace truth, justice and reconciliation.” The motion was passed by 34 of the 107 members of the provincial parliament without required research and consultation with the ‘Global Affairs Canada’ at the federal level as it involved foreign relations.

The National Alliance of Indo-Canadians issues the following position statement on the matter:

While the NAIC condemns the painful and tragic politically motivated anti-Sikh riots in 1984 in India, these cannot be categorized as “Genocide”, as stated in the motion passed in the Ontario legislature. The term Genocide refers to systematic extermination of a certain group of people entirely from a region. As stated by Douglas Todd, “It was actually a cruel pogrom, a semi-spontaneous attack on a certain group of people, like those that occurred a century ago against Jews in Russia and elsewhere.” The matter was examined in-depth by the Indian judicial system, respected throughout the world, and has upheld the law of the land by delivering justice to the affected. From legal perspective, the 1984 anti-Sikh riots do not qualify for the use of word “Genocide” in the passed M-46 motion. A significant effort at rehabilitation and reconciliation with those affected was successfully made in India. The M-46 motion flies in the face of ground realities in India where Sikhs form the mainstream society in all spheres of the national life.

India with its rich traditions of democracy is truly a friend of Canada and is amongst the tolerant and liberal countries, being the first multi-cultural or pluralistic society of the world that practices ‘Unity in Diversity’. Not to forget, India gave the idea of “Non-Violence” to the world thought. There exist strong genetic and socio-cultural bonds among Sikhs, Hindus and other communities in India and elsewhere. Both Hindus and Sikhs, including other communities, protected each other during the terrible and shameful 1984 riots indicating deep socio-cultural relationships.

The NAIC disapproves, in principle, the political attempts by passing M-46 motion in the Ontario Legislature to create divisions in the law-abiding and progressive Indo-Canadian Community just for electoral gains by a few. It is not without reason that the majority of the



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MPPs from all the political parties abstained from voting for the M-46 motion. The NAIC calls upon the Ontario political leadership to recall and modify the motion M-46 by removing inaccurate use of the word “Genocide”.

Unfortunately, the M-46 motion is likely to have implications for Canada-India relations that have been on the upswing with increased trade between the two countries. The National Alliance of Indo-Canadians is committed to enhance Canada-India friendship, both being great commonwealth democracies with shared values.

For additional information:

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