

B'NAI BRITH CANADA TRIBUTE DINNER FOR STEPHEN HARPER SUPPORTS LEGAL INITIATIVES AGAINST ANTISEMITISM AND RACISM

Advertising News Feature By Mike Cohen

B'nai Brith Canada has advocated for Canadian Jewry and championed the cause of human rights since 1875. B'nai Brith is recognized as a vital voice in promoting Jewish unity and continuity, a staunch defender of the State of Israel and global Jewry, a tireless advocate on behalf of senior citizens and a leader in combating antisemitism & racism.

On September 5, B'nai Brith Canada held a very successful tribute evening for the Right Honourable Stephen J. Harper, the 22nd Prime Minister of Canada at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim in Westmount. Mr. Harper left office in 2015 after nearly a decade leading a Conservative Party of Canada government.

The evening raised \$1 million to expand B'nai Brith's legal initiatives against antisemitism and racism. The audience was not only composed of leaders from the Jewish community, but those from eight other cultural communities.

Eric Bissell and

Joseph Broccolini co-chaired the event. Cantor Henry Topas, the regional director for B'nai Brith Canada in Quebec, gave opening remarks and introduced Suburban Newspaper Editor-in-Chief Beryl Wajzman as master of ceremonies. Rabbi Dr. Mordechai Zeitz recited a prayer for the hostages. Mark Bissell, speaking on behalf of his father Eric and Mr. Broccolini, provided opening remarks.

Paul Hirschorn, the dynamic Consul General of Israel for Quebec and The Maritimes, was born in South Africa. In his speech he expressed regret for how his native country has treated Israel at a time when it remains under attack. "The day will come in South Africa when we apologize," he stated.

Senator Linda Frum and former NDP leader Tom Mulcair (on video) paid tribute to former Prime Minister Harper, who was introduced (also on video), by Senator Leo Housakos. That was followed by an extraordinary chat between Mr. Harper and former Foreign Minister John Baird.

Businessman Amos Sochaczewski and Mr. Bissell were presented with special certificates for their extraordinary contributions to B'nai Brith Canada. Finally, B'nai Brith Canada Chair Jay Harris and Immediate Past Chair Franklin Switzer recognized Mr. Harper with a special award to recognize his tireless support of Israel and for speaking out against antisemitism.

Mr. Harper has an endless array of business interests. That includes serving as the president of a technology focused Canadian-Israeli venture capital firm. "I have an office in Tel Aviv," he said. "I was there in February. I spoke to the people and they have been shaken to the core". Harper says that a younger generation of Arab leaders see Iran as more of a threat and support Israel. In a fireside chat with former Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird, he said: "I grew up in a family which was very pro-Jewish. As Prime Minister, how do you make the case for it? Israel is a friend and ally to his country and the people

who hate Israel hate this country too! We really do need an entire new generation of leaders in the West to be aligned with Israel and against its enemies."

Main sponsors were: Eric and Naomi Bissell, Irwin Kramer, Hyman Beraznik and the Baazov Family Foundation, (Title); The Azrieli Foundation and the Goodman Family Foundation (Silver); Robert Raich, Joel Pinsky and Norman Zavalkoff, Joel King and Harold Stotland, the Cons Family and the Wener Family Foundation (Bronze).

Table Sponsors were: Friends of Joseph Broccolini; Barry Lorenzetti, BFL Insurance; the Cola Family; Subhash Khanna and Virender Sumli, Hindi Mandir Community; Vince Guzzo; Daniel Assouline; Barry Kotler; the Lieberman Family; Shlomo Drazin; Ted Quint; Manny Dalfen and Friends; Michael Goodman; Robert Cutler, Delmar Cargo; Danny Lavy; the Paperman Family; Jack Dym; Michael Eliesen; Jonathan Gurman; and Dr. Albert Cohen.



Top left: John Baird, Linda Frum, Stephen Harper and Hank Topas
Right: Stephen Harper and Eric Bissell



B'nai Brith Canada Chair Jay Harris and Immediate Past President Franklin Switzer present an award to the former prime minister. Bottom photo is part of the capacity crowd that attended the event.



BOLSTERING NORTHERN SECURITY

After rearming communities on the Gaza border, the MOD and the IDF are now completing the re-equipment of approximately 100 units in the north with advanced weaponry, including the "Arad" – a state-of-the-art Israeli-developed rifle. This initiative is part of the MOD and the IDF's aim of bolstering border defense while enhancing self-reliant production capabilities. Photo MOD



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