

## 2026 Canadian Jewish Human Service Sector Public Policy Agenda

*The Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies (The Network) is the membership association for over 170 non-profit organizations in Canada, the U.S. and Israel that provide a full range of human services for close to 2 million clients each year. Canadian member agencies of The Network serve as a critical safety net throughout Canada, providing assistance to hungry families and the unemployed, care for isolated older adults and persons with disabilities, mental health services for all ages, and resources for resettled immigrants and those fleeing persecution.*

*The Network's 2026 Canadian Jewish Human Service Sector Public Policy Agenda seeks to elevate the most pressing needs of Canadian member agencies and the clients they serve.*

### **Antisemitism:**

- Recognizing that the Jewish community holds a collective historical trauma that must be acknowledged, The Network is concerned about the dramatic increase in antisemitic rhetoric and frequent incidents within the social service sector workplace and the resulting impact on staff and community. Government should support trauma-informed training to better equip staff with resources to treat those impacted.
- Ensuring that anti-Jewish bias in supportive housing applications and placements, as well as with the provision of mental health or social services is not tolerated.

### **Social Service Workforce:**

- Working with government to ensure that there is an understanding of the challenges of the non-profit sector; staffing shortages, retention, wellbeing, and lack of wage parity in competition with both the private sector and provincially funded hospitals and agencies providing 24/7 services and how this reduces capacity at a time of extreme demand for services.

### **Housing:**

- Supporting the continued implementation of the federal government's National Housing Strategy.
- Encouraging the building of more affordable housing by advocating for reforms of social service and non-profit housing to make it easier to convert existing units into affordable housing.

### **Food Insecurity:**

- Advocating for requirements that food security funding programs protect access for ethnocultural communities with religiously mandated dietary requirements, with ethno-cultural food services.

### **Mental Health and Addictions:**

- Raising the urgent need for increased mental health and addiction support in Canada and calling on the federal government and provinces to finalize Mental Health Transfer negotiations and provide funding including funding for hate crime support and to address the impact of rising antisemitism.

### **Disability Services:**

- Calling for standardizing the implementation of the Canada Disability Benefit to ensure no province claws back provincial payments for those receiving the federal benefit.
- Working with government to ensure that legislation and regulations are put in place to encourage hiring employees with disabilities, to protect these employees from predatory practices, and to ensure that employers are incentivized to hire employees with disabilities.
- Calling for provincial governments to ensure that faith and culture are considered when providing access to residential services.

### **Newcomer Support:**

- Pressing government agencies to reduce backlogs, especially applications for new immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers that are pending processing by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

*This document was approved by The Network's Board on January 12, 2026, and does not preclude The Network from responding to or pursuing other timely policies related to core services or community needs, as necessary.*