



MINISTER JASON KENNEY'S HISTORY WITH CAF

Canadian Arab Federation

Monday, March 9th, 2009 • Fact Sheet •

- January 2006: Conservative government elected into power. CAF sent a congratulatory letter and received no response.
- July 2006: CAF criticizes Prime Minister Harper and the Conservative government for calling Israel's invasion and devastation of Lebanon a "measured response".
- November 2006: A flyer was distributed at the Liberal Federal leadership race criticizing Bob Rae and his wife for their support of Israel. The flyer wasn't produced, distributed nor endorsed by the Canadian Arab Federation nor was the Canadian Arab Federation even present at the Liberal convention.
- January 4th 2007: Jason Kenney appointed Secretary of State for Multiculturalism and Canadian identity.
- March 15th 2007: "we don't deal with racist organizations such as the Canadian Arab Federation" – Minister Jason Kenney at a conference in Bucharest Romania.
- January 2008: Canada withdraws from the UN conference on racism; Durban II. "Canada is interested in combating racism, not promoting it," Minister Jason Kenney.
- January 29th 2008: Minister Jason Kenney attacks former CAF president Omar Al-Ghabra in the House of Commons: "The organization formerly headed by the member for Mississauga-Erindale viciously attacked our decision to pull out of the racism conference in a news release that spoke of "the racist Israeli government". What is the Liberal Party's real position?"
- January 30th 2008: A letter is sent to Minister Jason Kenney from 11 NGO's (including CAF) who participated in the anti-racism conference in Durban expressing their disappointment with Canada's decision to withdraw from the Durban Review Conference; a request for a meeting with Minister Jason Kenney concluded the letter.
- March 6th 2008: Minister Jason Kenney agrees to meet with the group of NGO's however CAF was not invited to the meeting although CAF's Executive Director, Mohamed Boudjenane, was a signatory on the invitation letter. When asked why, a member of Minister Kenney's staff explained that "CAF is not an anti-racist organization but an anti-Semitic one".
- March 7th 2008: The group of NGOs send Mr. Kenney a letter which stated "As anti-racism organizations, we are and have always been concerned with anti-Semitism. These are very serious allegations which are being leveled against an organization with which we have worked with [CAF] collaboratively over the years on such issues as anti-racism. If there are specifics on which this claim of anti-Semitism is based, we ask that such details be shared with us. Without this being clarified, we do not believe that a meeting with you under such a cloud of allegations will be conducive to meaningful discussion of the issues we raised in our letter." The letter did not receive a response.
- October 30th 2008: Jason Kenney appointed Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism.



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- January 15th 2009: "It is shocking to think that flags of banned terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah are being flown in the streets of Canadian cities. The ideals these terrorist organizations preach are abhorrent to the fundamental values of the Canadian people and of all civilized peoples: freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law." – Minister Jason Kenney referring to rallies for Gaza that were organized by CAF, Palestine House and others.
- January 17th 2009: Comments made about Minister Jason Kenney at rally outside Peter Kent's office.
- February 3rd 2009: "There is no need for you to send me your press releases. I am not interested in reading them. Thank you for your cooperation." "Actually, on second thoughts, keep writing me. Your emails are hilarious." – Minister Jason Kenney's Director of Communications, Alykhan Velshi, responds to press releases CAF sent out during the attacks on Gaza.
- February 17th 2009: Immigration Minister Jason Kenney is poised to slash federal funding to Canada's largest Arabic group after its president called him a "professional whore" for supporting Israel. – Media outlets releases this story
- February 18th 2009: "These [Canadian Islamic Congress (CIC) and CAF] and other organizations are free within the confines of our law and consistent with our traditions of freedom of expression, to speak their mind, but they should not expect to receive resources from the state, support from taxpayers or any other form of official respect from the government or the organs of our State. And I would encourage all other governments to take a similar approach to organizations that either excuse violence against Jews or express essentially anti-Semitic sentiments." –Minister Jason Kenney at the anti-Semitism Conference in London England.
- February 23rd 2009: "This reinforces the whole, extreme, unbalanced rhetoric about Israel as an apartheid state, Israel as a racist state – to quote the Canadian Arab Federation – this creates an opinion environment which makes it acceptable to start shouting at Jewish kids who probably also happen to support Israel." Minister Jason Kenney commenting on CUPE's decision to boycott Israel.
- February 26th 2009: "But my point [in weighing whether to continue funding the CAF], is whether an organization ... that distributes videos produced by Hamas and Islamic Jihad that glorifies terrorism [and] indoctrinates children into the cult of anti-Semitic hatred... is not an organization, in my opinion, that should be receiving taxpayer subsidies...I'm simply saying, when we make funding decisions we should take into account the character of the organization and its leadership. And if they're promoting extremism, or [in the case of the CAF], implicitly promoting anti-Semitism, I think that should be a consideration." – Minister Jason Kenney in an interview with Canadian Jewish News.
- February 28th 2009 at 12:11 PM from TwitterBerry: "1 caveat to Wente's piece: I was calling for shunning groups like CAF long before they called me a 'professional whore'. It's about extremism."
- March 2nd 2009: CAF sent an invitation letter to Minister Kenney for a meeting and so far has received no response.



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- March 3rd 2009: "In discharging my duties as a of Parliament, I advocate and support funding for groups that provide support for settlement services in my riding...certain negative adjectives were used to describe the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. The minister, disagreeing with their remarks, has publicly threatened to cut their funding. The minister is directly intervening, directing bureaucrats and ordering them to make certain decisions... Mr. Speaker, I ask for you to review such comments and matters and come back to this House with guidance as to the proper use of the language by members." MP Jim Karygiannis in the House of Commons.
- March 3rd 2009: "Mr. Speaker, Jewish students across the country are under siege as anti-Semites unveil their plans for Israel Apartheid Week. Liberal MPs have been quoted in the media and even today in the immigration committee saying that anti-Semitic organizations like the Canadian Arab Federation should receive taxpayer support. Will the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism explain why the government believes that Israel Apartheid Week is anti-Semitic?" – Conservative MP Paul Calandra (Oak Ridges—Markham, CPC)
- March 3rd, 2009: Alykhan Velshi, spokesman for Kenney, described the complaint filed by Liberal MP Jim Karygiannis against Kenney with the Ethics Commissioner Mary Dawson as "ridiculous" and said it was "disturbing" to see a Liberal MP standing up for a group that has made anti-Semitic comments.
- March 6th 2009: "Like many Canadians, I am deeply concerned about the activities associated with 'Israeli Apartheid Week'...It is disconcerting that university student groups would promote these gatherings in a manner that demonstrates a complete disregard for the safety and security of Jewish students and professors and the general well-being of campus life...As Minister for Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, I call on all Canadians to reject anti-Semitism." –Minister Jason Kenney's statement on Israeli Apartheid Week.
- March 7th 2009: Jason Kenney admits there is no connection between the insult and the decision to cut funding to CAF and states "When I first became Minister over 2 years ago, one of the very first things I said to my bureaucrats on the very first day in my Department of Multiculturalism was that we would not be funding groups that promote extremism, defend or apologize for terrorism or terrorist organizations and promote hatred, and as I mentioned specifically two groups: the Canadian Arab Federation and the Canadian Islamic Congress." Jason Kenney interview from AM 770 – Alberta.