

Ottawa Journal by David Tilson MP ? Enhancing the safety and security of Canadians is a commitment

Our government remains committed to helping ensure the safety and security of Canadians across the country. We have demonstrated this by taking action, such as the passing of our government's Anti-Terrorism Act, 2015. The measures included in this Act will better protect Canadians from the evolving threat of terrorism and help keep our streets and communities safe.

Our government knows that the highest calling of any government is to protect Canadians. We have never been afraid to call jihadi terrorism for what it is and we are also not afraid to confront it. We know that these terrorists oppose everything about Canadian society and our values. In fact, they hate everything that makes Canada the open, diverse and free society that so many Canadians have chosen to call home. Our government will not allow Canada to become a safe haven for terrorists.

Unfortunately, we also know that the threat of jihadi terrorism is not a future threat; it is a present reality. As most brutally demonstrated by last October's terrorist attacks in Ottawa at our National War memorial, in the Parliament Buildings and in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Canada is not immune to the threat of terrorism. The Anti-Terrorism Act, 2015 provides our police forces with the required tools to keep pace with evolving threats and better protect Canadians in Dufferin-Caledon and communities across Canada.

In line with measures taken by our allies, our government is taking additional action to ensure our police forces can counter those who advocate terrorism; prevent terrorist travel and the efforts of those who seek to use Canada as a recruiting ground; and disrupt planned attacks on Canadian soil.

The Anti-Terrorism Act, 2015 includes a comprehensive package of measures that:

- ? criminalizes the advocacy or promotion of terrorism offences in general;
- ? counters terrorist recruitment by giving our courts the authority to order the removal of terrorist propaganda online;
- ? enhances the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS)'s powers to address threats to the security of Canada while ensuring that courts maintain oversight;
- ? provides law enforcement agencies with enhanced ability to disrupt terrorism offences and terrorist activity;
- ? enhances the Passenger Protect Program by further mitigating threats to transportation security and preventing travel by air for the purpose of engaging in terrorism;
- ? makes it easier for law enforcement agencies to detain suspected terrorists before they can harm Canadians and to toughen penalties for violating court ordered conditions on terrorist suspects;
- ? enables the effective and responsible sharing of relevant national security information across federal departments and agencies to better identify and address threats;
- ? ensures that national security agencies are better able to protect and use classified information when denying entry and status to non-citizens who pose a threat to Canada; and,
- ? provides witnesses and other participants in national security proceedings and prosecutions with additional protection.

The measures included in the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2015 honour our commitment to protect Canadians and will help keep our streets and communities safe

