

Manitoba PC Caucus



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Micklefield gets unanimous support for resolution on Yazidis

All legislative members recognize importance of pushing Ottawa to fulfill commitment: Micklefield

Andrew Micklefield, MLA for Rossmere, today saw the House vote unanimously to pass his private member's resolution to have the Legislative Assembly urge the federal government to bring 1,200 Yazidi refugees to Canada. In moving his resolution, Micklefield noted Ottawa has not fulfilled a commitment it made in October 2016 to bring that number of Yazidi people to Canada after tens of thousands of them in northern Iraq have been tortured, killed or used as sex slaves at the hands of ISIS.

"I'm pleased that all members of the Legislative Assembly recognize the importance of pressing the federal government to fulfill its commitment," said Micklefield. "The persecution and suffering the Yazidi people have endured is horrific. Winnipeg is home to one of Canada's largest Yazidi communities, and with the passing of this resolution, we are telling them their family members and friends have not been forgotten in Manitoba."

On Oct. 25, 2016, the federal government recognized the Yazidis in Iraq as victims of genocide and committed to bring 1,200 Yazidi refugees to Canada within a year. However, 13 months after making this commitment, only about 650 Yazidi refugees have actually come to Canada.

The resolution calls for the federal government to prioritize victims of sex slavery and abuse. Micklefield pointed out that Yazidi women and girls have been taken by ISIS as sex slaves, often after watching their husbands, brothers and fathers killed. Many Yazidi women and girls remain enslaved in these conditions.

"These victims, who do not have a voice for themselves, have a few voices in Canada and especially in Manitoba speaking up for them," added Micklefield. "We in Manitoba await the arrival of Yazidis rescued from these horrific realities."

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