



**SYNOD OF
ALBERTA
AND THE
TERRITORIES**
Incorporated as Alberta Synod

The Office of the Bishop

10014 - 81 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB T6E 1W8

Ph: (780) 439-2636

Fax (780) 433-6623

Email: info@albertasynod.ca

www.albertasynod.ca

*Spirit -Led
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May 15, 2020

The Chief of Police
Police Headquarters
9620-103A Ave.
Edmonton , AB T5H 0H7

CC: Sergeant Gary Willits
Hate Crimes & Violent Extremism Unit
9620 103A Ave NW
Edmonton, AB T5H0H7

Dear Chief McFee,

My name is Larry Kochendorfer and I serve as the Synodical Bishop of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. I am writing to you today to voice my grave concern, and that of the Synod, its congregations and members, over the "Ramadan Bombathon" incident that threatened Al-Rashid Mosque in Edmonton.

We have learned that on April 24, 2020 an individual associated with a white supremacy hate group stalked, surveillance, and made threats towards Al-Rashid Mosque and its members in a video. This was a serious act of intimidation and provocation that led the community of faith to rightly report the incident to the police.

While this story caught the attention of several news outlets (Far-right extremists getting bolder as threatening behaviour goes unchecked, police warned. Andrea Huncar · CBC News · Posted: May 11, 2020 11:38 AM MT <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/ramadan-bombathon-edmonton-mosque-far-right-extremists-police-charges-1.5564323>) we have heard from *the National Council of Canadian Muslims* that in the subsequent two weeks no direct or meaningful action has been taken by Edmonton Police Services, its Hate Crime Unit, or the City to help the members of the Muslim community to feel safe within our city again. To our knowledge, the individual involved in the threatening video has not been charged with any offence.

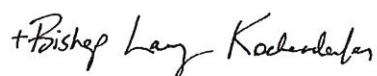
As leaders in the faith community, we are horrified that hate / white supremacy groups think they can be “allowed” to stalk, intimidate, and surveillance a place of worship during these already difficult times. It is even more heinous of an act considering the number of threats this Mosque, and many others throughout Canada have faced in the last year. January 29, 2020 marked the second anniversary of the *Islamic Cultural Center* of Quebec City shooting, during which six worshippers were killed and another nineteen were injured – an act of terror that awakened many Canadians to the fact that “home grown” hate groups are alive and well within our nation.

Upon receiving information about this incident from the *National Council of Canadian Muslims* – we wished to join our grave concern and care for our Muslim neighbors. We are certain that if a member of any racialized communities threatened to commit a series of bombings and staked out potential targets, an arrest would (and should) be made. We would like to know why that the same standard isn’t being applied here? Why have no charges, including: trespass, mischief, and/or criminal harassment, been laid?

Chief McFee, we know that the role of the Edmonton Police service is to serve and protect.

We believe that you are doing your best to fulfill the mandate of ensuring that every Edmontonian has access to a just outcome, we trust that you will do everything in your power to raise our concern that hate would not be allowed to make a home in the city of Edmonton, and that the Edmonton Police service will take seriously the concerns of the Al Rashid Mosque and the *National Council of Canadian Muslims*, and that a full investigation will take place into the event that happened April 24, 2020.

In peace, hope, and solidarity,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bishop Larry Kochendorfer".

The Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, Bishop
Synod of Alberta and the Territories - Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada