

CoHNA Welcomes Canada's First Municipal Proclamation Condemning Hinduphobia

Town of Wainwright, Alberta, Led by Mayor Bruce Pugh, Takes Historic Stand Against Anti-Hindu Hate

WAINWRIGHT, ALBERTA, CANADA, October 8, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Coalition of Hindus of North America (CoHNA) welcomes the historic proclamation by the Town of Wainwright, Alberta, which has become the first municipality in Canada to formally condemn Hinduphobia and anti-Hindu bigotry. This groundbreaking declaration addresses anti-Hindu discrimination and intolerance while reaffirming the community's commitment to diversity, equal protection, and civil rights.

The proclamation, led by Mayor Bruce Pugh and supported by the Town Council, recognizes Hinduism (Sanatana Dharma) as one of the world's oldest and largest religions, practiced by more than 1.2 billion people in over 100 countries. It highlights the major contributions of Canadian Hindus across public service, His Majesty's Canadian Armed Forces, medicine, technology, academia, business, and community life, while celebrating the global impact of Hindu traditions such as Yoga, Ayurveda, meditation, music, and cuisine, which have enriched Canadian society.

"Canada's Hindu community has long exemplified the values of hard work, family, education, and respect for the rule of law," the proclamation notes, calling Wainwright "a town that welcomes diversity and stands firmly against all forms of hate and discrimination."

"This historic step by Mayor Pugh and the Wainwright Town Council sends a powerful message that anti-Hindu hate has no place in Canadian society," said CoHNA-Canada president Rishabh



Wainwright Mayor Bruce Pugh presents the official resolution on Hinduphobia alongside CoHNA Canada president Rishabh Saraswat (right) and Wainwright resident Roshan Prasad (left), in Wainwright, Alberta, on October 7, 2025

Saraswat. “As Hindus continue to face rising bigotry, from online misinformation to temple vandalizations, such formal recognitions are vital to fostering inclusion and safety for our community.”

Across North America, municipalities and counties have begun taking similar measures to acknowledge and combat anti-Hindu hate. In 2023, Forsyth County, Georgia, became the [first US jurisdiction](#) to pass a resolution condemning anti-Hindu bigotry—an initiative spearheaded by CoHNA’s Atlanta chapter and supported by a bipartisan group of lawmakers. The Wainwright proclamation now marks an important Canadian milestone in the same direction.

Over the past few years, there has been a rash of [vandalism attacks on Canadian Hindu temples](#) and physical violence against individuals. A 2021 [Rutgers University report on Hinduphobia](#) warned of the rise of anti-Hindu discrimination online and its potential to translate into real-world violence. This is a concern echoed by many community organizations across Canada and the US. Recently, the Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD) found police-reported hate crimes against South Asians in Canada rose 227% between 2019 and 2023. Hinduphobic slurs such as “pajeet” (a term identified in the Rutgers research) appeared in 26,600 posts in Canadian contexts between May 2023 and April 2025.

“Formal recognition is critical in these matters. It ensures that when hate incidents occur—whether against Hindu temples, students, or symbols—they are understood, documented, and addressed,” added Roshan Prasad, a CoHNA member from Wainwright.

The Town of Wainwright’s proclamation stands as a model for other communities across Canada. CoHNA encourages municipalities interested in adopting similar measures to reach out for guidance and resources. Community leaders seeking to strengthen protections against religious discrimination can contact CoHNA to access template proclamations and advocacy support.

Situated on the traditional lands of the Cree Nation, Wainwright demonstrates how Canadian communities can stand against religious discrimination, foster harmony, and strengthen the country’s commitment to an inclusive society.



Proclamation by the Mayor and Councillors of the Town of Wainwright


WHEREAS Hinduism is one of the world’s largest and oldest religions with over 1.2 billion adherents in over 100 countries and which encompasses an array of diverse traditions and belief systems, also known as “Sanatana Dharma,” with the core values of acceptance, mutual respect, freedom and peace; and

WHEREAS Canada has always been a beacon of hope, progress, and innovation, attracting people from around the world to create and live a better and fulfilling life, and has welcomed more than eight hundred thousand from all over the world; where the Hindu community has been a major contributor to diverse sectors such as the public service, politics, His Majesty’s Canadian Armed Forces, information technology, medicine, science and engineering, hospitality, finance, academia, manufacturing, energy, retail trade, and so many more; and

WHEREAS Hindu contributions of Yoga, Ayurveda, meditation, food, music, arts, and more have enriched the cultural fabric and have been widely adopted in Canadian society and have uplifted the lives of millions; and

WHEREAS Canadian Hindus have worked hard, and been exemplary citizens of their adopted nation with deep respect for education, entrepreneurship, family values, due process and the rule of law; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY the Town of Wainwright that the representatives of the Town Council condemn Hinduphobia, anti-Hindu bigotry, and intolerance to all people and declare the Town of Wainwright, Alberta as a place that values equal protection and civil rights and welcomes the diversity brought by Canadian Hindus and all those who work hard, uphold family values, and contribute to our economic and social well-being.


Bruce Pugh, Mayor
October 7, 2025.

Official proclamation by the Mayor and Councillors of the Town of Wainwright, Alberta, condemning Hinduphobia and affirming the contributions of the Hindu community. Signed by Mayor Bruce Pugh on October 7, 2025.



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Roshan Prasad, a CoHNA member from Wainwright

Pushpita Prasad
Coalition of Hindus of North America

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