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**Province of
British Columbia**
Legislative Assembly



John Horgan, MLA
(Juan de Fuca)

January 30, 2017

Dear Friends,

I am writing to express solidarity with you and your community in these difficult times.

Just a few short hours ago we were gathered together to celebrate the successes of British Columbia's Muslim community. And there is much to celebrate. We are all richer for the contributions that Muslim people have made to our province, our country, and our communities.

Tragically, that celebration coincided with news of the massacre in Quebec City. We could not help thinking of those murdered in their place of worship while they knelt in peaceful prayer.

We were staggered by the magnitude of loss suffered by their families, their friends, and their community – a senseless loss driven by hatred.

The massacre that happened last night in Quebec City cannot be separated from the attacks on the fundamental rights of the Muslim community happening now in the United States.

I am appalled by both the senseless violence in our country and the rise of the politics of hatred and fear that deny refugees a safe harbour or deny people freedom of movement based on their country of birth.

Collectively, these attacks on the Muslim community have left many fearful and discouraged.

They have struck at the heart of our communities – stolen the sense of peace and security all people seek and expect in Canada.

But I want you to know that you are not alone – and we will not abandon you. We are all proud of the support your Association and many British Columbians extended to the Syrian refugees who have made B.C. their new home. Canadians welcome them, and we welcome those who can no longer seek refuge and new lives in the U.S.

As the leader of B.C.'s New Democrats, I want you to know that we will stand with you in your right to safety – your right to practice your faith, and your right to join together as a community without fear of violence.

By joining together, in a spirit of fellowship, we can make it through these troubling times.

And together we will build a stronger country, a stronger province and stronger communities – united in love and compassion, not divided by hatred and fear.

Yours sincerely,



John Horgan, MLA
Leader of the Official Opposition



Harry Bains, MLA
Spokesperson for Human Rights