

**Report to the Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration**  
**Trip to Brisbane to attend the Canada-Australia Symposium on the Radicalization of Youth**  
**from February 8, 2016 to February 13, 2016**  
**by the Hon. Vernon White**

**Objectives of Travel:**

I was invited to attend and speak at the Canada-Australia Symposium on Countering Violent Extremism and the Radicalization of Youth by the High Commissioner of Canada in Canberra. The High Commission of Canada believed that my participation in the symposium would bring a unique insight and expertise to the discussions.

**Meetings Held:**

The symposium was held over 3 days at the Griffith Criminology Institute of the Griffith University in Brisbane. The event brings together subject matter experts from Canada and Australia to discuss practical initiatives in response to radicalization of youth in both countries. First day, keynote speaker spoke about the state of youth radicalization in the West. Second day covered a wide range of topics including public perceptions and the media; issues of social cohesion; policing and security approaches; views from the community; grassroots approaches, and practical educational and community programs. Last day, the program took a broader international view with the participation of Heads of Mission from Canada, Belgium, Pakistan and the UK, as well as a final panel which I did to draw some broader comparisons between Canada and Australia.

**Achievements:**

Please see attached

**Conclusions:**

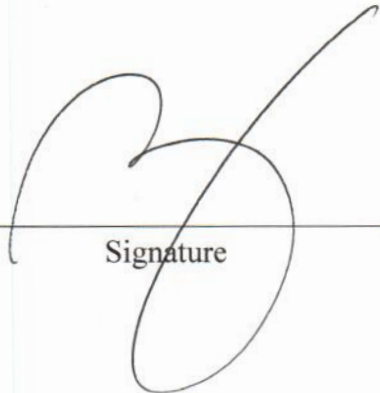
Please see attached

**Next Steps:**

- I will be publishing an article
- I developed a survey document for the use of all participants following the symposium (see attached)
- I will be working with the Canadian Embassy in Australia on future direction

**Travel Expense Report: (including all costs, per diems and total)**

Airfare (economy)	\$ 2,547.27
Taxis	\$ 218.99
Accommodation	\$ 488.19
Per diem	\$ 682.50
Other (Australian visa, in-flight wifi)	\$ 38.54
<b>Grand total:</b>	<b>\$ 3,975.49</b>



A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'B' or similar character, written over a horizontal line.

Signature

February 22, 2016

Date

## Canada-Australia Symposium on the Radicalization of Youth

Brisbane, Australia, 2016

### Countering Violent Extremism

As a result of an invitation from the High Commissioner Ambassador to Australia, Paul Maddison, I applied for and received permission from Internal Economy (steering) attended and participated in a Canada - Australia Symposium on the Radicalization of Youth in Brisbane, Australia, held February 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> 2016.

The conference was a mix of opinions, speeches and information sharing that included:

- Academic experts:
  - On countering violent extremism.
  - On the issues of youth disenfranchisement.
  - On the issues of radicalization.
  - Regarding the Middle East and the combat occurring there at this time and in the recent past.
  - The methods utilized by terrorist groups, particularly ISIS/ISIL to indoctrinate youth.
  - The methods used presently by Canadian, Australian, British and other countries to cause the disengagement and de-radicalization of youth.
- Representatives of multiple countries, Australia, Canada, Belgium and the United Kingdom at the consular level identifying the challenges and opportunities they face in relation to youth radicalization.
- Present and former representatives of the Queensland State Police, Australian Federal Police, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Canadian



Security Intelligence Service similar representatives from the Australian Security Intelligence Organization.

- Members of the Muslim Community at both religious and community levels.

The symposium looked at the challenges faced and as well at the reality of radicalization in Canada and Australia, primarily. The work presented included the success found in engaging the community and targeted youth to assist in the disengagement required as well:

- Agreement was reached, or it was primarily agreed that any solution to radicalisation must include the communities from which the radicalized youth come from and the agencies responsible, in a collaborative effort.
- That the communities where these disenfranchised youth come from are often unable to manage or cope with what they are seeing within their own families. In some cases they may have a fear of dealing directly with the authorities who can and want to help them, possibly as a result of unfamiliarity or historical realities.
- That in Canada there has been some significant movement as a result of the community engagement initiative put forward with communities, and the police have been successful at intervening early in some significant cases including May, 2015 when Montreal Police and the RCMP arrested ten youth who were boarding an aircraft heading to Syria via Turkey to join the Jihad

There was also discussion regarding the facts that both Canada and Australia has faced youth based criminal behaviour in our communities previously, different than what we are facing now but if we consider the foundations that influence the decisions being made by young people, we may also be able to find the solutions. In challenges where youth were finding themselves on a destructive path

criminally we have focussed energy on the development of strategies falling within the realm of crime prevention through social development (CPSD).

Overall the session was an excellent dialogue between interested and engaged partners and resulted in the formation of a strong foundation of understanding, of the issues, the at risk community and the responses being presented in both countries.

As a senator I presented discussion in the panels regarding issues faced and communities targeted by ISIS and as well presented as the closing speaker on the challenges and opportunities seen in Canada including responses to crime, responses to violence, police and political response.

# Canada-Australia Symposium on the Radicalization of Youth

## Symposium Questionnaire

Thank you for taking the time to complete this short survey. Your feedback is important to us and will be essential in the development of any future symposium.

1. Overall, how would you rate your experience of attending the Symposium?

Excellent \_\_\_\_\_

Very Satisfied \_\_\_\_\_

Satisfied \_\_\_\_\_

Disappointed \_\_\_\_\_

Very Disappointed \_\_\_\_\_

2. Would you be interested in participating in future Symposiums?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

3. Would you like to be a speaker at future Symposiums?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

Maybe \_\_\_\_\_

4. Would you like to help organize future Symposiums?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

Maybe \_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you prefer notice of events through email or in printed hard copy invitation format?

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Hard Copy \_\_\_\_\_

Both \_\_\_\_\_

No preference \_\_\_\_\_

6. How would you rate the pre-registration process?

Poor \_\_\_\_\_

Below Average \_\_\_\_\_

Average \_\_\_\_\_

Above Average \_\_\_\_\_

Excellent \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

7. How would you rate (using these ratings) the following in relationship to the Symposium?

Poor                                      Below Average                                      Average

Above Average                                      Excellent                                      N/A

**Conference Content Poor**

Poor \_\_\_\_\_

Below Average \_\_\_\_\_

Average \_\_\_\_\_

Above Average \_\_\_\_\_

Excellent \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation and administration of the conference

Poor \_\_\_\_\_

Below Average \_\_\_\_\_

Average \_\_\_\_\_

Above Average \_\_\_\_\_

Excellent \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

**On-Site Registration**

Poor \_\_\_\_\_

Below Average \_\_\_\_\_

Average \_\_\_\_\_

Above Average \_\_\_\_\_

Excellent \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

**On-Site Registration**

Poor \_\_\_\_\_

Below Average \_\_\_\_\_

Average \_\_\_\_\_

Above Average \_\_\_\_\_

Excellent \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

8. How would you rate the following services provided during the Symposium?

**Venue**

Poor \_\_\_\_\_

Below Average \_\_\_\_\_

Average \_\_\_\_\_

Above Average \_\_\_\_\_

Excellent \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

**Signage around the building to the event**

Poor \_\_\_\_\_

Below Average \_\_\_\_\_

Average \_\_\_\_\_

Above Average \_\_\_\_\_

Excellent \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

**Opening Dinner**

Poor \_\_\_\_\_

Below Average \_\_\_\_\_

Average \_\_\_\_\_

Above Average \_\_\_\_\_

Excellent \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

**Coffee Breaks**

Poor \_\_\_\_\_

Below Average \_\_\_\_\_

Average \_\_\_\_\_

Above Average \_\_\_\_\_

Excellent \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_



**Lunch on Day 1**

- Poor \_\_\_\_\_
- Below Average \_\_\_\_\_
- Average \_\_\_\_\_
- Above Average \_\_\_\_\_
- Excellent \_\_\_\_\_
- Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

**Location map**

- Poor \_\_\_\_\_
- Below Average \_\_\_\_\_
- Average \_\_\_\_\_
- Above Average \_\_\_\_\_
- Excellent \_\_\_\_\_
- Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

**Information about the Symposium before the event**

- Poor \_\_\_\_\_
- Below Average \_\_\_\_\_
- Average \_\_\_\_\_
- Above Average \_\_\_\_\_
- Excellent \_\_\_\_\_
- Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

9. How would you rate the presentations of the Symposium as follows?

**Wednesday 10 February 2016**

6.30pm-9.30pm - Dinner and keynote speaker, Customs House

Keynote speaker: Mr. Phil Gurski, Borealis Threat and Risk Consulting (CAN), What is the state of youth radicalisation in the West?

- Poor \_\_\_\_\_
- Below Average \_\_\_\_\_
- Average \_\_\_\_\_
- Above Average \_\_\_\_\_
- Excellent \_\_\_\_\_
- Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Comments

Thursday 11 February 2016

**9:00am - 10:15 am - Theme 1: *Public perceptions, public attitudes, the media and social cohesion***

Chair: Dr. Clarke Jones, Co-Director, Australian Intervention Support Hub (AISH) (Deakin University/ ANU)

Speakers:

9.00 am - 9:15am Professor Mohamad Abdalla, Griffith University (AUS), *The Muslim community's perception of the causes of radicalisation*

Poor \_\_\_\_\_

Below Average \_\_\_\_\_

Average \_\_\_\_\_

Above Average \_\_\_\_\_

Excellent \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Comments

9.15am-9.30am Mr. Phil Gurski, Borealis Threat and Risk Consulting (CAN), *How do public perceptions affect counter-radicalisation work?*

Poor \_\_\_\_\_

Below Average \_\_\_\_\_

Average \_\_\_\_\_

Above Average \_\_\_\_\_

Excellent \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Comments

9.30am-9.45am Assistant Professor Jocelyn Belanger, Université du Quebec a Montreal (CAN), *Playing Right into the Hands of Terrorists: A lesson on Political Jiu-Jitsu*

Poor \_\_\_\_\_

Below Average \_\_\_\_\_

Average \_\_\_\_\_

Above Average \_\_\_\_\_

Excellent \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Comments

**10.35am-12.00 - Theme 2: Policing and security- challenges and responses**

Chair and moderator: Mr. Phil Gurski, Borealis Threat and Risk Consulting (CAN)

Speakers:

10.35am -10.50am Dr. Angela Workman-Stark, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, *A collaborative approach to preventing radicalization to violence*

Poor \_\_\_\_\_

Below Average \_\_\_\_\_

Average \_\_\_\_\_

Above Average \_\_\_\_\_

Excellent \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Comments

10.50 am-11.05am Dr. Jenny Cartwright, Australian Federal Police, *Countering violent extremism through diversion - the Australian experience*

Poor \_\_\_\_\_

Below Average \_\_\_\_\_

Average \_\_\_\_\_

Above Average \_\_\_\_\_

Excellent \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Comments

11.05am-11.20am Inspector Michael Crowley, Security and Counter-Terrorism Group, *Queensland Police Service (QPS), The CVE quandary- The QPS Response*

Poor \_\_\_\_\_

Below Average \_\_\_\_\_

Average \_\_\_\_\_

Above Average \_\_\_\_\_

Excellent \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Comments

11.20am-11.35am Dr. Clarke Jones (Deakin/ANU), *The role of police in community-led intervention - the challenge of current police-led models in Australia*

Poor \_\_\_\_\_

Below Average \_\_\_\_\_

Average \_\_\_\_\_

Above Average \_\_\_\_\_

Excellent \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Comments

11.35am-12.00pm Moderated panel session and questions

Poor \_\_\_\_\_

Below Average \_\_\_\_\_

Average \_\_\_\_\_

Above Average \_\_\_\_\_

Excellent \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Comments

**1.00-2.15pm - Theme 3: A view from the community**

Moderator: Professor Mohamad Abdalla, Griffith University

Speakers/panel members:

1.00pm-1.05pm Mr. Ali Kadri, Youth Office, Islamic Council of Queensland, *Countering alienation and radicalisation - a grassroots approach*

Poor \_\_\_\_\_

Below Average \_\_\_\_\_

Average \_\_\_\_\_

Above Average \_\_\_\_\_

Excellent \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Comments

1.05pm-1.10pm Ms. Amna Karra-Hassan, AFP NSW Community Liaison

Poor \_\_\_\_\_  
Below Average \_\_\_\_\_  
Average \_\_\_\_\_  
Above Average \_\_\_\_\_  
Excellent \_\_\_\_\_  
Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Comments

1.10pm-1.15pm Ms. Yasmin Khan, Multicultural Ambassador for QLD; Vice President, Ethnic Communities Council of QLD, *Are Radicalised Youth only Muslim?*

Poor \_\_\_\_\_  
Below Average \_\_\_\_\_  
Average \_\_\_\_\_  
Above Average \_\_\_\_\_  
Excellent \_\_\_\_\_  
Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Comments

1.15pm-1.20pm Ms. Widyan Fares, Multicultural NSW, and media consultant for the Lebanese Muslim Association, *Community Engagement and the online public debate*

Poor \_\_\_\_\_  
Below Average \_\_\_\_\_  
Average \_\_\_\_\_  
Above Average \_\_\_\_\_  
Excellent \_\_\_\_\_  
Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Comments

1.20pm- 1.25pm Associate Professor Adrian Cherney, University of Queensland, *What does Australian research say about Muslim community attitudes towards counter-terrorism and counter-radicalisation efforts?*

Poor \_\_\_\_\_  
Below Average \_\_\_\_\_  
Average \_\_\_\_\_



Above Average \_\_\_\_\_

Excellent \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Comments

1.25pm- 2.15pm Moderated panel session and questions

Poor \_\_\_\_\_

Below Average \_\_\_\_\_

Average \_\_\_\_\_

Above Average \_\_\_\_\_

Excellent \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Comments

**2.45-4.15pm - Theme 4: *Educational and community developments, programmes, strategies: what can be done, what works***

Speakers:

2.45pm-3.00pm Phil Gurski (CAN), *Working with communities - an example of success in Canada*

Chair: Dr. Clarke Jones

3.00pm-3.15pm Assistant Professor Jocelyn Belanger (CAN), *Harnessing the power of individuals' search for meaning: Montreal's and Sri Lanka's de-radicalization programmes*

Poor \_\_\_\_\_

Below Average \_\_\_\_\_

Average \_\_\_\_\_

Above Average \_\_\_\_\_

Excellent \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Comments

3.15pm-3.30pm Associate Professor Adrian Cherney, *What are the lessons from crime prevention policy and practice for programs aimed at countering radicalization and violent extremism?*

Poor \_\_\_\_\_

Below Average \_\_\_\_\_

Average \_\_\_\_\_

Above Average \_\_\_\_\_

Excellent \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Comments

**Friday 12 February 2016**

**9.00am-10.00am - First Session: International Panel**

Moderator: *Mr. Richard C. Smith AO PSM*

Heads of Mission

Canada

Pakistan

UK

Belgium

Poor \_\_\_\_\_

Below Average \_\_\_\_\_

Average \_\_\_\_\_

Above Average \_\_\_\_\_

Excellent \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Comments

**10.30am-11.30am - Second session: Australian/Canadian viewpoints**

Professor Greg Barton, (AUS)

Poor \_\_\_\_\_

Below Average \_\_\_\_\_

Average \_\_\_\_\_

Above Average \_\_\_\_\_

Excellent \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Comments

Senator Vernon White, (CAN)

Poor \_\_\_\_\_

Below Average \_\_\_\_\_

Average \_\_\_\_\_

Above Average \_\_\_\_\_

Excellent \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Comments

10. What topics would you like to see covered in the next Symposium?

Comments

11. Please provide us with your valuable feedback and comments. Thank you. (limit to 250 words).

Comments

12. If you would like us to contact you about future meetings please add your contact details below.

Name:

Company:

Email Address:

Mobile Number: