

# Independent Jewish Voices (IJV) Guided Bus Tour in Montreal

*In the heart of the Israeli occupation of Palestine*  
Sept. 26, 2015



*Showing How the Occupation has  
Been Globalized\**

## Why we are here

The Israel **Defence Forces (IDF)** are the armed forces of the State of Israel. Over the years, they have repeatedly attacked each of the countries and territories bordering on Israel, most recently the Gaza Strip. For nearly 50 years, they have enforced a repressive regime based

on concepts of apartheid (“*hafrada*” in Hebrew) in the occupied Palestinian West Bank. The IDF have many partners in Canada, a number of them located in the Montreal area. We will be seeing some of them today.

Israel's defence market, estimated to have reached a value of \$15 billion in 2013 and \$17 billion in 2014, is the third largest in the Middle East. With defence-related exports estimated at approximately \$6.45 billion in 2013, Israel ranks in the top five global defence manufacturers. According to Israel's Ministry of Defence, approximately 80% of Israeli defence sales are to overseas customers, including Canada.

Military cooperation between Canada and Israel takes several forms, including the import and export of sophisticated high-tech equipment and university-based research.

In addition, Canadian maintains troops and RCMP officers in the occupied territories under several guises, including Operation Proteus, which has the mission of training Palestinian Authority security forces, consisting largely of militarized police officers. This represents Canada's largest overseas military deployment outside Afghanistan and has come to form the greatest single aspect of Canada's “humanitarian” aid to Palestine.

The **Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement**, in force since January 1997, has eliminated customs duties on industrial and military products. Since then, bilateral merchandise trade between Canada and Israel has more than doubled, going from \$507.3 million in 1996 to more than \$1.4 billion in 2013. On January 21, 2014, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his Israeli counterpart, Benjamin Netanyahu, announced a Memorandum of Understanding regarding a **Canada-Israel Strategic Partnership Agreement**. This involves broader relations in defence, the strengthening of anti-terrorist collaboration and the broadening of the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement. Military cooperation between Canada and Israel has grown exponentially since the Harper government was elected in 2006.

Montreal & Quebec governments. The Montreal Mayor is working with the Israel lobby to draft hate-crime laws that are sure to target critics of Israel as ant-Semites. Israel trains Canadian municipal police departments in Israel on 'counter-insurgency' practiced on the Palestinians, which is then used here against local protesters. Quebec and Canada have numerous trade and security agreements with Israel. **Israel's Magal Security Systems** sells to Canadian prisons.

**CAE Inc.**, based in the Montreal borough of Saint-Laurent, describes itself as “a global leader in providing comprehensive training solutions based on world-leading simulation technology and integrated training services.” The company is also a Canadian leader in military exports to Israel. The Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec and the Fonds de solidarité FTQ are among CAE's major shareholders.

Under the terms of a contract with the Israeli company **Elbit Systems**, CAE provides items for flight simulators used in training Israeli military pilots. A training centre was opened in Israeli in September 2014. Elbit, a major supplier of weapons and surveillance systems to the Israel Defence Forces, guarantees to its international clients that all its products have been rigorously tested and used in armed conflicts, including conflicts with Palestinians.

**Rheinmetall Canada Inc.**, based in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, near Montreal, selected Elbit Systems as a key strategic partner as part of a contract to supply satellite communication systems to the Canadian Armed Forces.

**General Dynamics Corporation**, a major worldwide military contractors, supplies Israel with artillery ammunition and bombs for its fighter jets, including those used in the Gaza attack. The company, based in the Washington suburb of Fairfax, operates a production facility in the Montreal suburb of Repentigny.

The engines for the Bell Cobra helicopter used by the Israeli air force are produced by **Pratt & Whitney Canada** in the Montreal area, along with other helicopter models made in Mirabel by **Bell Helicopter Textron Canada**.

**Alphacasting Inc.**, based in Saint-Laurent borough, produces precision military equipment, including night vision goggles, rifles, radar devices, tanks and missiles, and it exports some of its products to Israel.

Montreal's universities are among the institutions that play a role in the enforcement of "hafrada" (Israel's official name for apartheid).

To give just one example, at **McGill University**, Prof. Derek Ruths and his Network Dynamics Lab collaborate with police, military and intelligence agencies in **developing tools for the**

**surveillance of social networks**. In November 2014, Prof. Ruths spoke at the opening sessions of a Canada-Israel symposium on security held pursuant to an agreement between the two governments.

A number of researchers from McGill's engineering department have collaborated over the years in projects with companies exporting military technology to Israel, including **Lockheed Martin**, as well as with Israel's **Technion** Institute, a university leader in this area.

**Concordia University** also has ties with Technion Institute. **McGill** and **Université de Montréal** are involved with Israel in military drone research. UdeM has so far refused to divulge information about its research.

**Bombardier** divested its military aerospace line, but is heavily involved in Israel's transportation system. They recently lost a bid to handle the Israeli light rail train system operating in occupied Jerusalem.

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by **Independent Jewish Voices**

www.ijv.ca    montreal@ijvcanada.org

Montreal Palestinian solidarity organizations:

**BDS Quebec** - <http://bdsquebec.ca/b/>

**Palestiniens et Juifs Unis (PAJU)** <http://pajumontreal.org/>

**Tadamon!** <http://www.tadamon.ca/>

**CJPME** - <http://www.cjpme.org/>

**\*Sources of the information in this brochure:**

*"Tract: Occupation tour en bus – les sources d'information / Montreal Israel Occupation bus tour links"*

<http://ijvcanada.org/montreal-bus-tour-flyer/>

also

<http://www.ijv.ca> then click on menu: "Campaigns", then "[Challenging Canada-Israel Pacification](#)"