



CANADIAN MUSLIM
PUBLIC AFFAIRS
COUNCIL

CMPAC POLICY BRIEF

September 2025

Overview

This policy brief from the Canadian Muslim Public Affairs Council (CMPAC) provides Members of Parliament with urgent priorities and recommendations on Canada's role regarding Palestine. It summarizes the position of Muslim communities across Canada and highlights concrete policy actions for Parliament.

Key Issues & Recommendations

1. Netanyahu's Gaza Takeover Plan and Ongoing Genocide

[Israel's announced full military occupation of Gaza](#) amid mass killings, deliberate starvation, and the [targeting of journalists](#) constitutes war crimes. Canada must not enable these violations.

Recommendations:

- Suspend and terminate CIFTA, blocking preferential trade with illegal settlements.
- Impose targeted sanctions on Israeli political, military, and corporate actors, including arms and drone manufacturers.
- Ensure Canada complies with ICJ orders: end all military, diplomatic, and economic support enabling genocide.
- Demand large-scale humanitarian access by land and safeguard aid neutrality.

2. Support for the Private Member's Bill – "No More Loopholes Act"

This bill closes gaps that allow individuals and entities complicit in war crimes to enter and operate in Canada, undermining Canada's obligations under international law.

Recommendations:

- Support and second the [No More Loopholes Act](#).
- Cancel all existing arms export permits to Israel, including indirect exports via the U.S.
- Strengthen enforcement mechanisms with transparency, oversight, and reporting requirements.

3. Recognition of Palestinian Statehood

[Canada has pledged to recognize Palestine at the UN General Assembly](#). Delays erode Canada's credibility and weaken its human rights commitments.

Recommendations:

- Formally recognize the state of Palestine at UNGA.
- Encourage MPs to publicly advocate for recognition in debates, committees, and public statements.
- Integrate recognition into Canada's foreign policy framework, ensuring alignment with international law.

4. Opposition to Federal Buffer Zone Legislation

Proposed federal "buffer zone" legislation goes far beyond local bylaws, carrying nationwide implications for free expression. While framed as community protection, it risks disproportionately targeting Muslim and pro-Palestinian advocacy, chilling dissent and undermining Charter-protected freedoms.

Recommendations:

- Oppose the introduction of federal buffer zone legislation.
- Highlight risks of selective enforcement against Muslim and pro-Palestinian communities.
- Pursue non-legislative approaches that protect all Canadians equally while safeguarding freedoms of expression and assembly.

Updates and Additional Resources

Humanitarian Updates

- UN OCHA [Gaza Humanitarian Situation Updates](#): Regular United Nations reporting on humanitarian access, casualties, displacement, and critical needs in Gaza.

Further Resources

- CMPAC Statement on [Netanyahu's Gaza Takeover Plan](#): CMPAC's official position and urgent calls for Canada to condemn Israel's announced military occupation of Gaza.
- *Arms Embargo Coalition Report*: [armsembargonow.ca/report](#) - A joint civil society report dated July 29, 2025 detailing Canada's legal obligations under international law and the urgent need for a two-way arms embargo on Israel.
- CJPME: [No More Loopholes Act](#) - Background and updates on the federal private member's bill that closes loopholes allowing human rights violators to enter and operate in Canada.
- CJPME Research: [Buffer Zone Laws and Civil Liberties](#) - Policy analysis outlining risks of proposed "buffer zone" legislation for free expression and pro-Palestinian advocacy in Canada.