



33rd ISNA Canada Annual Convention

The Ottawa Congress Centre
May 19-20, 2007



Shaping a Canadian Muslim Identity



O mankind! Behold We have created you all out of a male and a female, and have made you into nations and tribe, so that you might come to know one another. Verily, the noblest of you in the sight of God is the one who is the most deeply conscious of Him. Behold, God is all-knowing, all-aware. 49:13

Program ISNA :: MSA :: MYNA

Islamic Society of North America (ISNA Canada)

2200 South Sheridan Way, Mississauga, Ontario L5J 2M4 URL: <http://www.isnacanada.com/>

WHO IS WHO AT THE ISNA CANADA CONVENTION

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Program Associate Chair Shelina Merani
Program Associate Chair Salah Basalamah
Program Associate Chair Sheema Khan

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Ghulam Nabi
Mohamed Sheibani
Safiah Chowdhry
Hamzah Moin
Urouje Syed
Iman Faris
Mohammad Ashraf
Syed Imtiaz Ahmad
Imam Zijad Delic
Zamil Zaman

Advisors:

Gamal Badawi
Syed Afaq Moin
Mukhtar Ahmad

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Pervez Nasim
Mohammad Khadim
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Lubna Ashraf
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Convention sponsored by the following groups:





33RD ANNUAL ISNA CANADA CONVENTION

Shaping a Canadian Muslim Identity


The theme of this year's convention - Shaping a Canadian Muslim identity - raises issues of vital concern to Muslims in Canada, today and tomorrow.

If we are to shape a Canadian Muslim identity, we must first understand what makes up a Muslim identity, and its corollary, a Canadian identity.

How are we to define a "Canadian Muslim identity?" Does our definition have a place for spirituality? Above and beyond facile slogans and seductive rallying cries, what are its underlying precepts? Are we capable of framing the issue as more than a simple matter of immigration policy?

After more than a century of Muslim presence in the West in general, and in Canada in particular, are we finally in a position to shed light upon the relationship between our multiple identities, origins, nationalities and cultures?

Finally, is it not time to articulate a more complex, more rewarding challenge: to develop a position of principle based first and foremost on our loyalty to universal values (merely than to a country) to be respected and preserved above all? This is the challenge that lies before us.





A Message from the Convention Organizers

Assalamu Alaikhum and greetings of peace,

On behalf of the Muslim Community of Ottawa, welcome brothers and sisters in humanity to the National Capital Region as we gather for the 33rd ISNA Canada 's Annual Convention, **Shaping a Canadian Muslim Identity**. Fortunately, rgw Convention also falls during the reknown Tulip festival.

It has been a wonderful experience organizing the program and working with so many dedicted individual who gave up their time to make this possible. May Allah (SWT) reward them all. We pray that the next two days will be stimulating, challenging, a source of continual reflection and an opportunity for fraternal exchanges.

The entire convention can be summed up with the following fundamental question: **how can we be fully Muslim and fully Canadian**. We cannot let ourselves, nor anyone else, consider that we are less than who we are: Canadian citizens.

During this convention, we are asking you to think about moving forward from *integration* - simply becoming a member of this society – to contribution, being a source of richness for Canadian society. *The Prophet Muhammads example (peace be upon him) provides inspiration and ideal model for creating spaces for greater mutual knowledge, dialogue, and encounter with each other and the outside.*

The Convention also hopes to raise the bar of public awareness and provide opportunities for Muslims and non-Muslims to engage in dialogue.

“And among his signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the variations in your languages and your colors. Verily in that are signs for those who know.”(30:22). This verse helps us reflect on whether after more than a century of Muslim presence in Canada, whether we can *finally* negotiate the relationship between our multiple identities, origins, nationalities and cultures which defines a Canadian mosaic based on our universal values. This is *our* question to define.

I hope that you will enjoy this convention and be inspired and be able to act upon it when return to your respective spaces.

Although I will not be with you physically due to ill health, I will be with you in spirit, inshallah, I wish you all a successful convention.

Wassalam,

Sister Khadija Haffajee
Chairperson, Program Committee
ISNA Canada Convention



Saturday May 19, 2007

9:00 - 9:45am

SESSION 1

Opening Session

Welcome by president of ISNA Canada, MSA, MYNA and Program Committee
Syed Imtiaz Ahmad, Zainab Khan, Safiah Chowdhary, Salah Basalamah
Introduction of the Convention theme, "Shaping a Canadian Muslim Identity."

Moderator
Afaq Moin

Room BCFG

10:00 - 11:15am

SESSION 2

Being Muslim, Being Canadian

Being Muslim and being Canadian may seem incompatible at first. On the one hand, media-driven popular perceptions assume Islam and the West to be incompatible; on the other hand, there seems to be a divide between religion and Canadian citizenship. This session will explore the dynamic implications of the two ideas, and raise key questions, including: What are the religious, social, political and cultural relationships that lie behind these two concepts? How can we distinguish between identity and culture? What are the components of a universal Muslim identity? Is it possible to construct a Western Muslim identity? What would be its cultural roots?

Speakers
Muneer Fareed, Ziyad Delic, Tariq Ramadan
Moderator
Faisal Kutty

Room BCFG

SESSION 2b

Financial Institutions

Islamic Financing, Insurance & Healthcare

Speakers *Mohammed Jalaluddin & Pervez Nasim*
Moderator *Pervez Nasim*

Key Points of Islamic Inheritance Law

Speaker *Monzer Kahf*

Room A

11:30 - 12:45pm

Session 3

Multiple Identities

Throughout the journey of life, our identity evolves and is transformed. Indeed, we cannot speak of just one identity, but

sets of identities - each shaped by our immediate environment. The following sessions (a,b,c) explore how our family life, school/work environment, community, culture and Islamic values shape our identity and our duty to pursue knowledge, critical thinking and openness wherever we find ourselves.

SESSION 3a

Multiple identities: Balancing family and work

The Prophet (pbuh) tells us that parents play the most important role in shaping the religious identity of their children. The family environment is not only central to the well-being of children, but of adults as well. Schools also influence how identity is shaped. In addition, in many families both parents work outside the home. How can we maintain a sense of Muslim identity, while balancing the demands of work/school/home?

Speakers
Kathy Bullock, Rida M Beshir
Moderator
Muneerudin Ahmad

Room A

SESSION 3b

Multiple identities: Our role in communities

The importance of community in shaping identity cannot be underestimated. Globally Muslims have always identified with the worldwide Ummah. Locally, we come together for such diverse reasons as religious observances, charitable projects and social events. What role does community play in shaping our identity?

Speakers
Ahmad Kutty, Muhammad Al Shareef
Moderator
Bader Siddiqui

Room E

SESSION 3c

How does religion/culture form identity?

It is often argued that worship lies at the core of Muslim Identity. How one relates to Allah is the defining feature of a Muslim's personality. But this relationship is also contingent on one's environment or local culture. Our scholars have long recognized that local cultural context must be taken into account when developing fiqh and shar'iah, giving Islam its tremendous flexibility. How does the principle of cultural context apply to shaping the identity of Canadian Muslims?

Speakers
Iqbal Nadvi, Altaf Hussein
Moderator
Tyseer Abounasr

Room BCFG

12:45 - 2:30pm

Lunch, Salat ul Zuhr, MSA Action Hour

2:30 - 3:45pm

SESSION 4a

Les Aspects universels d'une identité musulmane

Il semble au premier abord que la combinaison musulmane et canadienne soit incompatible. Pas tant en raison de l'incapacité présumée de l'Islam à faire partie d'un pays occidental à part entière, qu'en raison de la distinction fondamentale qu'il faudrait voir entre religion et citoyenneté. Quelles relations possibles entre ces deux concepts ? Quelles distinctions faut-il faire entre identité et culture ? Quels sont les éléments constitutifs d'une identité musulmane universelle ? Une identité musulmane occidentale est-elle même possible ? Et de quelle culture devrait-elle être ?

Conférencier

Tariq Ramadan

Modérateur

Mohamed Bekkari

Room A

SESSION 4b

Searching from the Seerat: lessons for today's Canadian Muslims.

The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) received and transmitted the last revealed Book, the Qur'an. At once a Prophet, a bearer of Good Tidings, a model, and a guide, he was a critical thinker who used reason to translate the Word of God into practicable ethics. This session will explore examples from his life that will help Canadian Muslims grasp Islamic spiritual teachings and adapt them to our times. It will also explore how his life was first and foremost focused on the concept of love, and how this example can be used by Canadian Muslims to create spaces for greater mutual knowledge, dialogue, and encounter with each other and the outside.

Speakers

Ahmad Kutty, Ziaullah Khan

Moderator

Fred Reed

Room E

SESSION 4c

Security Policies, Civil Liberties and Global Realities: Understanding differing perspectives

Following the recent Supreme Court decision restricting the use of security certificates and the vote in the House of Commons to curtail the special legal powers of authorities to detain and interrogate terrorism suspects, what are the perceived successes and failures in Canadian anti-terrorism efforts, what responsibility do Muslims have in shaping the security discourse, protecting civil liberties and negotiating the tensions between the two and how can they remain

critically vigilant in maintaining the right Canadian balance.

Speakers

Faisal Kutty, Yavar Hameed, Sophie Harkat

Moderator

Sarah El Ghazzar

Room BCFG

4:00 - 5:30pm

SESSION 5

From Integration to Contribution

How can Muslims become a source of richness for Canadian society? By moving forward from integration - simply becoming a member of a society - to contribution; to being proactive and offering something to the society. In this way, the presence, contribution and participation of Muslims should make a difference, not because of their otherness, but because of the singular richness they bring to their social environment. This session will explore the concrete ways that Muslims-with their spirituality, ethics and creativity-can contribute, become more visible, make their voices heard...and refuse to withdraw into religious, cultural, or social ghettos.

SESSION 5a

Second Generation Participation

As the first generation of immigrants plants roots in the host society, their children "the second generation" grow up as beneficiaries of their parents' noble efforts. At the same time, Muslim converts must deal with a host of challenges in negotiating their new faith. Facing the dilemma of maintaining multiple identities, they all try to remain true to their principles of belief. The journey of integration becomes a journey of participation and contribution to the wider society. Resisting the temptation to become "ghettoized", many second-generation Muslims are finding their unique voice and confidence as full participants in Canadian society.

Speakers

Noha Beshir, Yaser Haddara

Moderator

Muhammad Sheibani

Room A

SESSION 5b

Civic Participation and Partnership: Towards a global perspective

To build trust, shared commitment and mutual understanding, Muslims and their fellow-citizens are recognizing and understanding the need to work together for the betterment of society as a whole. In respect for the identities, feelings and complexities of those who do not share their faith, citizens of different religions, cultures and

sensitivities are ready to take up the challenge in the name of the values they share.

Speakers

Omar Al Ghabra, Hamdi Mohamed, David Pepper

Moderator

Shelina Merani

Room E

SESSION 5c

Muslims and the Media: Manufactured fear vs. Mutual understanding and trust

How can Muslims make their voices heard against the constant barrage of negative portrayal in the media? What responsibility must they assume in countering manufactured fear with a message of mutual understanding and trust? This session will explore practical ways for Muslims to empower themselves in an often-hostile media environment.

Speakers

Fred A. Reed, Jennifer Green, Sheema Khan,

Moderator

Azhar Alikhan

Room: BCFG

5:30 - 7:15pm

Salat ul Asr and Dinner

7:15-8:45pm

SESSION 6

Rethinking Canadian Multiculturalism: Towards a shared citizenship

Multiculturalism has been part of official Canadian government policy since the 1970's. Is it still relevant today? Can the policy of multiculturalism, in its present form, serve the Canadian vision? It may provide a limited sense of heritage, but can it hold a nation together? One of the answers may be found in a new movement currently talking hold in Canada called "Shared Citizenship." What role can Muslims play in building a shared sense of citizenship while remaining faithful to their principles?

Speakers

Ingrid Mattson, Leslie Seidle, Tariq Ramadan

Moderator

Sheema Khan

Room BCFG

8:45pm

Salat Maghrib

9:00-10:15pm

SESSION 7

Envisioning the future - What, How?

Thousands of Canadian Muslims are integrating seamlessly within this society while at the same time, living a climate of constant scrutiny. The coming years won't get any easier. Instead of constantly reacting to

situations that put Muslims on the defensive, this session will explore some fundamental questions: Are we ready to undertake a lasting vision and a pro-active contribution? What kind of institutions can we build to nurture knowledge about Islam, but which can also serve the society we live in?

Speakers

Ingrid Mattson, Muneer Fareed,

Tariq Ramadan,

Moderator

Imtiaz Ahmad

Room BCFG

10:20pm

Salat al-Isha

SUNDAY MAY 20

10:00-11:30am

SESSION 8

Beyond a minority mindset

Immigrants in Canada are represented, and represent themselves, as minorities. Census figures would appear to confirm this view. But is this a definition that serves the interests of Muslims citizens and immigrants? Are there psychological pitfalls associated with the use of words like "minority?" By defining ourselves as a minority, are we impeding our integration into Canadian society? What are the alternative perspectives Muslims can adopt in order to further recognition of their contribution to life in Canada?

Speakers

Maliha Chisti, Tariq Ramadan

Moderator

Abdul - Basit Khan

Room BCFG

11:30-12:45pm

SESSION 9A

Seeking common ground within: local and global perspectives

Perhaps because of their extraordinary diversity, we often fail to identify and describe the Muslim communities of Canada as parts of a broad, pluralist entity. While we emphasize the necessity of openness toward our fellow citizens, irrespective of their origins or religious beliefs, we frequently forget to apply the same standards to our own diversity. As Muslims, what are our challenges, our internal priorities? How are we to overcome our differences? How should our self-awareness be shaped? What operating principles should guide us in our pursuit of local and national objectives?

Speakers
Tyseer Aboulnasr,
Hamid Slimi, Ali Sbeiti,
Moderator
Muneeb Nasir

Room BCFG

SESSION 9B

Une identité d'abord spirituelle

L'identité musulmane est mise au défi aujourd'hui plus que jamais. Mais alors qu'elle est souvent assimilée aux cultures des différentes provenances des immigrants du Canada à la fois par les musulmans et par leurs concitoyens, il devient urgent non seulement de la distinguer de ces dernières, mais de tenter d'en définir les contours. Qu'est-ce que l'identité musulmane ? Quelles en sont les caractéristiques ? En quoi est-elle universelle ? Est-elle compatible avec l'identité canadienne ou occidentale d'une manière plus générale ?

Conférencier
Tariq Ramadan
Moderateur
Abdourahman Kahin

Room A

SESSION 9C

Interfaith Collaboration: beyond dialogue

The recognition of universal common values and peaceful co-existence are grounded in principles such as equality and justice, as articulated in the holy Qur'an. These principles enjoin human beings to unite in their civic duty to uphold concern for the moral and social well being of all. This session will discuss how, far from diluting one's commitment to his or her faith tradition, interfaith dialogue and action can be seen as an opportunity for Muslims and non-Muslims to live these values, and deepen that commitment by becoming a catalyst for personal, social and cultural transformation.

Speakers
Abdul Rashid, Bernie Farber, Jean Goulet
Moderator
Mazhar Hasan

Room E

12:30 - 1:30

Salat ul Zuhr and Lunch

1:30 - 2:15pm

SESSION 10

ISNA Business

Room BCFG

2:15 - 3:45pm

SESSION 11a

Repenser l'interculturalisme québécois

Le Québec s'est distingué du reste de la confédération canadienne en énonçant l'interculturalisme pour son projet

socioculturel. Sa spécificité apparaît notamment par le fait qu'il revendique une relation dynamique entre les différentes communautés culturelles qui le composent plutôt qu'une juxtaposition statique de ces dernières. Or, qu'en est-il dans les faits ? À la lumière des derniers débats de société qui ont récemment fait rage au Québec, en quoi l'interculturalisme qu'on y promeut est-il ou n'est-il pas un échec ? Quel bilan peut-on en faire au lendemain des élections de la Belle Province ?

Conférencier
Fred Reed, Salah Basalamah
Moderateur
Salah Basalamah

Room A

SESSION 11b

Are Canadian Muslims going green? Facing the environmental challenge.

In the Islamic worldview, human beings are God's vicegerents on Earth. They do not enjoy absolute autonomy, but have been entrusted with the Guardianship of the Earth. The Islamic tradition is rich in references to questions as fundamental as the protection of the environment, animal rights and the definition of human responsibility. Today, the environmental challenge has become a major concern for many Canadians. Is this simply another fashionable political issue-or are we witnessing the birth of a new awareness? This session will explore the important role that Muslims can play in working with their fellow-citizens in creating a lasting guardianship over our planet so they can remain true to their green identity.

Speakers
Bilal Kuspinar, Stephen Hazell, Kashif Shaikh
Moderator
Maliha Chisti

Room E

SESSION 11c

Muslim women and Muslim men: reclaiming our sacred text together

Throughout the early periods of Islamic history, both Muslim women and men were prominent as scholars of tafsir, hadith, fiqh and shari'ah. Together, they helped to contribute to a rich legacy of knowledge. Unfortunately, not much attention has been paid to the female contribution to this crucial aspect of Islamic civilization. However, there are efforts underway to rediscover the roles played these prominent women. Furthermore, more and more Muslim women themselves are seeking to follow this honorable path, pursuing excellence in Islamic scholarship.

Speakers
Ingrid Mattson, Muneer Fareed, Afrah Jalabi
Moderator
Kathy Bullock

Room BCFG

4:00-5:30pm
SESSION 12

Our spiritual identity

The meaning of life and our relationship with the Creator should be our central preoccupation. Although coming from two different perspectives, both Judaism and Islam remind us of this. Although each is trying to remain true to their distinct spiritual laws, these two religions are nonetheless close. Both enjoin the Community of Believers to return, again and again, to a dialogue of intimacy, love and sincerity with the Most High. Torah enjoins us: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your might". Qur'an reminds us: "...and know that [the knowledge of] God lies between the human being and his heart." As well, much can be learned from the struggles that the Jews experienced until the Second World War, and what Muslims are facing today. As part of our constant re-engagement with the essence of our respective faiths, we must ask what we have done with our universal message of justice and peace? What have we done with our message of individual responsibility, of human brotherhood and love and what can we learn from each other ?

Speakers

Yakov Rabkin, Idris Tawfiq , Muneer Fareed

Moderator

Aisha Sherazi

Room: BCFG

5:30-7:15pm

Dinner and Salat- al-Asr

7:15-8:30 pm

SESSION 13a

Dépasser l'état d'esprit minoritaire

Les immigrants du Canada sont présentés et se présentent comme des minorités puisque leur nombre le prouve. Or, y a-t-il quelque intérêt pour que les musulmans canadiens (et d'autres) se désignent ainsi ? Quels sont les pièges psychologiques de la simple utilisation du terme ? Pourquoi risque-t-il d'empêcher leur intégration et leur développement au Canada ? Quel est l'horizon vers lequel se diriger afin d'espérer quelque reconnaissance pour une contribution musulmane au Canada ?

Conférencier

Salah Basalamah

Modérateur

Abdullah Sebber

Room A

contributing members. Whether at the social, political or cultural level, they are regaining control of their cultural heritage, of their unique tastes and outlook, and introducing to their fellow-citizens new ideas for promoting cultural pluralism in the arts and in the media.

Speakers

Ausma Khan, Zarqa Nawaz, Ghulam Mustapha

Moderator

Yaser Haddara

Room BCFG

SESSION 13c

The Creative Contribution of Muslims to human rights, dignity and social action

Canadian history has been punctuated by periods of racial discrimination, beginning with the shameful legacy, not yet resolved, of destructive colonial policies against our aboriginal communities. Other groups have experienced painful, short-term periods of discrimination. Yet, when these groups joined forces with justice-seeking Canadians to oppose prejudice, they were able to become a part of the Canadian mosaic, and contributed to the evolution of social justice for all Canadians. Now, it is the turn of Arabs and Muslims. Perhaps no one so exemplifies this principle as Maher Arar and Monia Mazigh. Anchored by their faith, this Muslim couple waged a dignified battle that won the admiration of an entire country. They fought for basic justice, and to ensure that no Canadian would ever again endure Arar's horrific ordeal. What universal principles can we draw from their example?

Speakers

Kerry Pither, Karl Nickner, Kaleem Akhtar

Moderator

Shelina Merani

Room E

8:30pm

Salat Maghrib

9:00-10:00pm

Open Session

Summary and feedback

Speakers

Imtiaz Ahmad, Afaq Moin

Moderator

Iman Faris

Room BCFG

10:20pm

Salat al-Isha

SESSION 13b

The Creative Contribution of Muslims in the arts

Inspired by their faith and full of self-confidence, countless Muslims have moved beyond mere integration, and are working to transform Canadian society as fully

MSA PROGRAM RENEWING HOPE: SEEKING GOD, SERVING SOCIETY

Saturday 11:30 - 12:45 p.m.
Main Session 1

In Pursuit of the Divine: Finding Serenity with Supplication

"Surely, there is for you by day prolonged occupation with ordinary duties: But keep in remembrance the name of your Lord and devote yourself to Him with a complete devotion." (73:7-8)

It is the first step in fulfilling our potential as servants of God, it is what renews our spirit, gives meaning to our actions and guides our path in serving society. Our mission is seeking God and cultivating a relationship in our life such that He is our eyes with which we see, our ears with which we hear, and our tongue with which we speak. Beyond mechanical worship and aimless actions, it is having God be our First, our Last, our Always.

SPEAKERS: Ingrid Mattson, Tariq Ramadan
Moderator: Wasseem Moumani

Room Number: 4b/5b

Saturday 12:45 - 2:30 p.m.
Lunch , Salat ul-Dhur

Saturday 2:30 - 3:45 p.m.
Main Session 2

Core Values 101: Selfless Service to Humanity

"To those who believe and do righteous deeds, God has promised forgiveness and a great reward."

As we perform our daily services for Allah and His creation, it is important for us to not fall into the trap of regulatory formalism. How can we stay motivated and find true and sincere meaning in serving others? Our Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was the walking embodiment of a perfect intersection of faith and action. By nurturing sincere intentions and performing deeds which reflect a faith rooted in compassion, we may enjoy the gratifying endeavor of seeking the countenance Allah, saying all along, "neither reward nor thanks do we seek."

Speakers: Muhammad Alshareef
Moderator: Kareem Elmahdy

Room Number: 4b/5b

Saturday 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Main Session 3

The Muslim Canadian Cultural Heritage: Embracing A Tradition

A unique North American Muslim presence can only be fully accessible when we recognize our inherent North American identity as distinct from that of Muslims elsewhere in the world. The expression of cultural splendor and an American-rooted tradition embraces our identity as Muslims, redefining our role and allowing our presence to impact all aspects of society.

Speakers: Ingrid Mattson, Ziaullah Khan
Moderator: Jameela Jaber

Room Number: 4b/5b

Sunday 11:30 - 12:30 p.m.
Workshop 1

COMPASS Training: Succession Planning

"Succession planning is an ongoing process of systematically identifying, assessing, and developing talent to ensure the leadership continuity for all key positions in an organization" (Hagberg Consulting Group).

Succession planning is not only finding the right person for the right job; it is a comprehensive workforce planning system, directly linked to the organization's strategic plan, concerned with the organization's human capital, identifying skill imbalances, and projecting future needs. In this workshop we will define succession planning for MSAs and present the goals of this type of planning. We will then review some of the major components of succession planning. We will also bring examples from our prophetic history as examples of succession planning.

Speakers: Iman Faris
Moderator: TBA

Room Number: 4b/5b

Sunday 1:45 - 2:30 p.m.
Main Session 4

Renewing Hope: Seeking God, Serving Society

"And do not be faint of heart nor fall into despair, for you are bound to rise high if you are believers." (3:139)

This session will focus on assessing our current state and our changing condition therein. Indeed, North American Muslim students find themselves surrounded by difficult political and social circumstances. In this context, the Muslim student body is emotionally challenged to cope. Islam teaches us to confront difficulties with action, and to counter feelings of marginalization with faith-driven civic engagement. Only by such efforts, will we arrive at the solution to improving our situation.

Speakers: Altaf Husain, Ziaullah Khan
Mohamed Sheibani
Moderator: Tariq Maksoud

MYNA PROGRAM

Room Number: 4b/5b

Saturday 10:00 - 11:15 a.m.
Session 2

The Dos and Do Nots of Gender Interaction

When we were younger, cooties set the guidelines for how to interact with the opposite gender. But what governs our relationships now - especially since interacting with them is something we are faced with everyday? How do we know to what extent we are allowed to interact, and how do we know where to draw the line? Should you offer that sister a ride? Should you help that brother with his homework? What about responding to an IM? This session is intended to answer all these questions, as well as provide a framework on how to Islamically interact with the opposite gender.

SPEAKERS: Altaf Husain, Sheema Khan
Moderator: Rifa Tahsina

Room: 1a/1b

Saturday 11:30 - 12:45 p.m.
Session 3

A Double Life

She wears her hijab to family gatherings, but at school she sports a halter top. He goes to the Masjid on Fridays, but on Saturday he's at a house party. These dual identities often conflict with each other, but do we know what to do about it? How can we assert true, uncompromised Islamic identity when we live in a society that accepts halter tops and house parties? This session will further explore this issue and list out ways we can function in Canadian society without compromising our Islamic identity.

SPEAKERS: Sh.Ziaullah Khan, Ali Shayan
Moderator: Ikram Dahir

Room:1a/1b

Saturday 2:30 - 3:45 p.m.
Session 4

The Battle of the Cultures

There's ethnic culture, Canadian culture, and then there's Islam. With so many ideologies and cultures tugging us in different directions, it's easy to get confused. How do we keep our faith and remain steadfast on the Deen while also keeping within our respective culture(s)? Is it even possible? This session will outline ways to get beyond the bhangra, beyond the bellydancing, and beyond the bling to assert an identity that will make us victorious in our Battle of the Cultures.

Speakers: Hamzah Moin, Altaf Husain
Moderator: Zakkariyya Muqtadir

Room: 1a/1b

Saturday 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Session 5

More Than Just A Stereotype

From Hijab being a safety risk to the beard being a security concern, how can we show ourselves as Muslims without being brandished with labels such as 'terrorist' or 'oppressed'? Many Muslims choose to give up their beard or their hijab, but is this

Sunday 2:30 - 3:45 p.m.
Main Session 5

Striving for Social Justice at Home and Abroad

"Let there arise out of you one community, inviting to all that is good, enjoining what is right, and forbidding what is wrong: They are the ones to attain felicity."

Nurturing a tradition of service, citizenship, and responsibility in the Muslim landscape is the key to guiding the course of our future. By expanding our student body's involvement in community relations and issues of local, national, and international social justice, Islam can regain its role as a bedrock for communities to effect positive change.

Speakers: Altaf Husain, Muhammad Alshareef
Moderator: Assia Meloua

Room Number: 4b/5b

Sunday 7:15 - 8:30 p.m.
Main Session 6

Sustaining Hope: Reconnecting with God and Society

"Say: "Truly, my prayer and my service of sacrifice, my life and my death, are (all) for Allah, the Cherisher of the Worlds: No partner hath He: this am I commanded, and I am the first of those who bow to His will." (6:162-163)

God appointed the followers of Muhammad to guidance and leadership of mankind. Undoubtedly this leadership bears the responsibility of service to the community. As this conference comes to a close, our task is to collectively dedicate our efforts to establishing a homegrown Muslim community in North America, relying on our past, assessing our present, and planning for our future.

Speakers: Muneer Fareed, Idris Tawfiq
Moderator: Ali Shahroui

Room Number: 4b/5b

really the answer? And why do we let the media dictate who we are? This session will provide ways that we, as Muslim youth, can assert ourselves beyond stereotypes, thus showing the true face of Islam.

Speakers: Idris Tawfiq, Muneer Fareed
Moderator: Yusra Khan

Room: 1a/1b

Sunday 10:00 - 11:15 a.m.

Session 8

Which Hallway is the Halal Way?

Peer pressure is the standard high school problem, one that has been addressed many times over. However, there exists a different kind of pressure that society exerts upon its students, often encouraging behaviour that may conflict with Islam. The seemingly harmless school dance? Or the 'once-in-a-lifetime' prom? How about missing Juma due to class? Or generally missing prayer to avoid explaining to your friends where you were? These are issues that many youth of today deal with, and this session will Insha Allah provide ways to overcome this type of pressure

Speakers: Sh. Ziaullah Khan, Zijad Delic
Moderator: Sarah Rostom

Room: 1a/1b

Sunday 11:30 - 12:30 p.m.

Session 9

Bringing Muslim Back

Excess money, superficial beauty and dating. Today's popular culture puts emphasis on many things that clash with Islam's teachings, making it seem as though the two are incompatible. However, the opposite is true, given that many Muslims have fused Islam with popular culture, either through music, literature, or comedy. In addition, many personalities popular amongst both Muslims and non-Muslims share our faith. This session will discuss Islam's role in popular culture and show how the two can - and have - gone hand in hand.

Speakers: Ausma Khan, Ali Shayyan
Moderator: Nimra Alam

Room: 1a/1b

Sunday 1:45 - 2:30 p.m.

Session 10

"Back in their day..." - Lessons From Our Past

Muslim youth often struggle with identity, claiming that it is so different from Western culture. But what about those who brought Islam to the world for the very first time? These early Muslims had to assert an identity that the world had never known before, one that differed in every single way. So how did the Sahaba assert their identity, without faltering or straying, remaining true to themselves and Islam? What lessons can we take from them, despite the 1400 year difference? Truly these brothers and sisters are better role models than any pop star, and this session will further look into this idea and provide ways we, as Muslim youth, can learn and apply these lessons to our day-to-day life.

Speakers: Muhammad Alshareef
Moderator: Noha Hamdy

Room: 1a/1b

Sunday 2:30 - 3:45 p.m.

Session 11

The Little Actions That Can

What does Muggsy Bouges, smiling, and seeds have in common? They're all considered little, yet capable of a lot. We usually associate bigger with better, thereby neglecting the little things that are equally able to yield results and rewards. Many of these "little things" extend into our religion, especially since Islam is a religion that puts heavy emphasis on sadaqa - sadaqa that includes simple things such as smiling or helping someone out. This session will list out the many "little" things we can do to make a big impact, both in our lives and in society.

Speakers: Sh. Hamid Slimi, Yasser Haddara
Moderator: Wahiba Bukhari

Room: 1a/1b

Sunday 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Session 12

Our Future, Our Present, Our Role

"The future belongs to the youth" - a phrase we've all heard many times. But why wait for the future to make an impact, especially since we have the present? Hadith speaks of the one who spends his/her youth serving Allah (SWT) and the shade they received on the Day of Judgement for doing so. What can we do to ensure that we are recipients of this Shade? How can we, as youth - as those who shape both the present and future - fulfill the gigantic responsibility bestowed upon us? These questions as well as others regarding the role of the youth will be addressed in this session.

Speakers: Altaf Husain, Maliha Chisti
Moderator: Umar Bhatti

Room: 1a/1b

Sunday 7:15 - 8:30 p.m.

Session 13

Where Have All The Youth Gone?

When MYNA-Canada was first inceptioned, it was one of the first youth endeavours of its time, thus welcomed with open arms. As the years progressed however, youth attendance declined and now it is rare for any youth event to yield as many participants as it once did. Why is this? Are parents the issue? Or are Islamic youth programs not 'up with the times'? The answer to these questions can come only from the youth and so, through dialogue, this session will look into the issue of declining youth attendance and insha Allah brainstorm ways to turn this trend around and upside down.

Speakers: Zijad Delic, Altaf Husain
Moderator: Urouje Syed

Room: 1a/1b

SPEAKER PROFILES

Ingrid Mattson

Ingrid Mattson is Professor of Islamic Studies and Director of Islamic Chaplaincy at the Macdonald Center for Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations at Hartford Seminary in Hartford, CT. In 2006 Dr Mattson was elected President of the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA); she previously served two terms as Vice-President. Dr. Mattson was born in Canada, where she studied Philosophy and Fine Arts at the University of Waterloo, Ontario (B.A. '87). From 1987-1988 she lived in Pakistan where she worked with Afghan refugee women. Dr. Mattson earned her Ph.D. in Islamic Studies from the University of Chicago in 1999. Dr. Mattson has written articles exploring the relationship between Islamic law and society, as well as gender and leadership issues in contemporary Muslim communities. Her forthcoming book, *The Story of the Qur'an: Its History and Place in Muslim Societies* is being published by Blackwell Press. www.isna.net

Ahmed Kutty

Ahmad Kutty is a senior lecturer and the resident Islamic scholar at the Islamic Institute of Toronto. Born in India, he was educated at the Islamiyyah College in Kerala and was awarded ijazah as an Alim and Faqih after eleven years of study in the traditional Islamic Sciences. He pursued further studies at the Faculty of Usul ad-Deen at the Islamic University of Madinah. He went on to obtain a Masters in Islamic Studies from the University of Toronto and to complete Doctoral studies at McGill University, specializing in Islamic theology and Shari'ah thought. For over two decades previously, he served as the Imam and Director of the Jami Mosque in Toronto and the Islamic Foundation of Toronto. At the Islamic Institute of Toronto, his courses include Islamic Theology, Jurisprudence, Usul al-Fiqh, Tasawwuf, Sciences of Hadith, Development of the Schools of Jurisprudence, The Lives and Contributions of the Four Imams and Islamic Intellectual History. His rulings can be read on islamonline.net and islam.ca. He is married and has four children. www.islam.ca

Hamid Slimi

Hamid Slimi: is a scholar with specialization in Islamic studies and Law as well as Comparative World Religions. He holds two Masters Degrees with High Honors in both disciplines and is currently finishing his Ph.D. in Islamic Law. He currently represents the Muslim community at the Ontario Multi-Faith Council and is very active in the Muslim-Christian Dialogue. Imam Slimi has been serving the Canadian Muslim Community as a teacher, Imam and chaplain since 1997. He was the Resident Imam and lecturer of the Islamic Centre of London as well as the chaplain of the major hospitals and Correction Centers in the city as well as the University of Western Ontario for a period of 4 years. Imam Slimi has authored a few books in Arabic and English specifically in the principles of Jurisprudence (*Usul-al-Fiqh*) and Islamic matters and wrote a few papers in French mainly in the same areas. His book published in 2001 and 2002 "Terrorism: An Islamic Perspective" has been widely distributed among hundreds of readers in North America and did receive very positive responses and encouragement. Imam Slimi lectures mainly in English, French and Arabic. He can speak and lecture in a few other Latin and Eastern languages. He appears occasionally on different TV shows and writes on National papers once in a while. www.imooftoronto.com

Sheema Khan

Sheema Khan is a mother of three young children. She is currently a consultant in Intellectual Property law and a monthly columnist for the Globe and Mail. She is the founder of CAIR-CAN, and served as its chair from 200-2005. She holds a Ph.D. in Chemical Physics from Harvard, and a number of patents in drug delivery technology. www.theglobeandmail.com

Muhammad Alshareef

Muhammad Alshareef was born in 1975 and raised in Canada. In his youth, he memorized the Quran and later graduated with an Islamic Law degree from the Islamic University of Madinah, class of 1999. He is the founder of AlMaghrib Institute through which he teaches university-level seminars on Islam. AlMaghrib Institute seminars have been conducted across the USA and Canada, as well as in Australia. While he continues to teach, Muhammad Alshareef now devotes much of his time to recruiting, training and advising other students of knowledge in becoming AlMaghrib Institute instructors. Being a true visionary with exceptional talents in motivating others, Muhammad Alshareef has also founded EmanRush Audio and Khutbah.com, and actively keeps in touch with the online community at the AlMaghrib Forums. Currently Muhammad Alshareef lives with his family in Ottawa, Canada. www.almaghrib.org

Muhammad Iqbal Al-Nadvi

Muhammad Iqbal Al-Nadvi holds a PhD in Islamic Shariah (law), with specialization in Jurisprudence (Fiqh). He has taught Islamic Shar'iah and Jurisprudence subject in King Saud University, Saudi Arabia, for six years and dealt with various subjects such as principles of jurisprudence (Usool Al-Fiqh), Islamic Culture, Islamic Political Thought, Islamic movements and Fiqh of Organization. He also has M.A. in Islamic law, Ummal Qura University, Makkah, KSA, 1983. He is licensed in Shariah from Islamic university, Madina, Saudi Arabia in 1978. He is currently the Imam of Masjid Al-Falah in Toronto, Canada, which serves as ICNA headquarters in Canada. www.icna.org

Altaf Husain

Altaf Husain is a social worker by training. His unique education background combines a bachelor's in biomedical engineering with a master's in Social Work from Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) in Cleveland, Ohio. Br Altaf was the President of his graduating class, recipient of the President's Award and served as campus Student Leadership Coordinator for two years. After a brief break, he has returned to complete his PhD at Howard University in Washington, DC focusing on refugee and immigrant adaptation. Br. Altaf has over 17 years of experience in the field of student leadership development and training. He served one term as the Vice President for the Muslim Students Association (MSA-US) and two terms as President for MSA of the US and Canada (MSA National). Currently he serves on the Board of Advisers of MSA National and is a voluntary staff member of COMPASS – MSA National's state of the art management training program. He is also an executive committee member of the Muslim Alliance in North America (MANA), headed by Imam Siraj Wahhaj. Br. Altaf resides in Northern Virginia with his wife Mona, and their almost 5 year old son Omar and one year old son Ahmed." www.msa-national.org

Katherine Bullock

Katherine Bullock completed her PhD in Political Science at the University of Toronto, in 1999. She has taught a course on the “Politics of Islam” at the University of Toronto for the last several years. She is the Editor of the *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*. Her books include *Muslim Women Activists in North America: Speaking for Ourselves* (University of Texas Press, 2005) and *Rethinking Muslim Women and the Veil: Challenging Historical and Modern Stereotypes* (IIIT Press, 2003). She has also published articles on Muslim women and the media, and Islam and political theory. She is a community activist and lectures frequently, both to Muslim and non-Muslim groups. Currently, she is Vice President of *The Association of Muslim Social Scientists (North America)*. She has worked for the *Islamic Society of North America* as a media spokesperson and is a founding member of the *Federation of Muslim Women*, and *Beacon*, a group dedicated to supporting new Muslims. Originally from Australia, she now lives in Mississauga, Canada, with her husband and children. She embraced Islam in 1994. www.amss.net

Faisal Kutty

Faisal Kutty is a Toronto-based writer and co-founder of the law firm of Kutty, Syed & Mohamed (www.ksmlaw.ca). He currently serves as general counsel for the Canadian Muslim Civil Liberties Association (CMCLA) and as vice-chair and legal counsel to the Canadian Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR-CAN). He is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Osgoode Hall Law School. His dissertation explores the impact of anti-terror laws and policies on the rule of law. For more than fifteen years, he has spoken and written extensively on the impact of anti-terror laws on immigrant communities. His articles have appeared in various national and international publications including the National Post, the Globe and Mail, the Toronto Star, Al Ahram Weekly, Arab News, Indian Express, etc. He is a regular contributor to the Washington Report on Middle East Affairs and Lawyers Weekly. He is currently acting as counsel to CAIR-CAN and the CMCLA at the Iacobucci and the Air India Inquiries, both of which are looking at issues surrounding national security. www.faisalkutty.com

Maliha Chishti

Maliha Chishti is a Lecturer at George Brown College and is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Toronto researching the politics of critical multivocality in post-war reconstruction. She is the former Director of the Hague Appeal for Peace, United Nations office where she coordinated the Global Campaign for Peace Education, and developed the first peace and disarmament education pilot project for the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs in four war-affected countries. While in New York, Maliha helped to initiate the historic Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. She has worked as an anti-AIDS education prevention officer in Malawi (Central Africa) and most recently conceptualized and supervised a post-conflict capacity-building training program for over 90 Afghan women organizations across Afghanistan. Ms. Chishti has given numerous public lectures and panel presentations, and has been featured in the documentary *Beyond the Frame* alongside Noam Chomsky, Vandana Shiva and other scholar-activists. She is on the Executive Board of the International Association of Muslim Social Scientists. Maliha has been given the distinct honor as a “Great Minds Alumni” by the University of Toronto.

Tariq Ramadan

Tariq Ramadan is Professor of Islamic Studies. He is currently Senior Research Fellow St Antony’s College (Oxford), Doshisha

University (Kyoto, Japan) and at the Lokahi Foundation (London). He is a Visiting Professor (in charge of the chair : *Identity and Citizenship*) at Erasmus University (Holland). Through his writings and lectures he has contributed substantially to the debate on the issues of Muslims in the West and Islamic revival in the Muslim world. He is active both at the academic and grassroots levels lecturing extensively throughout the world on social justice and dialogue between civilizations. Tariq Ramadan is currently President of the European think tank: *European Muslim Network* (EMN) in Brussels www.tariqramadan.com

Mohamed Rida Beshir

Mohamed Rida Beshir came to North America in 1973. With his wife, they authored several bestselling parenting, marriage, and family books in North America - among them, “Meeting the Challenge of Parenting in the West, an Islamic Perspective,” “Muslim Teens, Today’s Worry, Tomorrow’s Hope, a Practical Islamic Parenting Guide,” “Blissful Marriage,” and “Parenting Skills based on Qur’an and Sunnah,” as well as other parenting books in Arabic. He is teaching two courses on the subject of “Parenting in North America” with the Islamic American University. He is a regular contributors to the Family Section of several magazines, including “The American Muslim,” “Islamic Horizons,” “The Message,” and “America’s Muslim Family”. He is the recipient of the City of Ottawa Certificate of Appreciation for the year 2003 in the field of Education. He has traveled extensively, presenting workshops to various Muslim communities all over the world.”

Omar Alghabra

Like so many of my fellow Canadians, I came to Canada at a young age, and right from that time, I knew this country was my home. From that early time in my life, I decided to access as many career and educational opportunities that I could. To this end, I graduated from Ryerson University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1994 as well as a Masters in Business administration (MBA) from York University. In January 2006, I was elected to my inaugural term as Member of Parliament. Representing the riding of Mississauga-Erindale is something I take seriously. During my first year, I was pleased to work as a member of the Government Operations and Expenditures Committee as well as to serve as the Associate Critic for Social Development as part of the Official Opposition. I am currently the Critic for Citizenship and Immigration and a member of the Committee for Citizenship and Immigration. I will use all of my professional and educational experience to continue to carry out my role as MP responsibly, thoughtfully and effectively. www.omaralghabra.ca

Zarqa Nawaz

A Muslim Canadian woman of Pakistani origin born in Liverpool and raised in the Toronto area, is a freelance writer, broadcaster, and filmmaker living in Regina, Saskatchewan. Initially planning to go to medical school, after completing a Bachelor of Science degree Nawaz decided to study journalism, completing a second degree at Ryerson University in 1992. She worked with CBC Radio, CBC Newsworld, CBC Television’s The National, and CTV’s Canada AM, and was an associate producer of several CBC Radio programs including Morningside. Her 1992 radio documentary The Changing Rituals of Death won multiple awards at the Ontario Telefest Awards. Stating that she became “bored of journalism”, she took a summer film workshop at the Ontario College of Art & Design and began working as a filmmaker, using comedy to explore the relationships between Muslims and their neighbours in contemporary North America. www.cbc.ca/littlemosque

Muneer Fareed

Muneer Fareed is currently the Secretary General for ISNA, the Islamic Society of North America. Previously, Dr. Fareed was an associate professor of Islamic studies in the Department of Near Eastern and Asian Studies at Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan. Dr. Fareed's fields of interest include Qur'anic Studies, Islamic Legal Reform, and Islam in the Modern World. He has to his credit several journal articles, a monograph entitled *Legal Reform in the Muslim World*, and translations of classics of the Islamic world, including the *Sira Nabawiyya* of Ibn Kathir, *The Muqaddima* of Ibn Saláh, and '*l-Itqán fi 'Ulúm 'l-Qur'an* of Suyúti. He obtained his diploma in Arabic Language and Literature from King Abdul Aziz University, Mecca, the Ijáza in Classical Islamic Studies from Dár al-'Ulúm, Deoband, and his doctorate in Islamic Studies from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Since his arrival in the United States in 1989 he has served the Muslim community in various capacities, including imam and scholar-in-residence for the Muslim community in Metropolitan Detroit.

Idris Tawfiq

Idris Tawfiq has a degree in English Language and Literature from the University of Manchester and a degree in Sacred Theology, studied in Italian, from the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas in Rome. For many years a teacher of Religious Studies, he taught in different schools in the United Kingdom and in Egypt. Before embracing Islam, Idris was a Roman Catholic priest. Idris Tawfiq writes and speaks in a very gentle way about Islam, Spirituality and the Arab World. He always points out that he is not an Islamic scholar, but rather has a way of explaining things about Islam in a simple way. He has considerable experience in leading Retreats and In-Service training for both students and teachers. He uses this vast experience of dealing with ordinary people and explaining matters of faith to them to enliven his writing and style of speaking, making them both interesting and easy to understand. He especially tries to explain Islam to those in the West who are not Muslim. www.idristawfiq.com

Yasser Haddara

Yasser Haddara is currently the Chair of the Muslim Association of Canada (MAC)/Muslim American Society (MAS) Youth Division. He has been involved with a number of efforts aimed at young Muslims including Muslim Youth Camp (MYC) in California and American Muslims Intent on Learning and Activism (AMILA). Yasser holds a PhD in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University and is presently Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. He is married and has two boys, Mustafa and Mahmood. www.macnet.ca

David Pepper

In 1995 David Pepper became the first Director of Community Development & Corporate Communications at the Ottawa Police Service. In January 1999 he also assumed responsibility for leading the Diversity and Race Relations Section and in June 2006 he assumed responsibility for Media Relations. In these capacities he reports directly to the Chief of Police. In 1992/93 he worked with the Ottawa Police to establish the first community-based Hate Crime Unit in Canada. In his professional and personal lives, David has worked at the community and institutional level to mobilize communities around anti-discrimination, public safety, and community development. Currently, one of his passions is working with the Somali community in supporting a very successful youth basketball league in Ottawa. In December 2001 he was honoured through the presentation of the inaugural Good Will Partner Award by Editions Tawhid-Canada and members of

the Ottawa Muslim Community. He was elected twice by his peers to serve on the Executive of the Ottawa Police Senior Officers' Association. www.ottawapolice.ca

Fred Reed

Fred A. Reed is a journalist and award-winning translator. He has won two previous Governor General's Literary Awards in translation — for *Imagining the Middle East* (1992) and *Fairy Ring* (2001, with David Homel). He is a five-time finalist. He has translated Nikos Kazantzakis (*Journey to the Morea*) and is the author of *Persian Postcards: Iran after Khomeini* (1994) and *Takeover in Tehran: The Inside Story of the 1979 U.S. Embassy Takeover* (2000). He has written for Maclean's, The Globe and Mail, Le Devoir, La Presse and the CBC. Fred A. Reed lives in Montreal. Born in the U.S.A. and a Québec resident since 1963, Fred A. Reed worked at *The Gazette*, where he was a union leader, before becoming a free-lance journalist with *Le Devoir*, *La Presse*, CBC and Radio-Canada. At the same time, he has pursued a career as an author, writing books on Syria, Turkey and Iran, including *Conversations in Tehran* (with Jean-Daniel Lafond) and as a literary translator. After a lengthy spiritual journey, he became a Muslim in 2004.

Leslie Seidle

Leslie Seidle is Senior Research Associate at the Institute for Research and Public Policy (IRPP). He was previously Senior Director, National and International Research, at Elections Canada. He has served as Director General, Strategic Policy and Research, Intergovernmental Affairs, in the Privy Council Office, Government of Canada (1996-2002), Research Director (Governance) at IRPP (1992-96) and Senior Research Coordinator for the Royal Commission on Electoral Reform and Party Financing (1990-91). Dr. Seidle is the author of *Rethinking the Delivery of Public Services to Citizens* (IRPP, 1995) and numerous articles on electoral reform, citizen participation, constitutional reform, public management and political finance. He co-edited *Belonging? Diversity, Recognition and Shared Citizenship in Canada* (IRPP, 2007) and the comparative volume *Reforming Parliamentary Democracy* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2003). www.irpp.org

Tyseer Aboulnasr

Tyseer Aboulnasr is a Professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of Ottawa. As a volunteer, she coordinates the Canadian Muslim Network efforts to create an environment of collaboration amongst Muslim organizations across Canada to address issues of interest to Canadian Muslims. Dr Aboulnasr is a recipient of the Order of Ontario, the Ottawa-Carleton YWCA Women of Distinction Award (Education) and is a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering. She was Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Ottawa 1998-2004. Dr Aboulnasr is active in several community initiatives including the RCMP national security community advisory group and Potlucks for Peace, an Arab Jewish dialogue group.

Imam Ali Sbeiti:

Imam Ali Sbeiti is the Imam of the Montreal Muslim community center (CCMM) and the Director of the east region with Ahlulbayt Islamic Assembly of Canada, which serves the Lebanese Muslim community in different Canadian cities. www.ccmmtreal.com

Kaleem Akhtar

Kaleem Akhtar, is currently the Executive Director of Human Concern International (HCI) and has been associated with this

organization for nearly two decades. His most recent international involvement was as a representative from Canada at the Asia-Pacific Summit on Peace in Seoul, Korea which brought together a distinguished group of leaders from the Asia-Pacific nations, as well as from other nations around the world. It included representatives from more than 70 nations. He is a strong proponent of peace, justice, harmony, equality and prosperity. Mr. Akhtar pursued Bachelor's degree in Economics, he holds a diploma in Administration from McGill University, and a National Certificate in Voluntary and Non-Profit Sector Management from the University of Ottawa. He has been serving on many Boards and Committees involved the local community, and in the international development arena. He is married with two grown-up children and a little grand-daughter. www.humanconcern.org

Imam Zijad Delic

Imam Zijad Delic is a formally trained Imam in Bosnia and received his B.A (Hons) in Islamic Studies and Arabic language from International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan. He holds a Masters from University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, USA and a PhD from Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, British Columbia. In addition to his formal academic endeavors and a long-standing personal interest in emerging issues of the Canadian and global Muslim communities, Dr. Delic has invested much of his career energy in researching how Muslims can integrate more successfully into the Canadian context. He envisions the building of a new Canadian Muslim culture with an even greater collective potential for making positive social, cultural and professional contributions to the national fabric of the country while remaining faithful to the formative principles of Islam. His energy and versatility on behalf of BC Muslims has earned Dr. Zijad Delic the compliment of being called "The People's Imam." He resides in Ottawa with his family and works for Canadian Islamic Congress as National Executive Director. www.canadianislamiccongress.com

Jean Goulet

Sister Jean Goulet, csc, is a member of the Sisters of Holy Cross. A native of the Ottawa Valley, her ministry has included teaching in the Ottawa area, parish ministry on Vancouver Island, adult faith development and coordination of pastoral services for the Archdiocese of Ottawa, and Director of the Office of Ecumenical and Interfaith Dialogue for the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. Sister Jean has a strong commitment to interfaith dialogue through participation in the Muslim/Christian and Jewish Christian dialogues of the Ottawa area, and to interfaith cooperation and collaboration with active membership in the Multifaith Housing Initiative, Women for Peace, the Interfaith Coordinating Committee for Pastoral Care in Secondary Schools, and the World Conference of Religions for Peace. Sister serves her religious community on the leadership team and facilitates a distance learning course for Saint Francis Xavier University on Foundations of Christian Spirituality.

Jennifer Green

is the senior writer for faith and ethics at the Ottawa Citizen. She has won two National Newspaper Awards, a fellowship at Brandeis University, and is a finalist for this year's Cornell and the Templeton awards for religion reporting. She lives in Ottawa with her husband and two children. www.canada.com/ottawacitizen/index.html

Yavar Hameed

Yavar Hameed is a civil liberties lawyer practicing in Ottawa in the firm of Hameed Farrokhzad. Since September 11, 2001 he has represented and advised many members of the Muslim community in interviews convened by the Canadian Security and Intelligence

Service (CSIS) relating to anti-terrorism investigations. His work spans a diverse range of issues, assisting people in understanding their basic human rights and fundamental freedoms under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in matters of employment law, immigration, criminal law and administrative law. He is an anti-poverty advocate and a proponent for reducing harm for drug users through state sponsored interventions. He regularly guest lectures at Ottawa area high schools and is a sessional lecturer at Carleton University in the Department of Laws. He is currently completing a multilingual information booklet through the Council of Associations Serving South Asians (CASSA) on the impact of racial profiling on the free expression and association of diverse communities in Canada since 9/11.

Sophie Harkat

Close to five years ago, Sophie Harkat was an excited newlywed looking forward to a life together with her husband Mohamed. When Mohamed was scooped up and detained under a Security Certificate Sophie's life changed in dramatic ways. Through speaking out and rallying support for her husband's case Sophie was able to secure Mohamed's release on bail and then participate in a landmark case at the Supreme Court which found the security certificate process unconstitutional. Sophie is now one of Canada's most prominent human rights campaigners. Her story is one that will inspire anyone who believes in truth, justice and the ability of grassroots political action to succeed. The past couple of years Sophie has dedicated her time and energy to her husband's case because he is her biggest source of inspiration and motivation. She promises to fight until justice prevails and that her husband's name is cleared. For the past nine months Sophie has been under house arrest with her husband. His bail is the strictest one in Canadian history. <http://zerra.net/freemohamed/news.php>

Afra Jalabi

Afra Jalabi is currently a weekly columnist for the Saudi daily Al Yaum. She was raised in Syria, Germany and Saudi Arabia before immigrating to Canada. She has a B.A in anthropology and political science from McGill University, a master's degree in journalism from Carleton University; and was a columnist for 4 years for the London based, Al-Jadeedah magazine. She is a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Law and Religion (Hamline University). She has been accepted in the Ph.D program in Islamic Studies at UCLA for the coming fall. Her interests lie in the theory of nonviolence, early Islamic history and texts, Quranic exegesis, and feminist theory. She has lectured about these themes in Canada and the States for the last few years. Jalabi has been also a research assistant and editor for her uncle, Jawdat Said. She also has been to several conferences including one in Rome (June, 2004) on nonviolence and dialogue which included a 3-day workshop with his holiness, the Dalai Lama.

Hamdi Mohamed

Hamdi Mohamed is currently the Executive Director of the Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization. She was formerly the Executive Director of the Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre. She has been a strong advocate for social inclusion and access to services for immigrants and refugees both in Canada and internationally for over 15 years. Her own experiences as a refugee have shaped her engagement with the community. Hamdi has been a lecturer on social work and on human rights issues at the School of Social Work and the Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies at Carleton University for the past five years and is the author of a number of reports on immigrant and refugee access to community health and social services. Hamdi has a Ph.D. in women's history from the

University of Ottawa. She obtained her Master's degree in International Relations from the University of Ottawa and her Honours degree in Education from the Somali National University. www.ociso.org

Karl Nickner

Karl was born in Quebec City where he embraced Islam about twelve years ago. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (*magna cum laude*) from the University of Ottawa. He also pursued graduate studies in political theory before accepting a position with Health Canada. Karl is fluently bilingual and has a passion for public policy and advocacy. He is now the Executive Director at the Canadian Council on American-Islamic Relations. <http://www.caircan.ca/>

Abdul Rashid

Abdul Rashid is the founding member of the Christian-Muslim Dialogue group as well as the founding member of Capital Region Interfaith Council. He has presented Islam and Muslims in the media and to Canadian institutions including: the Ottawa Muslim community, worked for the Ottawa Muslim Association in almost all capacities between 1969 and 1990. He was also member of the Emergency Interfaith Pastoral Team on Call at the Civic Campus. He currently contributes to the Ottawa Citizen's ask the religious expert. www.canada.com

Kashif Shaikh

Kashif Shaikh is a Greater Toronto Area Representative of 'Faith & the Common Good.' This National Interfaith organization partners with Faith communities across Canada towards spiritual and practical opportunities for becoming Greener. Through the Greening Sacred Spaces program, FCG provides direction and funding for conservation, and becoming better caretakers of the Earth initiatives. He writes articles on Environmental topics, and regularly guest lectures to Islamic, Interfaith, and Church groups. He is currently upgrading his University education with training as an Energy Auditor for Homes and Faith buildings. <http://www.faith-commongood.net/>

Yacov Rabkin

Prof. Rabkin has taught contemporary Jewish history, Soviet history and the history of science at the University of Montreal since 1973. Full Professor at the Department of History since 1987, he has recently developed and taught seminars on Islamic and Judaic attitudes to science and technology (full bio here). Rabkin's most recent book, and our main topic of discussion, deals with the history of Jewish opposition to Zionism. This book was translated to English in 2006 under the title *A Threat from Within: a Century of Jewish Opposition to Zionism*. It has been nominated for the Governor General Award, the highest literary distinction in Canada.

Ghulam Mustafa

Ghulam Mustafa, has shown several art shows in Canada and around the world. His vivid colourful paintings in the Montreal Star garnered wide attention. For several years, Mustafa's cityscapes graced the front cover of the Montreal Star's TV guide. His creations have an air of gentleness and a sense of unity. They are personal yet penetrating. He was born in Bihar and graduated from the University of Karachi, Pakistan in 1962. Since 1970, he has settled in Quebec continuing his teaching and painting. His works are represented in many private and public collections in Canada, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia. A well

known teacher, his classes in Montreal attract both amateur and professional artists. The practical art demonstrations on *Techique* which he gives are most popular. He paints Canada in its 4 glorious seasons with great devotion, love and sincerity.

Salah Basalamah

Salah Basalamah est à la fois originaire du Yémen et de la Palestine. Il est cependant né et a grandi à Genève, en Suisse, dont il est citoyen. Il a fait ses études supérieures en France, aux Etats-Unis et au Canada (Montréal) où il a obtenu un doctorat en théorie de la traduction. Il a été pendant trois ans chargé de cours au 2^{ème} cycle en Études internationales et en traduction à l'Université de Montréal. Il est maintenant depuis deux ans professeur adjoint à l'École de traduction et d'interprétation à l'Université d'Ottawa.

Il a publié plusieurs articles dans des revues académiques et contribue dans de nombreux colloques et forums de dialogue aussi bien dans ses domaines de spécialisation que sur des questions contemporaines relatives aux musulmans d'Occident. Sur le plan de son engagement associatif, il est depuis plus de vingt ans un étroit collaborateur de Tariq Ramadan. Salah Basalamah est cofondateur du réseau Présence Musulmane, un cadre associatif à partir duquel il participe à plusieurs activités locales de dialogue et de réflexion à la fois intra- et extra-communautaires. www.presencemusulmane.org

Stephen Hazell

Stephen Hazell is the executive director of Sierra Club of Canada. He has directed Sierra Club of Canada's Mackenzie WILD program and engagement in the regulatory review of the Mackenzie Gas Project since January 2004. For over twenty years, he has led teams, developed consensus and built institutional capacity to foster sustainable development and protect ecosystems. Stephen holds a Master of Science degree in Plant Ecology from the University of Toronto and a Law degree from Queen's University. He is the author of *Canada v. The Environment*, his 1999 book on federal environmental assessment law and policy. <http://www.sierraclub.ca/>

Ausma Khan

Ausma Khan is the Editor in Chief of *Muslim Girl* magazine, a bi-monthly publication distributed throughout North America. A long-time community activist and writer, she views *Muslim Girl* as an opportunity to re-shape the conversation about Muslim women and girls in North America. She holds law degrees from the University of Ottawa and a Ph.D. in International Human Rights Law from Osgoode Hall, where her research specialization was humanitarian intervention and war crimes in the Balkans. She practiced immigration law in Toronto and has taught international human rights law at Northwestern University, as well as business law at York University. She currently lives in Chicago. www.muslimgirlmagazine.com

Bilal Kuspinar

He obtained his BA in Theology from Seljuk University, Konya, Turkey, his MA in the history of Philosophy and Logic from the Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara, and Ph.D. in Islamic Studies from McGill University. He taught at both undergraduate and graduate levels various courses on Islam and Religious Traditions in general and Islamic philosophy and mysticism in particular, in the Faculty of Theology, Seljuk University, Konya, as well as in the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He has so far published many articles that appeared in various academic journals, as well as two books. His third book has been completed. He has also participated in many

international conferences and seminars in his field. Currently, he is teaching in the Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University, and in the Department of Political Science, Concordia University.

Sheikh Ziaullah Khan

Iman Ziaullah Khan is Director of the Centre For Islamic Development in Halifax, Canada. The CID is a community-oriented outreach organization. At the Centre, special efforts are made to promote and disseminate accurate information about Islam. Imam Ziaullah is also the Friday Prayer leader for the Muslim Student's Association at Dalhousie University. He is also host of a local radio show "Salam Halifax." This show is aimed at presenting Islam to non-Muslims. As well, the show covers various social and political issues, geared at generating awareness of information not readily available through mainstream media. Imam Zia Khan is a speaker throughout Canada and Britain, as well as other countries. His travel engagements involve lectures for engaging with non-Muslims, education for Muslims, and T.V. and radio interviews.

Bernie M. Farber

Recognized as one of Canada's leading experts on anti-Semitism, anti-racism and human rights, Bernie M. Farber is the Chief Executive Officer of Canadian Jewish Congress, the lead advocacy organization for Canada's Jewish communities. He has written extensively and lectured around the world on issues of human rights, inter-religious communication and civil discourse. Mr. Farber is a member of numerous boards and committees dealing with public policy matters. He appears frequently in local and international media and is recognized by the media, the legal establishment and government for his expertise on hate crime and white supremacy.

Fr. Bill Ryan

Bill Ryan is a Canadian Jesuit priest, born in Renfrew, Ont. He received his BA from Montreal University. He holds a licentiate in theology from St. Albert's College, Louvain, Belgium; an MA de-

gree in economics from St Louis University and a Ph.D. from Harvard University. He is a former Director of the Social Affairs office of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops as well as its General Secretary. He was the founding Director of the Centre of Concern, Wash, DC; a former national superior of the Canadian Jesuits. He served as executive secretary for an international Muslim/Jewish/Christian weeklong seminar in Lisbon in 1977 entitled *Changing World Order: Challenge to our Faiths*. Among his many publications are *Reading the Signs of the Times*, *The Lab, the Temple and the Market*; *Expanding the Conversation*; and in 2005, he organized an international seminar and co-edited with John Coleman a book entitled *Globalization and Catholic Social Thought: Present Impasse, Future Hope*. He is presently the Acting Director of the new Jesuit Forum for Social Faith and Justice in Toronto.

Jonathan Wouk

Jonathan Wouk has been involved with the Palestine-Israel issue for over forty years both formally and informally. He taught Political Science at Dalhousie University and the University of Pittsburgh in the 1970's and '80's. For three years between 1986 to [and] 1991 he was Board President of OCISO [now Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization]. As a hospital chaplain from 1996-2004, Jonathan worked with clergy and lay people of all faith-traditions and with some of the inter-faith groups active in Ottawa. Since retiring he has taught at the Ottawa Lay School of Theology, lectured at religious institutions in the Region, and been active in the Ottawa Arab-Jewish dialogue group "Potlucks for Peace"

Hamzah Moin

Pursuing Marketing at McMaster University
Former Public Relations Officer and Brothers Social for McMaster MSA
Former MYNA President
Founder of the Muslim Inter-Scholastic Tournament - Toronto division
Founder of Maniac Muslim – www.maniacmuslim.com

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The Apostle and the believers with him, believe in what hs been bestowed upon him from on high by his Sustainer: they believe in God, and His angels, and His revelations, and His apostles. making no distinction between any of His apostles, and they say: "We have heard and we pay heed. Grant us They forgiveness, O our Sustainer, for with Thee is all journeys' end !"
2:285

