

Event Round Up for December 2012

CAIR-CAN Meets with Justin Trudeau | December 22, 2012



Amira Elghawaby, left, speaks with Justin Trudeau during a meeting coordinated by former Liberal MP Omar Alghabra / photo credit: Scott Williams

Liberal leader hopeful Justin Trudeau met with several dozen Muslim leaders and representatives following his keynote address at the Reviving the Islamic Spirit Conference in Toronto.

Amira Elghawaby, CAIR-CAN's Human Rights Officer, took the opportunity to thank Mr. Trudeau for remaining true to his commitment to speak at the convention.

Mr. Trudeau faced repeated criticisms and attacks for his decision to address over twenty thousand Canadians participating in the widely-anticipated event. CAIR-CAN had earlier issued a press release and [action alert](#) expressing support for Mr. Trudeau's unwavering stance.

"The anti-Muslim sentiment you experienced before attending today is just a small example of what some Muslims face every day. They are in the eye of the storm of this kind of anti-Muslim feeling," said Ms. Elghawaby, explaining that CAIR-CAN receives weekly complaints from Canadians who describe incidents of discrimination and harassment because of their faith.

Mr. Trudeau responded that in his own riding of Papineau, the Moroccan community – though highly

educated and skilled – are finding it difficult to secure gainful employment. Mr. Trudeau said he believes solutions must be found to reduce and eliminate discrimination.

International Human Rights Day & Mohamed Harkat's 10th Anniversary of Security Certificate | December 10, 2012

CAIR-CAN's Executive Director, Ihsaan Gardee, joined representatives from Mohammed Harkat's family, Amnesty International Canada, the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group, as well as NDP MP Randall Garrison, and Green Party Leader Elizabeth May, on Parliament Hill to mark International Human Rights Day as well as the [10th anniversary of the Security Certificate against Mohammed Harkat](#).

Mr. Gardee reiterated CAIR-CAN's belief that the Security Certificate process is profoundly flawed and incompatible with the values of a free and democratic society and have been universally condemned by respected human rights organizations and bodies (including the Canadian Bar Association, Human Rights Watch, and the United Nations Committee on Arbitrary Detention).

Mr. Harkat continues to face suspicion without charge, living under draconian bail conditions, and face the prospect of possibly being deported where he might face further detention and torture.

Mr. Gardee ended by calling upon all Canadians to continue to demand that our government restore our faith and trust in the principles of transparency, due process, and natural law by ending the use of Security Certificates.

See: [video](#)

Season's Greetings Campaign| December, 2012

As a show of mutual respect and goodwill, CAIR-CAN mailed over 300 Season's Greetings cards to Canadian parliamentarians, local city officials, non-government organizations and media representatives.



Ottawa Muslim Association Fundraising Dinner | December 16, 2012



Mr. Gardee, was asked to be the Master of Ceremonies at the Ottawa Muslim Association's annual fundraising dinner to help raise money to complete a well-lit and safe parking lot. The evening began with a recitation and translation of verses from the holy Qur'an by Adam Shirazi. In addition to fundraising conducted by the evening's keynote speaker, Shaykh

Mohamed Hachemi, attendees were also treated to a nasheed or Islamic hymn of praise to God and his Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) by two elementary students from the Abraar school.

In addition to all those guests who helped make the evening special the event was also attended by several dignitaries including the Deputy Mayor of Ottawa, Mr. Eli El-Chantiry, Inspector Uday Jaswal (on behalf of Chief of Police, Charles Bordeleau), and candidate for the Liberal Party of Ontario, Mr. David Bertschi.

The audience was addressed by MP Paul Dewar (Ottawa Centre), Foreign Affairs Critic from the New Democratic Party. Mr. Dewar reminded the audience of the recent tragedy in Sandy Hook and called upon everyone present to remember the victims and their families in their prayers. Rounding out the evening's addresses youth representative, Ali Awada, called upon all those present to press for the continued involvement of Muslim youth in all spheres of community life.

CAIR-CAN Meets with Canadian Federation of Bridge Builders | December 21, 2012

The founders of a newly created organization promoting harmony and understanding called [the Canadian Federation of Bridge Builders](http://www.canadianbridgebuilders.ca) paid a visit

to Ottawa this month. Dr. Farouk and Mrs. Laila Chebib developed a scholarship awards program which aims at recognizing and awarding young Canadians actively seeking to promote dialogue, acceptance, and respect through engaged citizenship as a way to combat growing racism, prejudice and intolerance.



While in Ottawa to meet with family, Dr. and Mrs. Chebib and their family met with Mr. Gardee over lunch to discuss how to help promote and grow the program and maximize its success. For more information about the program and how you can support it we encourage you to contact Dr. or Mrs. Chebib directly at cfobb@gmail.com.

My Youth Spirit, Thinking Retreat | December 16, 2012

CAIR-CAN's GTA Community Relations Officer Maryam Dadabhoy moderated a panel on media at a thinking retreat organized by the newly formed My Youth Spirit (a DawaNet & Soundvision Initiative).

Over seventy community leaders and activists took part in the day-long event which explored various themes including arts, culture, religion, and politics, counseling and mentoring.

"It was extremely inspiring to see so many leaders, activists, youth and community members take time out of their busy schedules to attend such a great initiative."

—Ms. Dadabhoy

My Youth Spirit is also conducting a survey on Muslim youth between the ages of 13 and 29 years of age living in Canada. To fill out the survey, or share it with others, check out:

<http://muslimyouth.surveyconsole.com/>

Muslim Coordinating Council of the National Capital Region (MCC-NCR) | December 17, 2012

Representatives from various Muslim organizations, participated in a [Delegates Meeting of the MCC-NCR](#). At this meeting, Mr. Gardee emphasized the importance of organizations encouraging their constituents and stakeholders to be engaged on issues in the public discourse and illustrated this using the letter writing campaign to support MP and Liberal Leadership candidate, Justin Trudeau's right to address the Reviving the Islamic Spirit (RIS) conference in Toronto.

He also highlighted [CAIR-CAN's upcoming Leadership Boot Camps](#) in Toronto and Vancouver and encouraged Ottawa-based organizations to sponsor and send delegates to attend this one-day series of workshops being held in Toronto on January 26th, 2013.

CAIR-CAN meets with DFAIT | December 14, 2012



On Friday, December 14th, 2012, CAIR-CAN Executive Director, Ihsaan Gardee along with another prominent Canadian NGO met with representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT).

The goal of the meeting was to improve common understanding of the Government of Canada's consular mandate and the limits of that mandate, to review emerging consular challenges/issues and to discuss how the Consular Bureau and NGOs might leverage their particular strengths while mitigating their respective weaknesses on cases of Canadian citizens abroad in need and their families and relatives here in Canada.

Upcoming Events:

Our Leadership Bootcamps are coming soon & tickets are selling fast. Be sure to [get yours or sponsor someone to attend!](#)

RISE TO THE CHALLENGE
CAIRCAN'S LEADERSHIP
BOOT CAMP
TORONTO
SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2013
9:00 AM → 6:30 PM
IVEY ING DIRECT LEADERSHIP CENTRE
130 KING STREET WEST
\$100 COST INCLUDE MATERIALS, CATERED LUNCH & REFRESHMENTS

- TACKLING THE MEDIA: Answering Questions About Islam & Muslims
- KNOW YOUR CHALLENGER: Be Prepared to Counter Islamophobia
- BUILD YOUR ACTIVIST MUSCLE: Strategic Advocacy for Civil Liberties
- LEARN THE ROPES: Delivering Islamic Awareness Training
- DON'T BE THAT GUY: Communicate with Clarity & Confidence

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CONTACT: INFO@CAIRCAN.CA
1.866.524.0004

RISE TO THE CHALLENGE
CAIRCAN'S LEADERSHIP
BOOT CAMP
VANCOUVER
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2013
9:00 AM → 6:30 PM
RICHMOND OLYMPIC OVAL, LEGACY ROOM
6111 RIVER ROAD
\$65 COST INCLUDE MATERIALS, CATERED LUNCH & REFRESHMENTS

- TACKLING THE MEDIA: Answering Questions About Islam & Muslims
- KNOW YOUR CHALLENGER: Be Prepared to Counter Islamophobia
- BUILD YOUR ACTIVIST MUSCLE: Strategic Advocacy for Civil Liberties
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