



ISLAMIC SOCIAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION INC.

BUILDING BRIDGES, BREAKING BARRIERS, FACILITATING ACCESS

ISLAMIC SOCIAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION PRESENTS A FORUM ON

MULTICULTURALISM IN THEORY AND PRACTISE

Canada prides itself in the multicultural society we have created and advances we have made in developing a socially inclusive and cohesive society. However, for many of us, multiculturalism is merely a word and concept we repeat as a mantra and fail to see the significance and importance it has in assisting integration, welcoming new comers and protecting our cultural and religious diversity and our rights under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. This forum will provide us with the opportunity to learn from experts, to have open dialogue and to express our fears, concerns and hopes about this most cherished value and defining feature of why Canada is so unique. The Muslim community is facing many challenges and we need to be well informed and empowered as citizens. We need to take our rightful place in society as equal partners and contributors.

When : Saturday, January 21, 2012

Time: 12 pm to 4 pm

Where: Winnipeg Central Mosque, 715 Ellice Avenue

Light lunch will be provided. Admission is free, but please register so we can plan on food. Child minding provided based on pre request and registration basis. Register by calling Irene at 944 1560 or email info@mail.issaservices.com



**Sponsors: Canadian Muslim leadership Institute, Canadian Muslim Women's Institute,
Manitoba Muslim Seniors Association, Winnipeg Central Mosque**

Program
January 21, 2012 - 12 pm to 4 pm

12 noon to 12:30 Reception and light lunch
12:30 -12:45 Prayer
12:45 Welcome and Greetings:

Abdo Eltassi- Vice President - Islamic Social Services Association
Honourable Flor Marcelino- Minister of Multiculturalism

Session 1 **1:00pm - 2:00 pm**

Topic: Multiculturalism Policy in Letter, Spirit and Reality

Muslim immigrants usually come from a singular cultural country and may see diversity as a challenge. This session will provide information to build understanding of multiculturalism policy in word and spirit and thereby empowering Muslim Canadians in taking their rightful place within the Canadian cultural Mosaic. This session will educate Canadian Muslims and new immigrants to be well informed as to what multiculturalism policy means in a Canadian context and how they can practice it within their own culturally diverse faith community.

Speaker: Professor Lori Wilkinson

Speaker: Multicultural Secretariat

Session 2 **2:10 pm – 3:00 pm**

Question Café - breakout format

This session will give the participants the opportunity to discuss what they have heard and formulate questions that would like addressed. This session aims to engage and facilitate dialogue and articulation of fears, concerns and challenges Canadian Muslims are facing due to negative portrayal of their cultures and faith and how it is impacting their integration process or their self-esteem.

Lead Facilitator: Martin Itzkow and shahzad Massadiq

Group Facilitators: Raza Hameed, Zahra Ali, , Elizabeth Beattie, Irene McConachy

Session 3 **3:10 pm – 3:50 pm**

Topic: Empowerment of New Immigrants in Facing Issues of Racism and Discrimination

This session will address the questions raised in the Question Café and share ideas and experiences on reducing discriminatory behaviour/practices and how to increase awareness, understanding and knowledge of discriminatory behaviours/practices and ways to dispel such behaviours. This session will provide venues and ways on how Canadian Muslims--on the strength of multiculturalism—can help build more inclusive and welcoming communities.

Speakers: Ismael Mukhtar, Beatrice Watson (Manitoba Human Rights Commission)