



## Report of the MIA President and Executive Council - 2014

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Dear Members of the Manitoba Islamic Association,

Assalamualaikum.

On behalf of the Manitoba Islamic Association Executive Council (EC), I am pleased to present to you the Annual MIA President's report for the year 2014. This report highlights the MIA EC's priorities, accomplishments and future outlooks.

The MIA EC's term started on January 1, 2014. The EC aimed to build on the great strides made in previous years. By the grace of Allah, the MIA continues to serve the community in a variety of ways, and the community continues to grow.

MIA is primarily a volunteer run organization. We are thankful to all the hard working volunteers who make the MIA possible and who are its beating heart. We also thank all of our generous donors for their unwavering support.

The MIA EC focused on two major themes: professional and efficient operations and sustaining community services, programs and activities.

### MIA Operations

In the area of professional and efficient operations, we have introduced a number of policies and procedures and continue to develop a strong culture of documentation. The policies introduced include Friday sermon guidelines, counselling records, privacy policy, marriage ceremony procedure, facility use policy and children safety policy.

We also introduced an online facility booking system, the MIA Dock. While some aspects are still in development by the IT committee, the MIA Dock has freed up a large segment of the office manager's time. Also, a large portion of monthly donation pledges is now automatically processed through a virtual terminal. Staff schedules have been standardized and aligned so that there is staff presence during the peak hours of community activities in the buildings.

### MIA Facilities

There have been many minor maintenance issues in both the mosque in St. Vital and the Grand Mosque. Another challenge was the overall cleanliness of the facility, as many community members rightly pointed out. This was addressed by introducing fixed schedules and clear task lists for the building care takers.

## MIA Staffing

The MIA EC did not introduce any new positions in 2014. We continue to employ two part-time religious services officers/prayer leaders, one in each mosque. One of the first actions of the MIA EC was to draft formal job descriptions for them and to ensure that their compensation was in line with the stature of their positions, within the limitations of MIA resources.

We also employ 3 care takers, two for the Grand Mosque and one for Hazelwood. They are responsible for general care taking of the buildings, cleaning and minor repairs.

A part-time office manager is responsible for many of the administrative aspects of the MIA, such as responding to inquiries, organizing documentation, following up with donation pledges and supporting the MIA EC as needed.

## MIA Volunteer Committees

Dedicated and selfless volunteers do the majority of the MIA work. Below is a partial listing of the active communities of the MIA and a highlight of some of their projects:

1. Aesthetics committee: Spring cleaning of masjid grounds and flower bed.
2. Fiqh committee: Determination of Eid and Ramadan, position papers published on qiblah direction, prayer times and jumu'a times.
3. Waqf committee: this is a new committee still in the formation stage, and will look at establishing a long-term endowment for the MIA.
4. Kids programs committee: organizes special educational programs for kids such as the Ramadan awareness program.
5. Maintenance committee: carries out and manages maintenance and repair projects.
6. IT committee: website support, email system, booking system, A/V.
7. Takaful committee: collects and disburses charity and social assistance funds.
8. Fundraising committee: organizes the annual fundraising dinner and other fundraising activities such as the 100 Seeds campaign.
9. Events committee: logistical and kitchen support for major MIA events, Eid carnival.
10. Manitoba Muslim magazine: publishes the quarterly community magazine.
11. Scholarship committee: re-organized recently, the committee awards scholarships to worthy Muslims students pursuing higher education.

Looking ahead, additional committees will insha Allah be introduced/reorganized, including the land development committee and a social services committee.

## MIA Finances

The MIA organized a number of successful fundraising events. Revenue from donations and other sources for this year is ~ \$330,293, similar to last year's \$325,246. The total revenue for this year was \$546,734. The disbursements this year surpassed revenues creating a net loss of \$181,735. This is due to expropriation revenue being shown in the previous fiscal year, and a large portion of Takaful expenses being reported in this fiscal year. The total from general expenses and wages is similar between this and the previous fiscal years. The cash position as of September 2013 is \$105,877.

Fundraising and revenue generation from other sources will be an important focus of the MIA EC in the 2014-2015 fiscal year. We also strongly encourage all of our donors to become regular monthly donors to stabilize the revenue stream over time.

### MIA Programs and Activities

The MIA is *Alhamdulillah* a hub for activities and programs. A variety of social, educational and spiritual activities took place. This year's Ramadan was again enjoyed with the talented Egyptian Qari Sheikh Hassan Adwi. To address the increased utilization of the Grand Mosque gym, a new facility usage policy was developed. The Eid Festival was another phenomenal success. Among the many activities and programs initiated by the EC and committees the following can be noted:

January 17-18	Community Lecture with Imam Hamid Slimi and Workshop on Islamic Marriage and Divorce in Canada
Feb 15	MIA Volunteers Breakfast
March 14-15	Youth Summit: Faith It!
May 9	Community Dinner: "Planting the Seeds of the Future" Fundraising Dinner.
June 6	Panel on Advance Care Planning with the WRHA
June 22	Workshop by Child and Family Services
Aug 2	Eid Carnival: A major outdoor Eid festival at Grand mosque.
October 18-19	Workshop: Misconceptions About Jihad and Shariah
November 28	#NotInOurName Public Event

### Outreach and Public Relations

The MIA was active in several areas of outreach and public relations.

1. Many university, school and church groups have visited the mosque over the past year.
2. MIA has also sent a number of outreach speakers to speak to interested groups.
3. The MIA supported and joined a campaign to Make Poverty History and was invited to address a rally on this issue.

4. MIA collaborated with the WRHA on a panel discussion on the important subject of advance care planning, which was held in June.
5. MIA collaborated with CFS on a workshop on CFS and Parenting Law. MIA also nominated 2 Muslims for the membership of a cultural reference group which advises CFS.
6. The MIA community centre facilities are now available to the general public, which has contributed to positive relations with the neighbourhood around the Grand Mosque.
7. MIA is collaborating with a number of church groups on the issue of refugee support.
8. MIA met with the community relations' officer at the Canadian Museum of Human Rights.
9. MIA was invited to the Grace Hospital chapel to present a Quran and prayer mats for the benefit of Muslim patients and staff. A small ceremony was held to which WRHA spiritual care leaders were invited.
10. MIA was invited to a meeting with the deputy chief of the Winnipeg Police Department.
11. In the wake of the tragedies in Ottawa and Quebec, MIA issued a press release and the MIA president gave several media interviews.
12. MIA held a very successful public event on November 28, under the title of #NotInOurName: Winnipeg Muslims Speak Out Against ISIS and Terrorism. The event generated a lot of public and media interest and was attended by approximately 300 people.

### Social Services

There were several instances where MIA provided non-financial support for members of the community. Examples include visiting the sick, organizing funerals, and advocating for community members with government or public agencies. For example, the MIA was able to get a high profile lawyer to take the case of a member of the community, pro bono, to successfully secure fair and swift payment by MPI after a car accident that left them disabled.

### MIA Programs and Institutes

**Al Noor Weekend School:** Al Noor is an important program for our community. It has offered Islamic complementary education for over 2 decades. It is at a stage where among its graduates is an MIA EC member, and there are parents who went to Al Noor who are now enrolling their children. MIA successfully recruited a new principal, sr. Taj Farooqi, who has a background in education. The MIA also increased student fees in order to increase teacher compensation.

**Al Fajr Quran Institute:** This program continues to serve children and more advanced students of *hifz*. Two new volunteer program co-directors have been recruited (Dr. Soussi-Ghouni and Dr. Moulaye). Many members of the community also continue to pursue the serious *hifz* program supervised by sheikh Atef.

MIA Café: This is a new initiative aimed at better utilizing the kitchen facility for revenue generation. The Café is currently open after Friday prayers and offers snacks and drinks for small fees and there are plans to expand it insha Allah.

### Future Initiatives

Several initiatives are a “work in progress” and will insha Allah come to fruition in the coming year, including:

1. Drop-in gym programs which will be announced on a monthly basis and targeting various segments of our community.
2. Training for outreach speakers on how to present Islam and respond to questions.
3. Training and introduction of new khateebis into the khutba scheduled.
4. Explorations of new possibilities for burial grounds for Muslims.
5. Revenue generation initiatives that bring revenue from sources other than donations.
6. The land development committee will be reactivated.
7. Engaging Muslim youth more consistently and establishing a youth program.

Overall, last year was busy and vibrant. There is good momentum in the community. The EC is grateful for your support, feedback and advice and for all generous contributions that were made. Our community is a great community and we look forward for greater years ahead.

I am also personally indebted to the members of the MIA Executive Council for their team spirit, excellent work ethic and sense of responsibility. They routinely contribute between 10-30 hours/week for MIA affairs. May Allah reward them and their families.

Submitted respectfully,



Idris Elbakri  
President  
Manitoba Islamic Association