



#everychildmatters

Report to the Community

2021



Manitoba Islamic Association

“Oh you who believe! Persevere
in patience and constancy. Vie
in such perseverance,
strengthen each other, and be
pious, that you may prosper.”

(Quran 3:200)

Message from the Board of Directors



Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh

In another year fraught with changing Covid-19 protocols, constant readjustments and accommodations of services, it is only with a supportive community that we have been able to find the strength to tackle these challenges.

Like a number of you, I do admit to being disappointed we did not get the opportunity meet in person due to adjustments in services, virtual platforms and limited capacities with restrictions.

However, as we take a moment to think back of the last year, we are reminded of the patience of our members, dedicated work of our volunteers, and resilience of our staff as they kept us all running smoothly.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to our leaving MIA Board Members:

1. Cheikh Moulaye
2. Ahmed Abdelghany

We would also like to welcome the new members to the MIA Board:

1. Faraz Khan
2. Rachel Wiebe Skouta
3. Ammar Almiski

May Allah (SWT) help us and guide us in the New Year and pray for a blessed Ramadan Kareem in 2022.

Khawja Latif, Chair
Board of Directors



Staffing

To better serve the needs of the community, several more staff have been hired, including:

Raed Hamdan - Managing Director

Responsible for managing MIA operations

Walid Al Khatab - Youth Director

Responsible for supporting youth programming



COVID-19 Response

The 2021-year proved to be a continued test in patience and perseverance for the community. It has been a delicate balance of mitigating physical risk with our need to connect. The MIA has made a concerted effort to gradually move towards in-person programs and services, using safety precautions and following public health guidelines.

MIA partnered with the Canadian Muslim COVID-19 Task Force (CMCTF) to provide updated information on Covid-19 and offered vaccination clinics at the Grand Mosque and at MIA Connections.

Following public health guidelines and recommendations from the CMCTF, the mosque was open more often for prayers and some programming throughout 2021. Even though we were distanced in our meetings, it brought joy to be able to worship together.

COVID-19 Vaccine Educational Seminar

Friday, February 11 @ 1:30 pm

Winnipeg Grand Mosque

Presenter: Dr. Shaikh Mohammed Iqbal



ALL ARE INVITED



Manitoba Islamic Association



Masks are mandatory!



2 metre physical distancing at all times



No socializing, handshaking or hugging



Wudu at home



Sanitize your hands upon entry and exit



Bring your own prayer mat to use



No children under 12. High risk groups encouraged to pray at home



Prayers and khutbahs kept to 15 minutes



No Sunnah or Nafil prayers at the masjid

*Those over 60 or with chronic medical conditions

Ramadan

“O you who believe, fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for the people before you in order for you to gain God consciousness ... The month of Ramadan, during which the Quran was revealed, a guidance for mankind, and clear proofs of the guidance and the criterion; and whoever of you is resident, let him fast the month.” (Al-Baqarah 185)

Ramadan and Eid are times where we come together and look for more opportunities to give to those less advantaged. Although restrictions remained throughout most of 2021, the MIA Ramadan Food Program, in collaboration with the Muslim Student Association, Canada Pakistan Trade & Cultural Association of Manitoba, Canadian Muslim Women’s Institute, Moroccan Association, Winnipeg Central mosque, and countless volunteers were able to provide 18,000 Iftaar meals! Hundreds of food packages were also delivered. This was also supported by numerous local businesses.

Ramadan programs were offered virtually throughout the month ranging from children’s programs to family nights, Quran recitation and competition, religious/spiritual topics, and daily Taraweeh livestream.

Eid

Virtual Eid Takbeerat & Khutba, goody bag pick up for the kids, family game night and a decorative car challenge were fun ways to unite us in celebration.





Virtual Mosque

MIA was able to expand on virtual programs throughout 2021. These included topics related to Fiqh, spiritual practices, mental health, weekly Jumu'a, family and youth challenge competitions.



MIA Youth



We have seen a revival of youth working with a variety of programs and events, bringing together young people in the community. Building youth programs and support for youth is a priority for MIA. The MIA youth program has been an opportunity for young people to take an active interest on important social and spiritual issues. Online and in-person programs were initiated and lead by youth, including topics such as:

- **Social Issues**
- **Advocacy/Activism**
- **Fiqh/Religious/Spiritual Topics**
- **Opportunities for Charity**

In partnership with Islamic Relief's Charity Week, the MIA Youth Council held several charitable events such as the Youth Charity Gala, Paint for Change, Hoops for Hope, and Girls Night.



Educational Programs



MIA educational programs support ongoing Islamic learning for hundreds of children and youth each year:

- Al Noor school enrolled 190+ children in their weekend classes, 90 children in the Quran program, and 11 children in the preschool program
- The MIA Kids Library resumed in-person access and provided online resources to enhance Islamic knowledge for youth
- Summer Day Camp ran through the MIA Grand Mosque during July and August for ages 7-17



SUMMER CAMP

July 5 - August 27
Weekly Day Camp
Monday-Friday



MIA Arabic Program Presents

Quran Courses

Starting 1st week of July
Monday, Wednesday & Friday @ 6-7 pm
3 hours/week until end of August
Fee: \$35

Register: miaonline.org/quran-course

 Manitoba Islamic Association

Kids Library

Stop by to register and borrow from our amazing and authentic kids Islamic books at the MIA Kids library at Waverley Mosque!

Learn more and online catalogue:
miaonline.org/kids-library



Educational Programs (ALNOOR KIDS)



Find out more at miaonline.org

Future Work

The MIA has received many requests from the community to offer a full time School. We are currently exploring the legal and financial feasibility of this venture, including possible collaboration with existing schools.

We are also looking to add multi-purpose rooms to the Waverley building to accommodate our needs for meeting and program space, and to renovate and improve the prayer space for women.

The Fiqh Committee is working on developing guidelines around divorce, the legal limits of what a mosque can do, as well as developing a general list of common questions/concerns.

Special Programs



Green Square Campaign, January 2021

MIA participated in the Green Square campaign, to commemorate the attack on the Quebec mosque in 2017 and the tragic loss of life that occurred. This was an opportunity to further educate the community about the harms of Islamophobia and the need to confront it.

Dealing with Grief and Loss

Young Muslims, Grieving and Loss presentation. Our community suffered the loss of 6 young people under the age of 25, Allah have mercy on them all. The loss of



SPECIAL SESSION

Young Muslims, Grieving and Loss

SPEAKERS	DATE/TIME
Sh. Ismael Mukhtar Sr. Natasha Ali	Saturday, March 13 7:30pm Zoom & FB

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friends and peers can be hard to process for young Muslims. This meeting was arranged to help us process loss, share our grief, and reflect on Allah's mercy and wisdom in the midst of pain and longing.

Prayers for Al-Aqsa Mosque



Special Community Dua for Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. Al-Aqsa Mosque is the third holiest mosque in Islam, after the Sacred Mosque in Mecca and the Prophet's (PBUH) Mosque in Medina. It was mentioned in the Quran as the site of the Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) miraculous

night journey. More than 170 Palestinians were injured after police stormed the Al-Aqsa Mosque on May 7, during the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan, as tens of thousands of Palestinian worshippers packed into the mosque. A place as holy as the Al-Aqsa Mosque and its worshippers should not be subject to police violence. We ask Allah (SWT) to grant them peace and security and alleviate their suffering.

Every Child Matters

In June, the remains of 215 innocent children were found in unmarked graves on the former site of the Kamloops Indian Residential School. We call on you to honor the children's souls, and show solidarity with Indigenous Canadians as they continue to uncover the truth about the dark legacy of residential schools. During a period of mosque closure, the MIA setup a shoe memorial outside both



the Grand Mosque and Pioneer Mosque. Resources were shared with community members to learn more about Indigenous history, donate and support residential school survivors.

The Terror Attack on the Afzal Family on June 6, 2021

We were all shocked and saddened by the news of a senseless attack on a Muslim Canadian family in London, ON, targeted because of their faith. Five members, 3 generations of a Muslim family, were out for an evening walk when they were intentionally struck by a pick up truck resulting in the death of 4 people and injuring the youngest son, leaving him an orphan. A drive-in and virtual vigil was held at the Grand Mosque with a special message from the Imam of the London Muslim Mosque.



#OurLondonFamily

Special drive-in vigil and prayers for
London Muslim family and all victims
of Islamophobia and hate

Thursday at 8 pm at Grand Mosque
(2445 Waverley St.)

JOIN IN YOUR CAR ON-SITE OR ONLINE
OPEN TO ALL

f LIVE
YouTube
MIA Manitoba Islamic Association

Prayer for Rain July 31, 2021

Prayer for Rain – The Muslim community came together to pray the Salat-ul-Istisqa, a prayer for rain, due to Manitoba suffering under severe drought conditions.



MIA Pembina Valley

Article published on Pembina Valley Online celebrating October as Islamic History Month. On October 31, 2021 guests from around the Pembina Valley attended a special learning day at the Winkler Mosque. These events allow people to come together, learn and understand each other's faith and remove the barriers that feed fear and misunderstanding.



Confronting Islamophobia

Putting words into action, MIA and other community partners called on all levels of government to take action on Islamophobia.

On July 8, 2021 the Federal Government called a National Action Summit on Islamophobia and how to make life better for our communities. MIA was invited to this event and 2 representatives attended the Summit.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION **National Action Summit on Islamophobia**

This will be a safe and open space where community members can provide their perspectives and share. Every Canadian Muslim deserves to be able to put forward their thoughts and ideas about how to make life better for our community.

 Manitoba Islamic Association  #VirtualMosque www.miaonline.org

 zoom

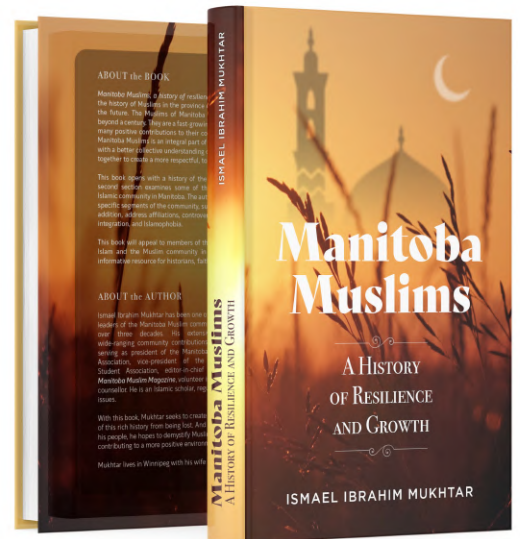
**Thursday,
July 8 at 7:30 pm**

 NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF CANADIAN MUSLIMS
New York New York

A survey on Community Experiences with Islamophobia in Manitoba, was undertaken by the MIA to identify priority areas and emphasize the great work the community has been doing. The report is expected to be released in early April 2022

Muslim History in Manitoba

The Manitoba Islamic Association congratulates Shaykh Ismael Mukhtar on publishing his first book, “Manitoba Muslims, a History of Resilience and Growth.” It is both a look back at the history of Muslims in the province of Manitoba and a look forward into the future. The Muslims of Manitoba have a presence that reaches back beyond a century.



Grant Success



We are extremely thankful for the funding agencies that supported our programs and services:

- City of Winnipeg = \$16,000 Pioneer Audio and \$3,000 in Livestreaming Updates
- United Way of Winnipeg = \$35,000 for Emergency Community Support Fund and \$50,000 towards the Food Bank
- Government of Canada = \$24,000 for Summer Student Employment
- Province of Manitoba = \$20,000 Bridge Grant
- The Winnipeg Foundation = \$40,000 Stabilization Grant



Zakat & Fitra Distribution



Food Bank

Since its inception in December 2020, the Food Bank has supported more than 768 clients. More than \$70,000 has gone in to supporting persons with food access issues both within the local Muslim community and greater outside community. In 2022, we are looking to expand community food partners for this program to include halal meat options and allow for pick up locations at both the Grand Mosque and MIA Connections.

MIA Financial Assistance Program (Takaful)

In accordance with the MIA Constitutional mandate to relieve poverty, the Financial Assistance Program was established to financially support disadvantaged persons for short-term relief. In 2021, 159 applications were approved for assistance ranging from \$100 to \$1800.



Mental Health





- Counseling available in English, Urdu, Arabic
- Provide support for career, couples, family, individuals
- Provide Halaqas and workshops

The Mental Health program addresses ongoing needs in the community and its presence has never been more needed. A total of 258 counseling sessions were provided in 2021, assisting 86 individuals. Services were made available at both the Grand Mosque and MIA Connections. More team members are needed to continue to provide these vital services. The program is transforming from a volunteer to a compensation-based model in 2022.

miaonline.org/mental-health

FOR YOUTH


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Coping with Mental Health as a Youth

Saturday, February 6 @ 7pm

Join Dr. Natasha Ali as she discusses Mental health struggles, such as stress and depression, and how to cope with them during this difficult time.

Dr. Natasha Ali, C. Psych
Psychologist



10 Reasons to Support MIA in Ramadan

6 Mental Health Counseling



Fundraising Telethon
Saturday, May 8 @ 9:15 - 10:30pm

 LIVE  YouTube 

Ways to give

Transfer Online give@miaonline.org
Phone miaonline.org/donate
204-256-1347

Facility Upgrades



2021 UPGRADES

❖ Grand Mosque

- Gym lining and waxing
- Enhanced appearance and completed minor maintenance
- Repainting and redecoration of classrooms
- Ice rink
- New curtains
- New cabinets for storage in the Funeral home
- Installed first aid and AED kits

❖ MIA Connections

- Replaced fire alarm panel
- Completed third floor inspection
- Repaired sewage pipes

❖ Pioneer Mosque

- Upgraded alarm panel



"The classes are so welcoming to our kids, now everything is fun and exciting. Thank you MIA for putting our young kids as your top priority."

– Community Member

Muslim Funeral Home

“Who, when disaster strikes them, say, “Indeed we belong to Allah, and indeed to Him we will return.”

Quran 2:156

Funeral services held at the MIA Funeral Home became a reality in 2021 after years of hard work, dedication and support from the community. It was operationalized gradually with a total of 56 funerals in 2021.

Body washing is performed by volunteers with proper shrouding (kafan) performed after the washing, in accordance with the Prophet’s *Sunnah*.

We continue to value your support and contributions to the ongoing operation of the Funeral Home. Future plans include installing a donor wall and exploring cemetery space run by MIA.



Exterior of Funeral Home before and after completion.



Sa'd asked: "O Messenger of Allah, the mother of Sa'd has died, so what is the best charity I may give on her behalf?" The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "Water." Sa'd dug a well and he said, "This is for the mother of Sa'd." – Abu Dawud

The MIA Wakf Foundation is based on the tradition of Prophet Mohamed (PBUH) and has been a long established way of financing Islamic institutions. For the first time in Manitoba, MIA Waqf Foundation has been established and approved by Canada Revenue Agency as a charitable organization. The MIA Waqf Foundation's independent board is responsible for collecting funds, investing them, and disbursing the revenue following the Wakf mandate.

Consider including the MIA Wakf Fund in your will, trust or retirement account. You can pass on your love of the house of Allah SWT to future generations by supporting critical projects, such as mosque utilities.

A logo design competition found our new logo for the Foundation.

miawakf.com



Allah (SWT) says:

"Spend (in charity) out of the sustenance that We have bestowed on you before that time when death will come to someone, and he shall say: 'O my Lord! If only you would grant me reprieve for a little while, then I would give in charity, and be among the righteous.'"

- The Holy Quran, 63:10



Converts Committee

Being a new Muslim comes with a lot of challenges. The goal of the Converts Committee is to support, educate and integrate new Muslims into our community. In 2021, the Converts Committee connected with 40+ new Muslims or persons interested in Islam. Online support was provided, a buddy program was developed, educational material provided, virtual Iftaars were held in Ramadan and two in-person picnics were organized.

miaonline.org/mia-converts-committee



#RunByYou

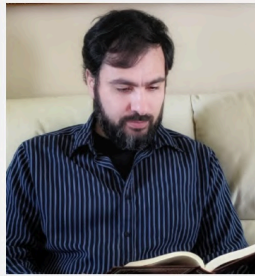
The MIA depends on the work of countless volunteers; we honour their sacrifices of time, energy and expertise in improving our programs, services and supporting our community.



Volunteer Committees



Sh. Ismael Mukhtar
Fiqh Committee



Sh. Ammar Khatib
Friday Khutbah Training &
Scheduling



Aziz Mian
Funerals Committee



Imran Rahman
Information Technology
Committee



Saadia Qureshi
Virtual Mosque Committee



Roy Jabar
Takaful
(financial assistance)
Oversight Officer



Rachel Wiebe Skouta
Chair of the MIA Takaful
(Financial Assistance)
Program



Dr. Natasha Ali
Mental Health Committee



Tariq Aziz
MIA Facilities Committee



Raza Hameed
MIA Facilities Committee



Hameed Mian
Muslim Seniors
Association



Dr. Youssef Bezzahou
Pioneer Mosque
Committee



10 Reasons to Support MIA

- 1 Helping those in Need**
- 2 Focus on Youth**
- 3 Outreach and Dawah**
- 4 Spiritual Development**
- 5 Funeral Services**
- 6 Mental Health Counseling**
- 7 Innovative Programs & Events**
- 8 Taking Care of our Mosques**
- 9 Children's Education**
- 10 #RunByYou**





Thank You



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