

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful



November 09, 2020

MCC Chairman Statement & Community Update

"وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا ۗ وَادْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ كُنْتُمْ أَعْدَاءً فَأَلَّفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِكُمْ فَأَصْبَحْتُمْ بِنِعْمَتِهِ إِخْوَانًا وَكُنْتُمْ عَلَىٰ شَفَا حُفْرَةٍ مِنَ النَّارِ فَأَنْقَذَكُمْ مِنْهَا ۗ كَذَلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ آيَاتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَهْتَدُونَ"

And hold fast to the rope of God, altogether, and do not become divided. And remember God's blessings upon you; how you were enemies, and He reconciled your hearts, and by His grace you became brethren. And you were on the brink of a pit of fire, and He saved you from it. God thus clarifies His revelations for you, so that you may be guided. (Al Imran, v. 103)

My fellow Muslims of Calgary and Southern Alberta,

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullah

First, let me start by offering my sincere gratitude and appreciation for your commitment and engagement in the affairs of our community. Our Prophet (ﷺ) says:

"مَثَلُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ فِي تَوَادِهِمْ وَتَرَاحِمِهِمْ وَتَعَاطُفِهِمْ مَثَلُ الْجَسَدِ إِذَا اشْتَكَى مِنْهُ عُضْوٌ تَدَاعَىٰ لَهُ سَائِرُ الْجَسَدِ بِالسَّهَرِ وَالْحُمَّىٰ"

"The believers in their mutual kindness, compassion and sympathy are just like one body. When one of the limbs suffers, the whole body responds to it with wakefulness and fever". (Riyad as-Salihin 224)

The last few months saw our community severely tested in its unity, its brotherhood and its resilience in standing against Fitnah. The majority of our MCC board members did not take this lightly. We have made multiple, sincere attempts to bring our community together, to use wisdom in dealing with our differences and to compromise to keep our unity intact. After all, our common union is our faith, not our ancestry or our lineage and certainly not which country we migrated from. These divisions need to stop, and we need to pull together as one, strong Muslim community, and that is my objective as Chairman.

One of our most recent measures to start this healing and unification, was the MCC elections held last week on November 01, 2020, as per court-orders. We believed that once the community spoke and chose their new leadership that everyone, regardless of past actions, would respect the Shura (consultation) of the community, which is fundamental Islamic principle for running the affairs of the community.



Muslim Council of Calgary
225-28 Street S.E
Calgary, AB, T2A 5K4
Tel: 403-219-0992 Fax: 403-219-0993

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful



November 09, 2020

MCC Chairman Statement & Community Update

As you all know, the MCC board election took place last Sunday. Our ultimate goal was to run this election process in the most transparent and fair way possible. Our brother, Dr. Asad Hossain was affirmed by court-order as the authority to conduct this election with the support of an election committee agreed upon by all. Despite significant efforts to interfere and hijack this election, Brother Asad demonstrated strength, and with the grace of Allah, he was able to conduct the election at all our centers and the results were shared with the community.

Unfortunately, as you all have heard, a minority group in our community defied all expectations and court instructions in their attempt to deny community members the right to vote and run in the elections by announcing a parallel election without any authority from the MCC Board or the courts.

On behalf of myself and the rest of your elected MCC board, we want to reassure you that we will not tolerate anyone who is trying to harm our community. This is a priority for us, and we will deal with such groups and individuals accordingly. We want to let you know that MCC legal counsel has initiated legal proceedings and we are scheduled to go in front of a judge next week. We are not proud of having to involve the courts. We are not doing this because we want to go to court, it is because we must do this as this minority group is forcing us to go back to the court to reaffirm the court's previous instructions.

That being said, as per the advice of MCC legal counsel, we will keep our challenge to the court of law. Regardless of what this minority group says about our sincere efforts to unify the community, we will not engage in any negative tactics or use unsanctioned or unethical ways to deal with them. This means that we will also have to refrain from sharing all the details of our legal strategy with you for now. We know you want to know more, and you deserve to know all the details. and we will release all information in due course. but we hope you will understand that we are not able to share everything at this time. Be assured, that soon we will be able to share everything with you, Insha'Allah.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, I want to finish today by letting you know that we are committed to delivering on all our promises to you, beyond dealing with this situation at hand. Since the elections, we have already met multiple times to prioritize our community's most urgent needs and to start the process of healing and unification that we all have been making du'aa for. Our newly elected brothers come with new energy, new initiatives and unquestionable passion and commitment for the betterment of the Muslim community in Calgary and Southern Alberta. We



Muslim Council of Calgary
225-28 Street S.E
Calgary, AB, T2A 5K4
Tel: 403-219-0992 Fax: 403-219-0993

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful



November 09, 2020

MCC Chairman Statement & Community Update

can't wait to share with you all of the new initiatives that we are embarking on and hope to deliver together with each and every one of you as valued members of our community, Insha'Allah.

I am very grateful for the support of our duly elected brothers and your official MCC Board of Directors; *Bother's Iftikhar Bari, Samir Omar, Muzaffar Ahmad, Abdullah Chybli, Mohamed Tohme, Mohammed Idriss, Fawad Akram Khan, Wissam Akl, Sadaqat Saeed and Mostafa Hassan.*

Regardless of how each of us voted and who we supported in the past, it is time to bury the negativity and mistrust that has held our community back for so long and I pray that with Allah's (SWT) grace that we will all unite to focus on the betterment of our community, Insha'Allah. We are much stronger when united and can only be successful when we all work together to achieve our common goals.

May Allah (SWT) help us all carry this Amanah and may He guide us to the right path and keep our community safe and prosperous. Ameen!

Jazakallahu Khairan,

Your Brother,

Mohammed Charanek
Chairman, MCC



Muslim Council of Calgary
225-28 Street S.E
Calgary, AB, T2A 5K4
Tel: 403-219-0992 Fax: 403-219-0993