

For Immediate Release

**Muslim Association of Canada Expresses Disappointment About PC Leader's
Absence from Eid Celebrations in Toronto**

August 30, 2011 (Toronto) – Despite media reports to the contrary, Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak received an invitation to the Muslim Association of Canada's 26th annual GTA Eid celebrations at Toronto's Metro Convention Centre.

As part of established process, leaders of the Provincial political parties were invited to the Festival. Specifically, on July 25, 2011 and again on August 10, 2011, an invitation was sent via email by the Muslim Association of Canada to Mr. Hudak. Premier McGuinty and NDP leader Andrea Horwath both confirmed their attendance and Mr. Hudak's staff indicated that he would likely attend. In conversations with Mr. Hudak's staff during the week of August 22nd-26th, Muslim Association Vice President Abdussalam Nakua confirmed with staff that they had received the invitation and were recommending that Mr. Hudak attend. At no point did staff contact the event's organizers to tell them that Mr. Hudak would not attend.

"We regret that Mr. Hudak could not join us today, however, Mr. Hudak is most welcome to extend his greetings anytime at Masjid Toronto," said Abdussalam Nakua, Vice President of the Muslim Association of Canada.

In the past, political leaders from all three parties have attended the GTA Eid celebrations, including Mr. Hudak's predecessor, former PC leader John Tory. The event is a celebration of the Muslim faith and marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan. It is an excellent opportunity for political leaders to connect with the Muslim community and gain a better understanding of its culture and people.

The Muslim Association of Canada is a grassroots Islamic movement that embodies a holistic understanding of Islam emphasizing God consciousness and good works. By balancing authenticity and creativity we advance an understanding of Islam that is relevant to Canadian society. We serve the Muslim community and society at large through our own initiatives as well as constructive engagement with others. We inspire, enable, and engage people to uphold the fundamental values of faith, justice, and being of benefit to all of humanity.

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