

MUSLIM ASSOCIATION OF CANADA WELCOMES NEW CHAIR IN ISLAMIC STUDIES AT HURON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

London, ON (October 14, 2011) - The Muslim Association of Canada (MAC) is pleased by today's appointment of Dr. Ingrid Mattson as the first Chair in Islamic Studies at Huron University College.

"MAC welcomes Huron's decision to create a chair in Islamic Studies," said Wael Haddara, President of the Muslim Association of Canada. "And, we couldn't be happier with their choice of Dr. Ingrid Mattson as the inaugural chair. Her academic and professional record is second-to-none and we are confident her expertise and teaching ability will raise the level of discussion about Islamic religion and culture in this country."

The Muslim Association of Canada has deep roots in the London community and a strong relationship with Huron University College. When Huron first proposed the idea of creating a Chair in Islamic Studies in 2009, MAC was very supportive. Since that time, along with local organizations, MAC engaged in a grassroots fundraising effort that has helped Huron University College meet its target of \$1 million.

"Huron University College has always been a friend to the local Muslim community," said Haddara. "They have a reputation for encouraging critical thought and open discussions about religion, which is something we support. Over a billion people practice Islam around the world and by creating this Chair, Huron is signaling its willingness to engage in open discussion about the Islamic faith and culture"

"Dr. Mattson's work with the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) in the United States and her research and writings over the past twenty years in Islamic Studies have made her one of the top academics in her field," said Haddara. "Huron University College, the University of Western Ontario and the London community are fortunate to have a Canadian scholar of her stature return home and accept this position."

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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