

## **A Statement by the Muslim Association of Canada**

**Mississauga – January 29, 2016** – The Muslim Association of Canada (MAC) issued the following statement regarding an allegation of extremism at one of its Montreal facilities by TVA Nouvelles:

“A report in TVA Nouvelles on January 26, 2016, entitled ‘Les Imams Radicaux Influent du Quebec,’ contained an allegation of radicalization against a spiritual leader (Imam) at one of MAC’s Montreal facilities.

MAC has clear reporting and investigation policies in relation to any statements condoning extremism. Based on the nature of the allegation, an investigation may occur, with appropriate action taken by MAC’s National Board of Directors. We firmly believe that it is the responsibility of our organization and the community to confront any form of radicalization.

In response to that allegation, as per our internal policies, we spoke to Ahmed Khandil, community members present during the alleged incident and the Mosque’s Management Board. They confirmed that Ahmed Khandil did not make the alleged statement. Furthermore, Mr. Khandil completely rejects the premise of the statement and is troubled by the allegation. We are confident in the integrity of our employees, and support Ahmed in rejecting this report.

MAC remains committed to the promotion of a balanced and moderate interpretation of Islam in its Mosques, community centres and schools.

MAC is active in community service in Montreal. In the past several months, we have participated in interfaith dialogue with local Christian and Jewish groups, organized youth groups, and facilitated volunteer programs to support Syrian refugees.

We continue to work to strengthen our communities through education, religious service and charitable giving.”

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Backgrounder:

MAC is one of the largest Muslim organizations in Canada. It emphasizes the holistic message of Islam within the context of Canada’s diverse society.

MAC believes that the personal development of every individual is the key to real and fruitful involvement in the community. It brings a balanced, constructive and engaged understanding of Islam that aims to inspire Muslims in Canada.

For further information, please visit [www.macnet.ca](http://www.macnet.ca)