

Statement: Muslim Association of Canada Responds to Vancouver Sun Report

Mississauga – May 25, 2018 – The Muslim Association of Canada (MAC) emphasizes the holistic message of Islam within the context of Canada’s diverse society. Today, MAC issued the following statement regarding the May 24th report in the Vancouver Sun:

“MAC is committed to our shared Canadian values of diversity, respect, and religious tolerance.

We were therefore very concerned by an article in the Vancouver Sun yesterday that unfairly associated the inappropriate comments and social media activity of a former volunteer with the Kingsway Mosque in Vancouver.

In November 2017, we learned of comments made by this volunteer speaker during a sermon to our congregation in July 2017. We immediately concluded the remarks were inappropriate and issued a public statement. Since that time, the volunteer has not spoken at our facility and is no longer actively involved with our Mosque.

MAC has strict internal policies which govern the conduct of all volunteers and staff. We continue to work towards even greater adherence to all protocols, ensuring that all volunteers at our facility align with the values of the organization.

In addition to that unfair association, the article stated that MAC has “ties” to “militant” organizations outside of Canada. This is completely false. We are a Canadian organization only operating in Canada. We hold ourselves to the highest ethical standard and adhere strictly to Canadian law. We have repeatedly expressed that we condemn extremist ideology, hate and violence.

As more Canadians are exposed to Islam during the holy Muslim month of Ramadhan, MAC seeks to further emphasize the balanced and moderate message of Islam - a message that respects all faiths and Canadian institutions, traditions, and values.”

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The Muslim Association of Canada provides educational and community services to Canada's Muslim population. It is a Canadian organization that has been working to strengthen communities through education, service and charitable giving since 1997. Its mission is to emphasize a Muslim presence in Canada that is balanced, constructive, and integrated - though distinct, in the social fabric and culture of Canada.

For further information on MAC, please visit our website at <http://www.macnet.ca> or contact us directly at (905) 822-2626.