

Muslim Association of Canada Condemns Violence in Ottawa and Montreal

Mississauga – October 22, 2014 – 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 about the recent violence in Ottawa and Montreal:

“MAC would like to offer its condolences to the victims of violence over the past week. We are horrified by these acts of violence, especially in the Parliament of our nation’s capital. We stand with all Canadians in condemning these attacks and seeking justice for those responsible. MAC strongly rejects any threats against the safety and security of Canadians, and we consider it a civic duty on all to oppose such threats.

In times like these, we draw on our collective national character, to seek that Canadian sense of resilience; and dedication to duty and the work of the nation.”

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Backgrounder: About MAC

The Muslim Association of Canada (MAC) is a not-for-profit organization registered with the Canada Revenue Agency as a charitable organization. MAC works to strengthen communities through education, religious service and charitable giving since 1997. MAC only operates in Canada.

MAC operates 12 community centers and places of worship across Canada, including locations in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver and Edmonton. Each year, over 60,000 people attend religious service and participate in social and recreational activities in our mosques and centers. MAC also operates several schools across Canada including three full-time schools in Ottawa, Mississauga and Edmonton. The organization is entrusted with the care and education of 1,400 full-time students and over 4,000 part-time students. MAC operates 190,000 sq. ft of school space and provides employment for 150 full-time and 450 part-time employees. Our full-time schools receive top marks in provincial rankings and ranked amongst the best in their respective cities according to the Fraser institute.

MAC aims to inspire Muslims in communities across Canada to engage in community involvement and service not only within the Muslim community, but with every community, regardless of faith or background. We provide community support and services to tens of thousands of Canadians every year.

We operate 235,000 sq. ft of community space in the form of community centers. MAC operates over 50 programs across the country in numerous schools, campuses and centers including: leadership training programs, BYG and SYG (brothers and sisters) youth groups, high school mentorship programs, and MAC Scouts.

Additionally, MAC runs monthly 'MAC Give' programs across 8 chapters, involving 1145 volunteers, and delivering: blood drives, food drives, and toys drive, monthly soup kitchens, tree planting; and raising funds for causes like MS, Alzheimer's, cancer, arthritis, and breast cancer, and various health advocacy and education programs.

MAC model for change based on developing community resiliency through creating healthy environments for sharing experiences, programs, activities, and providing spaces where friendships can be developed and bonds can be established. Our strategies in achieving that are:

- Building responsive infrastructure to support the spiritual and social needs of the community.
- Provide opportunities for children to learn and grow in safe and stimulating environment.
- Inspire and empower youth to realize their potential.
- Create opportunities for civic engagement, through connect people to each other and enable people to help people through acts of goodness and kindness.
- Celebrating our faith and our achievements as a community.
- Establishing bridges of common purpose with other communities and faith groups.
- Building partnerships with various organizations and NGO's to promote peace and social justice