

Activities by CCMW Montreal in March-April 2023

CCMW Montreal, along with other Montreal community organizers, was invited by the Centre for Research and Action on Race-Relations (CRARR) for the summit on safety and crime-prevention initiatives. Farida Mohamed, the president, and Nusrat Shimul, a member, attended the Saturday March 11th event at Concordia University and brought along a young invitee. The Montreal police force (SPVM) was present to participate in the discussions about barriers and challenges within crime and violence prevention programs for English-speaking and racialized communities. The conversation centred on getting funding for youth programs within the different communities in the attempts to prevent armed violence.



The SPVM's Jean-Marc Schanzenbach at a summit with community organizations on March 11, 2023. (Credit: CityNews/Kwunkeyi Isichei)



Community organizations at a summit with Montreal police on March 11, 2023. (Credit: CityNews/Kwunkeyi Isichei)

CCMW Montreal hosted the first iftar at MCQ mosque, which had an attendance of 200-250 people. We had the pleasure of the company and help of Mariam Hamaoui from CCMW National, who distributed pamphlets about CCMW's work. The menu consisted of rice, chana, grilled chicken legs, salad and baklava for dessert. CCMW Montreal members raised the \$2000 among themselves in a

week in order to host this iftar. Members also gave food baskets to families whom they knew were in need.



CCMW members dishing out the food (photo courtesy of Mariam Hamaoui)

Farida Mohamed and Samaa Elibyari attended the opening of La Semaine d'Actions Contre le Racisme (SACR) at City Hall on 21st March 2023 presided by the mayoress Valerie Plante and events held thereafter in various locations from 22-30 March 2023. This year's theme was on the plight of migrant workers and on people without status, with emphasis on the humane treatment of migrants and refugees. The closure of SACR was held at the Centre Culturel Marocain on 31st March 2023 with speeches from Minister Christopher Skeete, the provincial minister responsible for the economy and for the fight against racism.



From left to right: Fo Niemi of CRARR, Farida Mohamed of CCMW Montreal, Samira Laouni of COR and Franz Voltaire, president of SACR (photo courtesy of Fo Niemi).

Farida Mohamed helped the Sister Sabria Foundation (SSF) over the last week of Ramadan by coordinating the preparation and delivery of 275 food baskets to needy families, students and individuals. Luckily, she was assisted by a group of young male and female volunteers who provide regular help to SSF by preparing iftars for 100-300 people per day. Sameer Zuberi, Liberal MP for Pierrefonds-Dollard, made a visit to SSF while iftars were being prepared for 300 people.



MP Sameer Zuberi and Farida Mohamed helping out with Sister Sabria at her foundation's (SSF) kitchen during Ramadan 2023.

Farida Mohamed was invited to the US Consul General's residence in Westmount on 5th April for a delightful sit-down iftar along with seven other community leaders. The discussion around the table was lively with input from all about issues that matter to Quebec Muslims.



Farida Mohamed was invited by B’Nai Brith to speak at a press conference to denounce the hate crime committed against the Baag Street Shul synagogue on April 4th. Many community members were present, including the head of the Centre for Research-Action on Race Relations (CRARR), the president of the Jamaican Association, the president of the Chinese Association and the head of La Semaine d’Action Contre le Racisme (SACR) among other members of the Jewish community. Farida pointed out that Muslims, like Jews, are constantly subjected to hate crimes with many mosques being vandalized all across Canada and since many Muslims have been murdered in Canada in the name of islamophobia.



Farida Mohamed of CCMW Montreal addressing the press at the Baag street synagogue.

Shaheen Junaid gave an interview concerning the negative speech of the Quebec Minister of Education about prayer space in schools. The latter announced publicly that no school should allow space for prayer, even in empty classrooms at lunchtime, in reaction to the fact that a teacher allowed some Muslim students to perform the dhuhur afternoon prayer. Samaa Elibyari wrote a press release concerning the same issue.

Samaa Elibyari, former secretary of CCMW Montreal and now co-president, was one of the organizers of Muslim Awareness Week (MAW), which showcased a lot of activities during the last week of January that commemorated the killings of the six men in a Quebec mosque. MAW’s Eid dinner at Chateau Kebab was well attended with many distinguished guests from the Muslim community of Montreal and many political representatives from the municipal, provincial and federal governments.



Organizers of Muslim Awareness Week,
Samaa Elibyari at far left.