



Canadian Council of Muslim Women
Le conseil canadien des femmes musulmanes

February 2015

Award Nominations!

Do you know of a talented and committed Canadian Muslim woman who deserves to be recognized for her achievements?

Support her by nominating her for CCMW's Women Who Inspire Awards!!

The Women Who Inspire event raises funds to support promising Canadian Muslim women in their studies through the [Lila Fahlman Scholarship](#), which is named after the late **Dr. Lila Fahlman**, a renowned educator and founder of **Canadian Council of Muslim Women (CCMW)**.

Many Canadians come out to support and donate to the scholarship fund at the annual fundraising brunch. With scholarships and bursaries, many women can afford to complete their education, which can then provide them with a better future for themselves and their families.

CCMW honour Canadian Muslim women from diverse backgrounds that have achieved excellence in sports, business, education, arts,

Follow us for the latest updates

If you are not already following us on through the links below, make sure you do in 2015. We will keep you updated on the latest news for Canadian Muslim women, how you can get involved, and what our amazing partners have been up to.



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- Downtown L.A. Mosque

community service and leadership. Challenging the conventional stereotypes, these women proudly serve their communities and are a source of inspiration for all Canadians.

Women Who Inspire Awards

Since 2007, the Canadian Council of Muslim Women (CCMW) has honored Muslim Women from across the country at the annual fundraiser: Women Who Inspire. CCMW's prestigious roster of past nominees and recipients, include women from diverse backgrounds that have achieved excellence in sports, business, education, the arts, community service and leadership.

Challenging the conventional stereotypes that are too often placed upon Muslim women, these individuals proudly serve their communities and are a source of inspiration for all Canadians. Read more about eligibility and submission guidelines here.

Nominate a Canadian Muslim woman, applications can be found [here](#). **Deadline is May 29,2015.**

Please be sure to look for updates on our website, Facebook page, Twitter feed and LinkedIn group.

February 2015



Imagines Empowered Role for Muslim Women
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Read Our Blog

Learn about what Canadian Muslim women are thinking. Please [read](#) and share!

[Donate](#)

What al-Azhar says about Shias?

What al-Azhar says about Shias? Statements about Shias by the Chancellor of al-Azhar University, [Dr. Ahmad al-Tayyib](#). In an interview to Egyptian Al Neel Channel, Dr. Ahmad al-Tayyib, the Chancellor of Al-Azhar University (Egypt):

Q. In your opinion, isn't there any problem in Shia Beliefs?

A. Never, 50 years ago Shaikh Mahmood Shaloot, the then Chancellor of Al Azhar, had issued a fatwa that Shia School is the fifth Islamic School and as like as the other schools.

Q. Our children are embracing Shia Islam, what should we do?

A. Let them convert and to embrace Shia School. If someone leaves Maliki or Hanafi Sect, do we criticize him? These children are just leaving fourth school and Hanafi Sect, do we criticize him? These children are just leaving fourth school and join the fifth.

Q. The Shias are becoming relatives with us and they are getting married with our children!

A. What is wrong with this, marriage between religions is allowed.

Q. It is said that the Shias have a different Quran!

A. These are the myths and superstitions of the elderly women. Shia Quran has no any difference with ours, and even the script of their Quran is like our alphabet.

Q. 23 clerics of a country (Saudi Arabia) issued a fatwa that the Shia are infidels, heretics (Kafirs)!!

A. Al-Azhar is the only authority to issue fatwa for Muslims; therefore the above said fatwa is invalid and unreliable.

Q. So what does the difference - being raised between the Shia and the Sunni - mean?

A. These differences are the part of the policies of foreign powers who seek conflict between The Shia and the Sunni.

Five Ways to Support CCMW

Phone

Donate by phone. Call CCMW at (613) 382-2847.

Online

Donate online through CCMW's [website](#).

Mail/ Email

Donate with a check and/ or a credit card. Print this [form](#), fill and mail it to CCMWTO, 200 Bay Street, PO Box 64056, Toronto, ON, M5J 2T6, Canada or email to info@ccmw.com.

Legacy

Please remember CCMW in your will.

Please indicate if you would like to be recognized on our donor list.

Every little bit helps to provide a future to Canadian Muslim communities by supporting their women!

Did you know?

Last year for our Violence Against Women project:

CCMW trained **72** members to go into their local communities and train other women how to deliver violence against women community workshops.

CCMW held **22** national workshops.

CCMW provided **659** Canadians information on the **4** different forms of violence affecting Canadian Muslim women.

CCMW served **7** communities across Canada: Prince Edward

Q. I have a very serious question that “the Shia do not accept Abu Bakr and Umar, how you can say they are Muslims?”

A. Yes, they do not accept them. But is the belief in Abu Bakr and Umar a part of the principles of Islam? The story of Abu Bakr and Umar is historic and history has nothing to do with fundamentals of the beliefs.

Q. (The reporter surprised by the response, asks) Shia has a fundamental problem and that is “they say that their Imam the time (إمام العصر) is still alive after 1,000 years!”

A. He may be alive, why is it not possible? But there is no reason that we – as Sunni - should believe just like them.

Q. (Referring to Imam Mohammad Taqi al-Jawad AS, (the 9th Imam of Shias) the reporter asked) The Shias believe that one of their Imams was just eight-year old when he became Imam; is it possible that an eight-year-old child be the Imam?

A. If an infant in a cradle can be a prophet (Issa AS), then why an eight-year-old child can not be the Imam? It is not strange. Although we may not accept this belief as we are Sunni. However, this belief does not harm their Islam, and they are Muslims.



Camp Deen

One of the best things about long winters is the extra time you get to think about being outside in the warm summer sun or around a camp fire with your best friends and fellow Muslims.

Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

Last year for our Women in Niqab Speak project:

CCWM surveyed **81** women in Ontario who wear the niqab.

CCMW held **4** media launches in London, Guelph, Toronto and Ottawa.

Campaigns

Annual fundraiser: Women Who Inspire

The Lila Fahlman Scholarship is named after the late Dr. Lila Fahlman, a renowned educator and founder of CCMW (Canadian Council of Muslim Women). The scholarship is sponsored by CCMW with generous donations from CCMW members and supporters. Each year, at CCMW’s annual brunch, funds are raised for Canadian Muslim women to assist in their education.

At the same event CCMW awards Canadian Muslim women who achieved excellence in sports, business, education, the arts, community service and leadership.

Learn more about the [scholarships](#) and the [awards](#).

Monthly Giving

CCMW is always looking for support from its members and partners from various communities across Canada. If you would like to participate, access the [form](#).

With that, Camp Deen 2015 is on track for Aug. 9-15 at Long Bay Camp Ground!

You still have time to take advantage of our Early Bird

Discount: Pay \$100 non-refundable deposit by 3/31/15 for the Early Bird price of \$495 1st camper/\$475 additional campers in the same family

Starting in April, prices will be \$525 for one camper and \$505 for each additional camper. You can pay your deposit by using our PayPal option on the Web site <http://www.campdeen.com/>.

To make the camping experience better for your children, we have made some changes to our registration.

Campers this year will be ages 7-14

Campers 15-and-older will now be in our leadership program.

15-year olds (or new 16 year olds) will be LEADERS IN TRAINING (PHASE 1):

As a LIT(1) campers will be mentored directly by senior staff members on how to plan, execute and supervise the multiple activities the camp offers. They will also have a daily session on various aspects of leadership such as problem solving and being a good follower. These skills will help our future leaders make better decisions in their daily lives. LITS(1) pay the same price as campers, but they do earn 50 hours of high school volunteer credit
*LITS should bring their school's volunteer form to camp.

Campers who have completed LIT (1) (Or first-time campers 17 and older) will be LIT (Phase 2): as a LIT (2) campers will be paired with a cabin so they can be mentored by our experienced counselors on how to lead a cabin: Additionally, LITS (2) will have courses that will build on what they learned during their LIT (1) phase.

The courses include conflict resolution, team building, and how to work with children of multiple ages. LITS(2) pay the same price as campers, but they do earn 50 hours of high school volunteer credit
*LITS should bring their school's volunteer form to camp.

After completing the LIT phase, campers will be Camp Deen



Vision

Ensure the equality, equity and empowerment of Canadian Muslim women.

Values

- To promote Muslim women's identity in the Canadian context.
- To assist Muslim women to gain an understanding of their rights, responsibilities and roles in Canadian society.
- To promote and encourage understanding and interfaith dialogue between Muslims and other faith communities.
- To contribute to Canadian society the knowledge, life experiences and ideas of Muslim women for the benefit of all.
- To strengthen the bonds of sisterhood among the Muslim communities and among Muslim individuals.
- To stimulate Islamic thinking and action among Muslim women in the Canadian setting.
- To acknowledge and respect the cultural differences among Canadian Muslim women, and to recognize and develop our common cultural heritage.
- To promote a better understanding of Islam and the Islamic way of life in the North American setting.
- To represent Canadian Muslim women at national and international forums.
- To encourage the

Counselors. As counselors, they will use all the skills they gained during their time as a LIT and more. Counselors will also get advanced leadership training and participate in peer driven learning where they will learn tips on how to be successful as they move into the workforce: Accountability, managing resources, preparing for job interviews and more. Counselors do not pay for camp and will be selected by senior staff members based on their performance as LITs and needs of the camp.

The Leadership Program's intention is to develop the next generation of Muslim leaders. Leaders who understand and are prepared to work through the multiple challenges they will face in today's society. More importantly, we want to develop leaders that have a true servant's heart rooted in Islam.

We are very excited about this new phase of Camp Deen. Please feel free to ask any questions regarding camp and also please spread the word.

Chad Jones

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Downtown L.A. Mosque Imagines Empowered Role for Muslim Women

In what may have been a unique moment in America, more than 100 women gathered Friday at the interfaith Pico-Union Project.

organization and coordination of Muslim women's organizations across Canada.

Guiding Principles

- We are guided by the Quranic message of God's mercy and justice, and of the equality of all persons, and that each person is directly answerable to God.
 - We value a pluralistic society, and foster the goal of strength and diversity within a unifying vision and the values of Canada. Our identity of being Muslim women and of diverse ethnicity and race is integral to being Canadian.
 - As Canadians, we abide by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the law of Canada.
 - We believe in the universality of human rights, which means equality and social justice, with no restrictions or discrimination based on gender or race.
 - We are vigilant in safeguarding and enhancing our identity and our rights to make informed choices amongst a variety of options.
 - We acknowledge that CCMW is one voice amongst many who speak on behalf of Muslim women, and that there are others who may represent differing perspectives.
 - We aim to be actively inclusive and accepting of diversity among ourselves, as Muslim women.
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Dear King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz,

Assalamu-alaikum.

I am a 52-year-old Malaysian-born Muslim. I was raised in a harmonious interracial and interfaith society that accepted and respected other religious practices. The existence of different faith groups was viewed simply as different ways of connecting to the same God. Saudi Arabia started exporting its Wahhabi ideology in the 1970s, and it spread around the world, turning existing interpretations of Islam into one that is dogmatic and violent.

The result is a nearly unrecognizable form of Islam. It appears to get worse by the day.

Read more [here](#).



WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS
EDUCATION INSTITUTE

CEDAW for Change Training Program

This unique educational institute brings feminist perspectives and an activist orientation to the inextricably related issues of peace, human rights and life-sustaining development. Participants will gain an understanding of the global economic, ecological, legal, cultural and political contexts of this work, as well as of the groundbreaking work that is currently being done and has been done over decades by women and men around the world. Participants will develop a practical understanding of the UN Human Rights system and how to apply a women's human rights framework to a multiplicity of issues. Participants will also develop practical facilitation skills to help them become human rights educators in their own regions and organizations.

Important milestones such as the U.N. Convention on the

Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, The African Protocol on Women's Rights, the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women, UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the Jakarta Principles, among others, will be featured as resources for social change. Effective ways of using them as tools for education and practice will be explored.

CEDAW for Change Toronto 2015 – June 6 – 13, 2015

The CEDAW for Change Institute will be offered in 2015 at the Centre for Women's Studies in Education, University of Toronto.

The program runs from June 6 – 13, 2015, and includes:

- Weekend workshop: An Introduction to International Human Rights Law & the History of WHR, June 6-7
- CEDAW for Change Institute: June 9 – 13

CEDAW for Change

This seven-day women's human rights education institute is designed to cultivate a better understanding of the principles of non discrimination and substantive equality as enshrined in CEDAW (UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women) and each State's obligation to respect, protect and fulfill women's human rights. The core principles and functions of CEDAW as tools for activism and feminist analysis will be explored, ensuring that all participants will be able to ground diverse women's issues in a women's human rights framework.

During the training we will learn through activities focused around identity and interconnectedness, the complex nature of discrimination, the impact of culture and religion on women's rights, and activism against discrimination. We will examine case studies that have come before the CEDAW committee and will explore ways in which CEDAW can be used to support local and national

level activism through the submission of Shadow Reports by NGOs and through the CEDAW Optional Protocol.

Click [here](#) to apply.



Canadian Network of Women's
Shelters & Transition Houses
United to end violence against women

Blueprint for Canada's NAP on VAW

CCMW endorsed the final version of the Blueprint of the National Action Plan (NAP) on Violence Against Women (VAW).

The UN has called on all countries to have a NAP on VAW by 2015. National Action Plans provide a framework for strengthening systems that prevent and respond to violence against women. They establish national standards and collaboration between all levels of government, civil society, survivors and service responders.

Currently, Canada has no comprehensive national plan or strategy to deal with violence against women. Without a plan, responses are largely fragmented and services often inaccessible. Early in 2014, the Canadian Network of Women's Shelters and Transition Houses initiated a collaborative process which resulted in this Blueprint.

Read the Blueprint [here](#).



Ottawa Chapter - Interviews on the Niqab

CCMW Ottawa chapter member, Ferrukh Faruqi, was interviewed by CTV about the niqab controversy. Watch the interview [here](#).

Read an article about the topic [here](#).



Honour Peshawar Children - Petition (Avaaz)

On December 16, 2014 a band of men walked into a school in Pakistan and massacred over 100 kids. CCMW signed this petition with the rest of the world to demand innocent children are protected and not the victims of violence.



Recruitment

Osmud Rahman is an Associate Professor of School of Fashion at the Ryerson University. He is currently conducting a research study about ethnic attire, titled Cultural Interchange through Ethnic Dress: Social Engagement and Public Perceptions. The purpose of this study is to investigate current issues related to immigrant ethnicity, experience, engagement and integration through the study of ethnic dress. This project consists of two stages of data collection: online textual data, and in-depth interviews. Professor Rahman has just completed the first-stage data collection, would like to recruit participants for the second stage research study.

He is looking for individuals who are willing to participate in an interview about their experiences with ethnic dress. The target participants for this study must be female adults (18 years old or above) with some kind of Muslim background. They can be immigrants or first-/second-generations.

Participation in this study is voluntary, and the interview is completely anonymous. However, the interviews will be audio-recorded if you provide consent for audio recording. If you do not want to be audio-recorded, then you will not be recruited for this study. The audio file will only use for the verbatim transcription, and it will not be circulated or uploaded on any public domains.

The interview will take about 45-90 minutes of your time. In this study, some demographics and personal questions will be asked – e.g., race, place of birth, duration of residence, income, education, and age. You have no obligation to answer all the questions. If there are any questions that you would prefer not to respond, simply skip the question during the interview. Please note a \$20 gift certificate will be given to you as a small token to appreciate your participation and compensate your time.

If you're interested, please let me know and I'll forward your contact

information to Professor Rahman.

If you need more information about this study, you can also contact Professor Rahman at orahman@ryerson.ca or call him at 416-979-5000, extension 6911.

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