



## Canadian Council of Muslim Women Le conseil canadien des femmes musulmanes

October 2015



In 1918, Canadian women across the country fought for the right to be able to vote in the federal elections. Almost 100 years later, women have made significant gains within the political sphere and the 2015 election process was proof of that.

October was a month of controversial debates, civic engagement, political campaigns and Muslim women were at the forefront of these discussions. This election saw one of the largest turnouts of youth and minority communities. A total of 88 women have been elected to the House of Commons, up from the 76 in the 2011 election. There was also an unprecedented amount of Muslims elected in Parliament including the first Afghan MP, Maryam Monsef!

As the elections come to a close, CCMW would like to congratulate all of you who participated in the 2015 Federal Elections and exercised your right to vote in hopes of creating a better, more inclusive Canada.

October 2015

### 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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### In This Issue

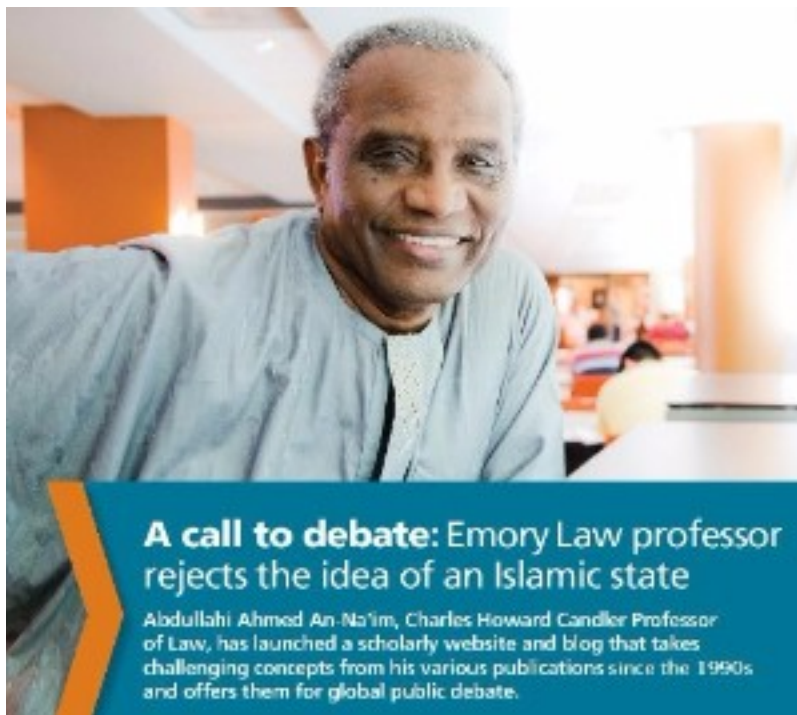
- BEYOND THE DIVIDE - A Century of Canadian



## Beyond the Divide: A century of Canadian Mosque Design and Gender

Beyond the Divide is a two-year research project to study mosques and Islamic cultural centres across the country by Assistant Professor Tammy Gaber. [Read More](#)

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## A Call to Debate: Emory Law Professor Rejects Idea of an Islamic State

Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im, Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law, has launched a scholarly website and blog that takes challenging concepts from his various publications since the 1990s and offers them for global public debate. [Read More](#)

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- Mosque Design and Gender Allocations
  - Professor Abdullahi An-Na'im - The Future of Sharia Blog
  - Sheila and Victor Goldbloom Distinguished Community Service Award
  - Women in Canada - Immigrant Women Chapter / Les Femmes au Canada : Chapitre sur les femmes immigrantes
  - CALL FOR YOUR ABSTRACTS- Edited Anthology - In Our Skin: Our Bodies, Our Stories Deadline Nov 15, 2015 (DEMETER PRESS)
  - Outburst self care guide
  - Karima Bennouna is Appointed the New UN Special Rapporteur in the Field of Cultural Rights
  - CBC Radio interview
  - Inspire solutions project
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### CCMW Quick Links

[Publications](#)

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### **Distinguished Community Service Award.**

The Quebec Community Groups Network marked the seventh anniversary of the [Sheila and Victor Goldbloom Distinguished Community Service Award](#) and the first ever presentation of the [Young Quebecers Leading the Way Award](#), co-sponsored by CBC Montreal and the Fondation Notre Home Foundation. For more on the winners – Lynden Bechervaise, Gary Briand, Fatiha Gatre Guemiri and Royal Orr - the the youth leadership winner Alexander Gordon. You can read more about this [here](#).

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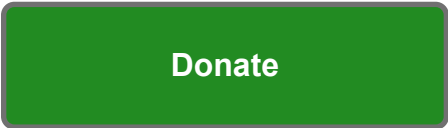


### **Study: Women in Canada, Immigrant Women**

Over 3.5 million immigrant women and girls were living in Canada in 2011, accounting for about one-fifth of the country's female population. In that same year, 52.3% of the total immigrant population was female compared with 50.8% of Canada's total population. In contrast, 100 years earlier, 38.7% of immigrants were

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

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### **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](mailto: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!**

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### **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.



women and girls compared with 47.0% of the total population.

[Read More](#)



### **Call for Papers!**

Demeter Press seek submissions — body stories— from women (trans-inclusive) who self-identify as fat, curvy, voluptuous, plus size, etc. We encourage those submitting to reflect, document and analyze relationships with their bodies in conversation with or informed by the many social locations we all occupy (i.e. gender, disability, race, class, sex, sexuality, disability, religion, geography, age etc.) as well as our multiple roles and performances we embody (family members, mothers, workers, students, consumers etc.) [Read More](#)



**Karima Bennoune is Appointed the new United Nations Special Rapporteur in the feild of cultural rights**

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

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### **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.

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### **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

CCMW would like to Congratulate Karima Bennoune on being appointed the new UN Special Rapporteur in the feild of cultural rights.

As a legal scholar and human rights advocate, Karima Bennoune has worked tirelessly to combat extremism. She is an award-winning author and professor of international law at the University of California Davis School of Law. Read more [here](#).

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](#).



### 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



## CBC Radio Interview on Niqab

You can listen to CCMW on CBC News Radio discussing the issue of Niqab at our recent Women Who Inspire event [here](#).

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### Inspire Solutions Project

Inspire solutions is an educational project that works to find solutions to violence and to develop a capacity to build a more peaceful world. The Dawson Library highlights books that address this year's theme of Gender and Peacebuilding. CCMW donated our publication Violence Against Women: Health and Justice for Canadian Muslim Women. Take a look at these diverse materials by clicking [here](#).

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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 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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