

RAMADHAN KAREEM



PRESIDENT MESSAGE:

Br. Iltaf Sahib

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Assalaam wa'alaikum wa
rahmatullahi wa barakatuhu and
Ramadhan Mubarak to all.

By the will and command of Allah (subhanahu wa ta'ala), we are blessed once again to have the opportunity to observe the sacred month of Ramadhan. This is the month where the rewards are multiplied immensely for every good deed charity, mercy, forgiving others and asking for forgiveness from Allah (swt), and also a time of seeking refuge from the punishments of the hereafter.

This blessed month also gives us an opportunity to remember and make dua for those who were with us last Ramadhan and are no longer with us this Ramadhan. We remember our brothers, sisters and children who were massacred in the terrorist attack in Christchurch, New Zealand on their Jumua day of March 15, 2019. May Allah (swt) forgive them and purify them of any shortcomings, give them the status of martyr and the best place in Jannah. We also stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters of other faiths and we denounce any form of terrorism against humanity.

Surely, we cannot forget all other atrocities that are happening to the Muslims all over the world, namely in Palestine, Syria, Burma, and not forgetting the Uighur Muslims in China. May Allah (swt) remove all the hardships from our brothers and sisters and bring peace and harmony throughout the world.

In conclusion, I'd like to remind everyone that the essence of this month is to do maximum ibada and this being a month of charity, we should timely dispense our zakat and more importantly Zakat-ul-Fitr. This must be dispensed before the end of the month of Ramadhan so that it can reach to the poor and the needy. We have lots of needy families in and around every locality throughout BC so let's give it to our local masajids to distribute to our needy families within our local community first.

In this blessed month, I would like to acknowledge our brothers and sisters and committee members in various divisions of the B.C. Muslim Association who put in long

volunteer hours to serve our community. I would like to also like to acknowledge our new boards, our Trustees, head office



staff, Imams, and my wonderful Executive team for their unity and strong support throughout the year.

We hope that Allah (swt) gives all of us the taufeeq to fully benefit from these beautiful days of Ramadhan by utilizing our time properly, and enable us to enjoy the blessed nights of tarawih.

Once again, RAMADAN MUBARAK to you all!

ILTAF SAHIB

President - The BC Muslim Association



VP MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Br. Sikandar Khan

The holy month of Ramadan is upon us again with its infinite mercy. The blessed month of Ramadan is a month of mercy and forgiveness. It also offers us an opportunity to free oneself from Hellfire. Allah Almighty has made this month a mercy for the entire mankind and an opportunity for Muslims for self-introspection and improving ones' deeds to win the pleasure of Allah Almighty. It is also an opportunity to elevate ones level of piety and self-esteem. May Allah Almighty give us the good health and dedication to live this month fully for His pleasure.

The British Columbia Muslim Association has been striving to maintain the bright image of the religion of Islam, which calls for forgiveness and moderation. This Association always strives to better serve the interests of Islam and its people.

We thank Allah Almighty for making this Ummah the cradle of Islam, where from the message of Islam emanated in British Columbia.

Today, we have, Alhamdulillah, in excess of one hundred thousand followers of Islam in British Columbia and about one million in this beautiful country, Canada.

"Canada is home to over a million Muslims who live and thrive in a free and open, secular democracy. It is our responsibility to maintain this freedom, so that those who choose to practice faith can do so without fear of violence" said the Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau. We are ever grateful to this great land and country that has given us the opportunity and freedom to practice our faith free of any form of oppression.

We call upon all believers, God loving and life loving people to stand united against terrorism, hatred, Islamophobia, anti-Semitic, bigotry and all kinds of prejudice against humanity.



As we approach the middle of Ramadan fully engrossed and devoted in worshipping the Creator, we cannot forget that people around the world are exhausted by the carnage around them. They reach out to console friends and neighbours when these tragedies rock their communities, incensed by their leaders' inability to take a principled stand.

Let us submit ourselves in supplications during this holy month and pray for new world order that will bring about peace and harmony.

Ramadan Kareem and meaningful Eid Celebrations to everyone.

May Allah Almighty bless the entire humanity.



A promotional graphic for the BC Muslim Association's Sadaqat-ul-fitr campaign. It features a hand holding a pile of grain, a crescent moon, and a star. The text includes:

- Sadaqat-ul-fitr
- Pay \$10.00 per person at any BCMA location
- e-Transfer: fitra@thebcm.org
- صدقة الفطر (Sadaqat-ul-fitr)
- The Prophet ﷺ ordered the people to pay Sadaqat-ul-Fitr before going to the Eid prayer.
- In 2018, The BC Muslim Association distributed sadaqat-ul-fitr over \$75,000 to our local deserving families. It is our intention to ensure that the eligible recipients receive sadaqat-ul-fitr ahead of Eid-ul-fitr. This will enable them to partake in Eid celebration like anyone of us.

THE DAWN OF RAMADHAN

Imam Anas Shaikh Nadwi

As the month of Ramadhan dawns upon us, we are once again engulfed with the divine mercy and countless blessings of Allah. This is a month of devotion, dedication and commitment towards Allah. Ramadhan distinguishes itself from the other months with two distinctive forms of worship, namely Fasting and the night prayers known as Taraweeh. The Prophet (peace be upon him) is reported to have said:

'Allah has made obligatory the fasting of the day and I have made Sunnah the prayers of the night'.

The Prophet (peace be upon him) has encouraged his followers to engage in acts of worship in Ramadhan by explaining to them that the rewards multiply more than outside of Ramadhan. Abu Hurayrah reported that the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said: Every action a son of Adam does shall be multiplied—a good action by ten times its value, up to 700 times. Allah says: With the exception of fasting, which belongs to Me, and I reward it accordingly. For, one abandons his desire and food for My sake.

There are two occasions of joy for a fasting person: one when he breaks his fast, and the other when he meets his Lord, and the (bad) breath (of a fasting person) is better in the sight of Allah than the fragrance of musk. (Al-Bukhari)

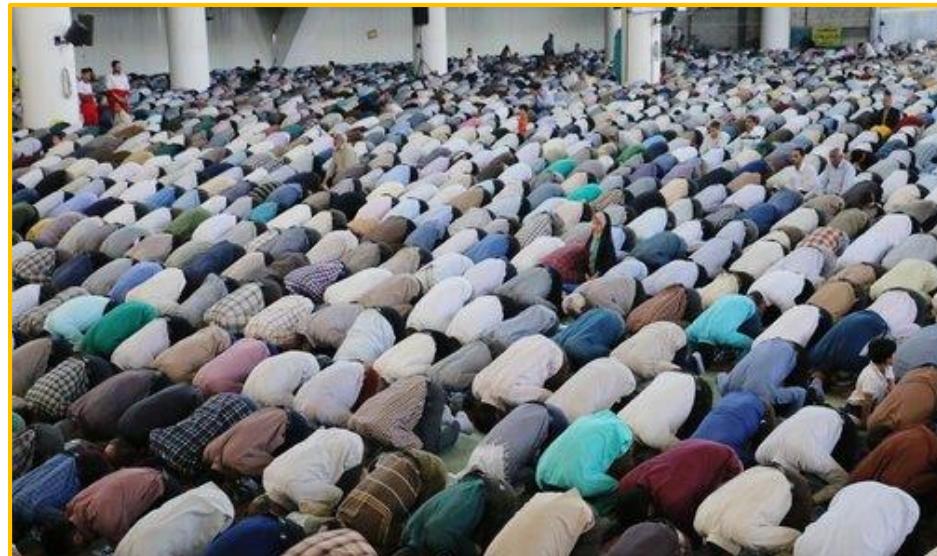
Ramadhan serves many individual and communal objectives and provides many physical, psychological and spiritual benefits. Those who observe the

Month of Ramadhan in a way prescribed by Allah and his Messenger (peace be upon him) are able to fulfil these objectives and acquire these benefits for the most part, if not all.

It is important to note here that one of the most important characteristics that Ramadhan implants within an individual is that of self-control. In Ramadhan, worshippers are required to abstain from eating, drinking and from engaging in sexual relations with

up regretting. Abu Hurayrah reported that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said: 'Fasting is a shield; so when one of you is

fasting he should neither indulge in obscene language nor should he raise his voice in anger. If someone attacks him or insults him, let him say: "I am fasting!" (Muslim) The last 10 days of Ramadhan are the most significant and allows worshippers to reap the highest of rewards from forgiveness of sins to



their spouses, which are all permissible when a person is not fasting. If fasting is carried out with the correct intention and focus, this goal can be achieved and it will be manifested by abstinence from impermissible acts outside of the Month of Ramadhan.

The Usage of the tongue is very difficult to control and as per our human nature, we often slip and utter such statements which we end

freedom from the fire of Hell. A'ishah (May Allah be pleased with her) reported: 'The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) used to strive more in worship during Ramadan than he strove in

any other time of the year; and he would devote himself more (in the worship of Allah) in the last ten nights of Ramadan than he did in earlier part of the month'. (Muslim)

Laylatul Qadr (The night of power) is an integral part of the last 10 days. Worship carried out on that night is equivalent to worship of a thousand months. Laylatul Qadr can befall on any of the odd nights of the last ten days contrary to common belief. The reason for its ambiguity is so worshippers can exhort themselves on all nights and maximise the reward before the blessed month of Ramadhan bids us farewell.



The Month of Ramadhan is exclusive and inclusive of many benefits which are seldomly received throughout the year. Making the most of Ramadhan by eliminating the habits that contradict the laws of Allah and practices of our beloved Messenger (peace be upon his soul) should be every Muslims ultimate goal. The scholars say that sign of acceptance in regard to any act of worship is observed by seeing how life transforms after in comparison to before. So, if life after Ramadhan is better than how it used to be, know that this Ramadhan has been a fruitful one.

BLESSINGS ABOUND!

Sr. Tazul Ali, Secretary
Women's Council

Fasting and juggling the normal routine for the women of the house is an exercise in itself. We still want to prepare more savouries, goodies and food for the month of Ramadan. Fasting is to refrain from food and drinks from Dawn to Sunset, yet there is the perception that we may need more for this month. There is excess of foods and drinks at the Iftars in the masjid. We eat a lot more during Ramadan so where is the sense of hunger and thirst that is needed to be experienced during this blessed month?

With Fasting, it is also the time for connecting with Allah, the Almighty, through paying heed to the five daily obligatory salat, doing Dhikr, performing Qiyamul lail, reciting and understanding the Quran and implementing those guidelines in our lives. Fasting increases devotion, and brings a Muslim closer to the Creator. It creates the recognition that everything we have in this life is a blessing from Him. It teaches self-control or self-restraint, gratitude and thereby, good manners, good speech, and good habits.

Ramadan is the month for family connection and of communal connection and sharing the blessings so humility and compassion is much needed. As our communal responsibility we



paid our visit to our sister at the Nursing home. This is done before Ramadan so sisters can join in for a potluck lunch with her and reminisce the good old days of Ramadan!

So, lets race to achieve these acts of goodness to earn the rewards promised by Allah, who said, "*He has left his food, drink and desires for My sake. The fast is for Me. So, I will reward (the fasting person) for it and the reward of good deeds is multiplied ten times.*"(Sahih Bukhari).

May our fasting and prayers and good deeds be accepted and rewarded.

On June 14, the Women's Council is hosting the Annual Eid Celebration Dinner for our sisters. It will be a time to enjoy the festivity and meet and greet sisters from different cultures. Get your tickets from any of the BCMA Women's branches.

We, the women of BCMA, wish everyone Ramadan Mubarak!

MASJID SAFTEY AND SECURITY UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Here is a recap of the recent Premises & Personal Safety and Security meeting with the RCMP,

VPD, the transit Police, and the B.C. Hate Crimes Prevention Team at the Justice Institute in New

Westminster. A few notable pointers which most of our local masajids may already be

implementing are listed below.

1. Each masjid contact local RCMP / VPD police detachment to request patrols during specified Jumuah timings as well as Taraweeh prayers time frame

2. Each Masjid to appoint designated volunteers with local police training to wear security vests - fluorescent to be on lookout for potential security threats during Salah times.

3. 911 must be called if threat is apparent right away

4. Suspicious activity like a car repeatedly driving around the masjid frequently should be reported to non-emergency police.

5. Federal grant available for the



Safety & Security Infrastructure Program Also, the RCMP is ready to send security site inspectors and will give recommendations and guidelines for the masjid management team.

Please feel free to print out these security documents to post on your

notice boards and also discuss with your committee.

JazakAllah Khairan and Ramadhan Mubarak.

ILTAF SAHIB

President - The BC Muslim Association

RICHMOND MASJID EXPANSION UPDATE:

Br. Abdelkader Chellabi, Chair

Project Schedule Update: The Schedule has slipped for about 3 months due to the following issues:

1. Revision of Architectural Drawings

2. Revision of Structural Drawings

3. Revision of Mechanical Drawings

4. Discovery of Sewer Pipe crossing the site. Initially thought to interfere with the elevator pit. Some workaround is being considered. The extra work will slow down the progress as the framing of the foundation footing requires extra steps. The workaround needed the intervention of the architect, Structural engineer and the Geotech Engineer.



5. Site supervisor loss, this needed an extra month to hire a new site supervisor.

The project has seen some delays due to the issues mentioned above.

Looking forward, the project is expected to be completed by End of 2019, a duration of months from

April 2019. Our Annual Ramadan Fundraising is underway, this year, we are planning to seek donation from other masajids through sites. campaign and online fundraising campaign Donate generously at

www.thebcma.com

Richmond Masjid Expansion Project.

2019 YOUNG UMMAH BCMA UMRAH TRIP

News Release

Surrey, BC – From February 3rd to the 17th, Young Ummah British Columbia Muslim Association held their annual Umrah journey with the help of the Almighty Allah through brother Abdul Rauf of Galaxy travel. What a wonderful trip it was to understand what Muhammed (peace be upon him) and his companions went through to secure the continuation of our Ummah. There is no other place like it in the world; the Umrah group felt at peace being at these two holy sites in Islam led by our group leaders Hafiz Hammadullah and Imtiaz Asin. There is one more group leader that was sorely missed on this trip but not forgotten and one of the Young Ummah BCMA Coordinators Tahir Sattar.



This year's Umrah trip was smaller in size than usual, but it was great to have a better connection with everyone that attended. The first six nights we spent in Madinah at the Darul Hijra Hotel, which is walking distance away from Masjid Nabawi. The time spent in the Prophets (PBUH) Masjid's was spiritual and peaceful there wasn't anything like it to say our Salaam to Muhammed (PBUH) after praying two Rakat Nuwaful and making dua on the

Riyadhl Jannah (green carpet). The Ziarat's we attended were eman boosting, and we visited such places as Ohud, Quba Mosque, Badr many others while we were in Madinah.



As we left Madinah, the group were longing to stay and started to be very emotional leaving our Prophet (PBUH) city, but we were heading to do our meeqat and be in the state of ihram and make our intention to travel to Makkah and start our Umrah. The group spent four days in Makkah and was amazed at being in the same city that Islam was founded. When starting Umrah, it was difficult but rewarding at the same time because you experience the physical and emotional toll that it takes, but you feel like a new person afterwards. While in Makkah there was much ebaadah that was being done by doing continuous Tawaf throughout our day and duas.

It's tough to do ziarat's in Makkah, but the group decided to visit the Qiswa Factory as the one only ziarat.

The group departed to Jeddah airport to head back home to Vancouver in a sombre mood



because as everyone will miss being in Al Harramain Al Sharefain at the same time going back to the family that they left behind. When the group arrived at the airport they were greeted by family and loved ones, as everyone's back at home and missing the experiences they went through on this trip it's time to do the hardest thing, and that is to continue with our five-time salat and continues duas. As 2019 Young Ummah BCMA Umrah comes to an end, it's time for our community

especially our youth to seriously think about next year and to make intention attend 2020 Young Ummah BCMA Umrah Trip.



QUOTES

"This one life-changing journey that we embark on if given a

chance for which we receive a reward. For as we surrender ourselves to worship to please Allah SWT no other journey on the face of this world Can give so much in return by Allah, this is a privilege”



Imtiaz Asin – Vice President of Youth Development Services of BCMA & Young Ummah BCMA

“Serving the youth and the community in the most blessed place on earth. Al Harramain Al Sharefain/ Makkah and Madinah is an ultimate pleasure for me. It’s something I wouldn’t stop doing. I promise, your first experience will make this a journey of your life and your regular visit will illuminate new experiences on every tour”.

Hafiz Hammadullah Qazi – Young Ummah BCMA Coordinator

CONTACT

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BCMA’S NEW HIC CANADA!

Authentic Halal certification in Western Canada.

HIC Canada (Halal Inspection & Certification Canada) is BC Muslim Association's new Halal compliance, verification, and certification program officially launched on the 13th of April, 2019.



This new and improved program has been induced by the Imams of the BCMA in collaboration with the current president Iltaf Sahib. HIC Canada is run, administered, managed, and operated by the Imams of the BCMA in conjunction with the Imams of other local Islamic organizations.

There is also large religious advisory council with the oversight of over 20 scholars with various academic and operational experience. The scholars and Imams on this consultation body come from various backgrounds making it a universal community effort for the Muslim community regardless of ethnicity.

HIC Canada is the official authority of authentic Halal certification in Western Canada.

HIC Canada was established by The BCMA to help ensure that all Muslims could be confident that the meat and products they consume are ‘genuinely Halal’.



The HIC Canada organization is an independent, not for profit, registered charity which monitors, inspects and certifies Halal products for the benefit of the Muslim community.



The BCMA supports hand slaughter of animals for the purpose of consumption by Muslims. It does not recognize any other methods of slaughter. An outlet is only considered to be “Certified” when they agree to purchase and supply products which have been vetted by HIC’s robust system and allow for active monitoring of their premises.

For more information and certification, you may contact

T: 604-334-8224

E: info@halalbc.ca

Website: <https://halalbc.ca/>



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