



The BC Muslim Association

RAMADAN/EID ISSUE

VOLUME 4 AUG/SEPT 2011

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The BCMA Gazette

Is the Official Newsletter of the BC Muslim Association

President's Message

In the name of Allah the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. All praise and thanks be to Allah Almighty, the Originator and Creator of the heavens and the earth and our esteemed salutations to the beloved Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h).

Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, La Ilaha Illa Allah, Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, Wa Li-ILLahi Al-Hamd! With the humming of this takbeer, I extend a very warm and joyous Eid greetings to all the citizens of Canada in general and to all Muslims in particular. Eid Mubarak!

"O mankind! We created you from a single soul, male and female, and made you into nations and tribes, so that you may come to know one another. Truly, the most honored of you in God's sight is the greatest of you in piety. God is all-knowing, All-Aware." (49:13).

Once again, yet another Ramadan is passing us by and we are, once again, bidding farewell to the month of the Qur'an, to the month of fasting, prayer and charity. This sacred

month gave us the opportunity to meet the requirements of enhanced piety and to focus on reformation of our character and behavior as a person. If we prayed with sincerity, and strove against our inner desires, then we must thank and praise Allah, asking Him to grant us continued steadfastness and commitment for the rest of our lives. Allah Ta'ala says in the Qur'an "Be not like one who sewed a shirt then destroyed it." (Surah An-Nahl, 16:92).

Almost 1.6 billion Muslims around the world, about 1 million in Canada and over 150,000 in British Columbia will celebrate the grand occasion of Eid Ul Fitr, a festival of rejoicing and happiness. The air of festivity and celebration around the world can be felt and seen on the eve before Eid when frenzied shopping and Eid preparations are at its heights all around the world. Alhamdulillah, Eid is celebrated by everyone, adults, children, poor and wealthy alike. The Holy Prophet SAS ordered the

wealthy and privileged to pay the poor and needy the prescribed amount known as Fitrana so they (poor and needy) may be able to enjoy the grandeur of the occasion. This institution of Fitrana reinforces Islam's emphasis on one's obligation towards society.

Let me while on Eid share a very important information with you. For decades, we did not agree on a common solution on Hilal sighting. Alhamdulillah, this year, we began Ramadan in unity and Insha Allah, we shall celebrate Eid together in unity here in British Columbia. While we, Alhamdulillah, are blessed and privileged in Canada our fellow Muslims in Eastern Africa are going through a major catastrophe in the form of famine. The BCMA and various other groups are organizing major fund raising activities to help our fellow Muslims in Somalia and I urge you to fully participate in this exercise.

**From The Editor
Welcome to the BCMA
Gazette**

This newsletter aims to inform BCMA members of the aims , objectives, activities and events of the organization

The BCMA Gazette will also be a forum for feedback, suggestions, and yes, even criticism-as long it is constructive from the community

We will also attempt to use this publication as a forum to educate our community about the true and authentic teachings of Islam

We welcome your thoughts as to what can be done to make the BCMA a stronger, more inclusive organization

**Aleem Kamal
VP Public Relations &
Communications
BC Muslim Association
media@thebcma.com**

The B.C. Muslim Association in its endeavor to pursue its vision in the field of education have shown absolute commitment to excellence and dedication in achieving its objectives in this field. To address the overcrowding problems and lack of space in Surrey Muslim School, the Association is indulged in serious negotiation to purchase a building in Surrey at another location as a solution to overcrowding at our current location. We seek for your absolute support and commitment for this noble initiative. In Prince George, Insha Allah, if all goes well, we shall this year pray our First Eid Salah in the newly built new Mosque and Islamic Centre . A historic achievement and phase in the life of BCMA, Alhamdulillah. We thank you for your generosity and contribution in realizing this dream come true. May Allah Almighty reward everyone for their support in the past and their continued support in the future, Insha Allah . Our Brothers and sisters in Victoria are also very active in their fund raising drive for their new Mosque. Thanks to Allah SWT, the BCMA have made tremendous progress and reached new heights in the last five years.

In conclusion, let me make this Du'aa for all of

us "Oh Allah, be pleased with us ... but if you are not pleased with us, then grant us your forgiveness." Ameen.

Let us celebrate this most auspicious festival with great spiritual devotion . Let our participation in the Eid prayer become a climax of this grand festival as a demonstration of supreme manifestation of the Muslim Ummah and equality of mankind.

On behalf of our sisters, Executive Council, Branch and Chapter Officials and members I extend a very warm and joyous Eid celebrations to you all.

Eid Mubarak !

Your Brother in Islam,
Sikandar Khan.
President.

**Eid Ul Fitr
A day of celebration
and a day of reflection.**

The glorious month of Ramadan is about to bid farewell to us. Muslims around the globe are busy making great preparations for Eid. the celebration of Eid marks the end of the month of fasting. It is a day of joy and happiness. It is a day of rejoicing the successful completion of the month of fasting. This day, we see Muslims visiting each other and exchanging greetings, wishes and gifts with cheerful faces

in a true spirit of solidarity and happiness. But... Apart from all these great feelings there is another important aspect of Eid which many of us forget to realize.

The day of Eid is also a day of reflection. It is a day in which Muslims should do self reckoning and as himself that what has he gained out of the month of Ramadan? The objective of fasting according to the Quran is to draw our self's closer to Allah and be conscious of him in our daily life. Yes, we fasted during Ramadan but have we drawn our self's any closer to Allah to be among the chosen ones?

Fasting according to the Hadith is not a mayor abstinence from food and carnal desire, it is rather to refine our morals and to shun moral diseases. Yes we did not eat and drink during the days of Ramadan but have we stopped lying, backbiting, cheating and slam daring others etc.

Scholars say : "the highest form of fasting is the heart's abstinence from it's longing for the Worldly comfort and pleasure and the thoughts which distance one away from Allah ". Yes we glorified our creator in many different forms in Ramadan such as in prayers, Tarawih, dhikr and supplication. But could we emptied out truly our hearts from lust and longing for worldly life and could we instilled the love of Allah instead?

The month of Ramadan is closely linked with the holy Quran. Quran started to revile during this month. Ramadan is the annual celebration of the revelation of the Quran. Alham-du-lillah we recited the Quran in Ramadan and listened to it during night prayers. But could we reconnected our self's with this great divine book and could we filled our hearts it's light.

In the midst of the preparation for the celebration of Eid these serious questions are awaiting the answers from everyone of us those of us who reaped these benefits from Ramadan are indeed successful and the joys of Eid are truly for them may Allah make us all among them. Ameen

Mufti Shujath Ali Nadwi

Eid Greetings to All from the Executive Council of BCMA

BCMA FUNERAL AND BURIAL SERVICES

Assalaamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuhu

With the overall growth of our Muslim community, we have faced an increase of deaths. From last Ramadhan to this Ramadhan the total deaths are 84 which includes adults, children and ship out services. May Allah (SWT) forgive them all and grant them Jannatul-firdous. Ameen.

During the month of Ramadhan we should not forget to make Dua for our brothers and sisters who are not with us today. We do not know if we, ourselves, will be here next year to celebrate Ramadhan and Eid. May Allah (SWT) forgive all of us with His mercy. On behalf of myself, my family, the burial administrator, the branch burial directors and the men and women Ghushl committees, we wish you, your family and your loved ones a very Happy Eid. May the mercy and blessings of the Almighty Allah (SWT) be with you and your family during this auspicious Eid day and continue always Inshallah. Happy Eid, Eid Mubarak.

Mohammed Asin Bakridi
V.P Funeral Services

Funeral Services
Br Asin Bakridi
604-727-8001
604-614-3622
burial@thebcma.com

**Eid Ul-Fitr
BCMA Eid Prayer
Locations & Times**

Insha Allah the day of Eid Ul-Fitr will be announced on Monday August 29th, 2011.

Please contact BCMA Head Office or visit to our website www.thebcma.com

for update information

Surrey/Delta
Surrey Jamia Masjid
12407 72nd Avenue
Surrey BC

1st Time: 7:30 am
2nd Time: 9:30 am

-Provision for sisters
604 596-7834

Surrey/East
Grant Taj Banquette Hall
8388 – 128th Street
Surrey BC

Time: 8:00 am
-Provision for sisters &
Bring your own prayer mats
604 597-7863

Burnaby/New West/Coquitlam

Masjid Al Salaam
5060 Canada Way
Burnaby, B.C.

Time: 9:00am
Provision for sisters

604 524-4499

www.bcmaburnaby.com

Hadith Qudsi 1 - Muslim - al-Bukhari, an-Nasa'i On the authority of Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him), who said that the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said: When Allah decreed the Creation He pledged Himself by writing in His book which is laid down with Him: My mercy prevails over my wrath. It was related by Muslim (also by al-Bukhari, an-Nasa'i and Ibn Majah).

**BCMA
Youth in motion**

Our Mission

Youth of British Columbia seeks to inspire and provide a safe environment for the youth to be able to: Devote their heart to and for the understanding & love of their Creator Connect to the teaching of Qur'an & the Sunnah Follow traditional methods of Islam to learn and inspire to correctly follow the Deen

Services

Formulate guidelines and policies for youth group at each Branch/ Chapters for common good Develop a program of events and activities with focus on Islamic values and leadership training Conduct yearly Muslim Youth Conventions, Sports and recreation services to promote sports activities

Please contact:
Imtiaz Asin
VP for Youth
12300 Blundell Road
Richmond, BC
V6W 1B3
Canada
604-270-2522
604-244-9750 fax

youth@thebcma.com

**Richmond Jamia
Mosque**
12300 Blundell Road
Richmond BC

**Time: 8:30 am
Provision for sisters
&
Bring your own prayer
mats**
604 233-7006

Vancouver

Fraser View Hall
8240 Fraser Street
Vancouver B.C

**Time: 8:30 am
Provision for sisters
&
Bring your prayer mats**
604 873-1787

Kelowna

**Ruthland Centennial
Hall**
180 Ruthland Road N
Kelowna, BC

**Time: 8:30 am
Provision for sisters**

250 979-1370
www.bcmakelowna.com

Victoria

**Pearkes Recreation
Centre** 3100 Tillicum
Road,
Victoria BC

**Time: 8:00am
-Provision for sisters
&
Bring your own prayer
mats**
250 995-1422
www.bcmavictoria.com

Abbotsford

**Abbotsford Islamic
Centre**
#7 – 2580 Cedar Place
Abbotsford, B.C

**Time: 8:30 am
-Provision for sisters**

Contact Br. Samiullah
Monir
604 807-9264

abbotsford.bcma.com
Chilliwack

**Chilliwack Islamic
Center**
#B-45845 Yale Road
Chilliwack

**Time: 7:00 am
-Provision for sisters**

604 392-1155
Time: 8:30 am
Nanaimo

**The Islamic Centre of
Nanaimo**
905 Hecate St.
Nanaimo, B.C.

TIME: 8:00 AM

-Provision for sisters

250 754-3471
250 468-7246

Prince George

Prayer location will be announced at a later date. Please contact

TIME: 9:00 AM

-Provision for sisters
250.277.1791

Dr. Mostafa Mohammed
250.564.5412
Dr. Firas Mansour
250.640.1160

For additional information, please feel free to contact the BCMA Head Office at 604.270-2522 or via email bcma@shawcable.com

Urgent Appeal

**BCMA Prince
George Masjid
Project 2010**

To donate online
www.bcmapg.com
Or Contact:
Br Firas Mansour
Project Manager
(250)-906-0025

**BCMA
Abbotsford
Islamic Centre**
To Donate online
[http\Abbotsford.thebcma.com](http://Abbotsford.thebcma.com)
Or contact
Br Shahid Rashid
604-302-0105

First Eid In Prince George Masjid

Alhamdulillah we are getting closer to opening the first mosque in northern BC. The work on the parking lot area and sidewalks is almost complete. Majority of the work inside the building is done and we are completing some of the necessary items before obtaining a temporary occupancy permit. Insha'Allah Eid Al Fitr prayer will be at the center.

Some of the items that need to be completed are the carpet, fire alarm monitoring and security system and some cabinet work. In this month of Ramadan the month of mercy and giving we are asking our brothers and sisters to help us raising the \$20,000 needed to complete these items.

(The tentative date set for opening is: September 17th, 2011 Insha-Allah)

To donate online:

www.bcmapg.com

Or Please contact Br Firas Mansour
250-906-0025



**BCMA
Upcoming Events**

East Africa Appeal

Please contribute generously.
Contact Branch/ Management for collections

· **BCMA Election**
2011-2013
(Dates to be announced)

· **Eid Ul Fitr**
(Tentatively
Aug. 30th or 31st)

(subject to verified moon-sighting)

BCMA Prince George Masjid Opening
(Tentatively set for Sept. 17th)

· **BCMA Annual General Meeting**
Oct. 30th, 2011

· **Eid Ul Adha**
(Tentatively Nov. 7th)
(subject to verified moon-sighting)

Women's Council

Alhamdulillah, the much anticipated Ramadan came with its Blessings and it is sad that it will be gone soon.

Ramadan is the month in which was revealed the Qur'an, a guidance for the people and clear proofs of guidance and criterion.

Fasting is not just being abstaining from food and drink, rather it is being abstaining from how we behave. How we act with one another. Fasting is the time when people try to connect with one another. It is the time for self reflection and correction for the better. It is the time to appreciate the unmeasured bounties of our Lord, the Most Compassionate. It is the time to show our gratitude to the Creator for all the favors that He has bestowed upon us and in return it is the time to share our bounties with the less fortunate.

We ask Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala for forgiveness and patience, kindness and compassion. Trying to reach out to others in good time and not in so good time is required of us and especially during Ramadan, so we must be generous to our family and others in need.

We must try our best to help the most needed and at the moment we

must make Dua for Allah's Mercy to ease the sufferings of our brothers and sisters in the Horn of Africa where the severe drought has destroyed everything from livestock and agriculture. This famine stricken area is in real need of assistance for food, clean water and medical care. Especially, women and children are in great danger of starvation. We must support them. Please open your heart and wallet and be generous and support this cause.

Muslims make concerted effort in worshipping to Allah during the thirty days of fasting because the reward is between Allah and the fasting person. They dedicate their time during the holy month to be closer to Allah through prayers, self-restraint and good deeds. Our good deeds should not stop at the end of Ramadan, rather we should see it as the continuation for the rest of the year till the next Ramadan, InshaAllah. Celebration of Eid-ul-Fitr is to thank Allah(SWT) for all His blessings and bounties. We thank Him and we ask for His guidance to the right path.

Celebration of Eid-ul-Fitr is to thank Allah(SWT) for all His blessings and bounties. We thank Him and we ask for His guidance to the right path.

On behalf of the Board of Women's Affairs, Women's Council and all the Women Chapters, I would like to wish you all the blessings of Ramadan and a very happy and joyous Eid. Eid Mubarak!

Sister Tazul Ali
Chairperson, Board of Women's Council.

**Women's Executive Board
2009-2011**

Chair -Tazul Ali

Secretary -Ayesha Ali

Treasurer -Hamida Hassan

Education -Najmah Mohamed

Social Services -Sahara Khan

Youth & Sports -Nosheen Husein

Communications-Shazmin Zahir

Planning and Development
Farina Husein

Funeral Services -Nazmun Asin

**To view copy of the BCMA
Constitution , please visit**

[http://thebcma.com/
media.aspx](http://thebcma.com/media.aspx)

BCMA EXECUTIVE BOARD 2009-2011

Sikandar Khan
President
president@thebcma.com
 604-270-2522

Aiyub Khairati
General Secretary
secretary@thebcma.com

Fareed Raza
General Treasurer
treasurer@thebcma.com

Musa Ismail
V.P. Planning & Development
planning@thebcma.com

Aleem Kamal
V.P. Public Relations & Communication
media@thebcma.com

Shahadat Hussein
V.P. Religious
religious@thebcma.com

Faizal Aziz
V.P. Education
education@thebcma.com

Bashir Patel
V.P. Sports
sports@thebcma.com

Shawkat Hassan
V.P. Social Serv
social@thebcma.com

Asin Bakridi
V.P. Burial
burial@thebcma.com

Imtiaz Asin
V.P. Youth Services
youth@thebcma.com

Mohammed Khalik
Assistant Treasurer
asst_treasurer@thebcma.com

Mukhtar Buksh
Assistant Secretary
asst_secretary@thebcma.com

Trustees
Farouk Ellesseily- Chair
Members
 Syed Madani
 Mohammed Shafique
 Ismail Manu
 Fikret Akkurt

Legal Advisors
 Massood Joomratty
 Shafique Mohammed
 Adnan Habib

Auditor
 M. Yasin & Co.

BCMA Richmond Branch

Subhan Allah another month of Ramadan with all its blessing has come and gone. Those of us who have fasted, prayed and did good deeds will receive something that cannot be measured in material terms. That of course is the pleasure of Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala. These are the people who should be emulated because their possessions are real.

We send our best wishes and Eid Mubarak to Muslims everywhere and pray that may Allah accept our deeds.

Alhamdulillah, the jamaat at Richmond packed the Masjid throughout Ramadan during the late night prayers and we wish to thank the huffaaz who led the Taraweeh prayers.

We also wish to take this opportunity to highlight some of the activities at our branch. The BCMA Richmond Complex is the flagship Islamic centre of the B.C. Muslims as the Richmond Jamea Masjid was the first mosque built from the ground up in this province.

For this reason Muslims in this province have shown great pride and affinity to this place. As management we are taking all necessary steps to ensure that the facility is maintained in top notch shape and the hospitality is second to none as it nears its 30th year anniversary. We would like the Muslims to have even a higher level of pride than when the Masjid was built in 1983

To meet these goals a handful of volunteers sacrificed their spare time and worked tirelessly around the year to ensure the general improvement of the facilities. On a chilly December morning there were brothers who made themselves available to plant the first batch of about 700 hedge shrubs after Salatul Fajr in darkness with the help of automobile headlights. While some others helped removed debris and large rocks from the perimeter drain on a rainy Spring day. And others worked on upgrading exterior photocell lights in simmering Summer heat while fasting. Or the sisters cooking and baking to raise funds for the facility improvements for almost every Friday. Even the City of Richmond obliged when we requested them to fill the large open drain at the north end of the complex in



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12300 Blundell Rd,
Richmond, BC V6W 1B3

Communications Board

Insha-Allah, the Board of Communication will make every effort to publish regular newsletters in this simple format, to keep the Jamah informed of the activities of the association. The Board welcomes input and contributions of articles from branches, chapters and individual members that will contribute information of interest to the general membership of the association.

Aleem Kamal
VP Public Relations & Communication
BC Muslim Association
12300 Blundell Rd, Richmond, BC V6W 1B3
Phone: 604-270-2522
Fax: 604-244-9750
E-mail: media@thebcma.com

BCMA Richmond cont'd

Time for the annual BC Ijtema convention early July. This cost them \$80k. The list goes on and on..

The patrons have noticed and conveyed their appreciation to the myriad of changes that has taken place in the last short while from extra parking spaces to the much cleaner and greener look. However, our work is still in progress and much more pleasant surprises are in store.

Our heartiest thanks and appreciation goes to all those who have made contribution in any shape or form. As Allah says that there is no reward for good except good (55:60). May Allah reward them abundantly.

Abdullah Nasib Ali
Chairperson

EAST AFRICA APPEAL

As many as 10 million people across East Africa are facing the worst drought in 60 years. Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia are among the countries hardest hit by food and water shortages. Crops, livestock and homes have been completely destroyed. Without water, crops have failed, livestock has died and food prices are too high. People cannot afford the basic food supplies they need to survive.

- Please donate generously
 - A tax deduct able receipt will be issued
 - Method of Payment
- ✓ **Cheque | Cash | Visa & Master Card**
Contact Information

• **BC Muslim Association**
Head Office 604-270-2522



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