



**Islamic Social Services**  
ASSOCIATION

**Building Bridges Breaking Barriers Facilitating Access**

### **ISSA MISSION:**

*Canadian society is inclusive and has a strengthened Muslim community, where cultural and ethnic groups and their members' social, cultural, spiritual and economic well-being are fundamental. Each person's potential is achieved by accessing and receiving culturally, linguistically and spiritually appropriate health, social and economic services and supports.*

### **ISSA's INSPIRATION**

*"It is not righteousness that you turn your faces towards East or West; but it is righteousness to believe in God and the Last Day and the Angels, and the Book and the Messengers; to spend of your substance, out of love for God, for your kin, for orphans, for the needy, for the wayfarer, for those who ask, and for the ransom of slaves; to be steadfast in prayers, and practise regular charity, to fulfill the contracts which you made; and to be firm and patient in pain (or suffering) and adversity and throughout all periods of panic. Such are the people of truth, the God fearing." (Qur'an 2:177)*

## **Shahina Siddiqui (President)**



**Shahina Siddiqui** co-founded Islamic Social Services Association (ISSA). She served as volunteer executive director for ISSA-- USA and Canada from 1999 to 2003. She continues to serve as president and volunteer executive director of ISSA- Canada. Shahina is a freelance writer, author, spiritual counselor, speaker and educator.

Shahina has received many awards among them - YMCA-YWCA (Winnipeg) 'Peace Medal 2002' for her work since September 11 in fostering understanding between Muslims and other religious and cultural groups in Winnipeg. In 2010 she was recognized for her life's struggle for justice and was awarded the 'Grass Roots Women of Manitoba Award' in 2010 in recognition of her social justice activism. In 2013 she was awarded the 'Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal' for her contributions to Canada. In 2014 Dawa Net awarded her the 'Civic Courage Award;' in 2015 'Joan Melonson Award' for her commitment to work for peace and justice. In 2016 Canadian Red Cross awarded her the 'Humanitarian of the Year.'

She founded the Canadian Muslim Women's Institute and is one of the founding members of Canadian Muslim Leadership Institute. She sits on the National Advisory Board for the Canadian Association for Muslims with Disabilities. Shahina serves on the National RCMP Commissioner's Advisory Committee on Diversity as well as on the RCMP Commanding Officers' Advisory Committee on Diversity, D- Division, and Manitoba. Shahina is senior board member of the National Council of Canadian Muslims. She is also Chair of Islamic History Month –Canada

Shahina has served on numerous boards and committees in order to build bridges between groups to help preserve human rights, develop cultural competency and mutual understanding. She has been profiled and recognized in magazines, newspapers and books. Some of these are: "Courageous Crusader," Winnipeg Women, Fall 2012; "Leading by Example," The Prime Times, October 28, 2010; "We Chose Canada – Eleven Profiles from Manitoba's Mosaic" by Lesley Hughes; "Words To Lead By" by Leadership Winnipeg; and "A Place to Call Home" by Canada West Foundation, Sheila O'Brien and Shawna Stirrett.

## **Abdo El Tassi C.M, O.M. (Vice President)**



**Abdo El Tassi** was born in Lebanon, where he became a schoolteacher and principal. He came to Winnipeg in 1969 and his first job was loading trucks in the shipping department of Peerless Garments. In 1978, he was appointed their General Manager and by 2003, he had become President and CEO. Since that time he has increased the company's annual sales from \$3 to \$45 million. He brings this drive to the many boards on which he sits, including the Arthur V. Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice in St. Paul's College.

Mr. El Tassi has sponsored dozens of people to come to Canada and established training and development opportunities at Peerless Garments for newcomers to learn marketable skills and English. To date, he has provided over \$1.7 million in interest-free loans to cover business startup costs, mortgages and university tuition for immigrants building new lives in Canada

He is founding member of the Islamic Social Services Association of Manitoba, the Al Hijra Islamic School, and the Mosque of Thompson. He is also a member of the Arab Jewish Dialogue group, which helps bolster relations between differing cultures and religions in Canada.

Mr. El Tassi has helped build several schools around the world. He has given to the University of Manitoba, Sick Kids Foundation, SOS Children's Villages Canada, UNICEF, the United Way and World Vision. He was awarded in 2014 the 'Philanthropist of the Year Award' as well the 'Humanitarian Award' from the Red Cross and was recognized for his generosity by the Variety Club.

Over the past seven years he has supported the Mauro Centre's Winnipeg International Storytelling Festival and is the largest personal contributor to the Military Family Fund which provides support to families of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Mr. El Tassi is recipient of the Queen's Golden and Diamond Jubilee Medals, Mr. El Tassi is also a member of the Order of Canada and the Order of Manitoba. The University of Manitoba awarded Mr. El. Tassi an Honorary Doctor of Laws in 2013.

## Harun Kibirige CA. (Treasurer)



**Harun Kibirige CA**, is currently Assistant Manager, Investment Reporting & Analysis at Great-West Life. He has held positions as Senior Accountant at BDO Canada and Staff Accountant at Deloitte Canada. Harun holds degrees in accounting from University of Saskatchewan and CA School of Business from The University of Winnipeg. Harun is a devoted member of the Muslim community of Winnipeg and has volunteered at many organizations including the Manitoba Islamic Association. Harun is one of the shining Muslim youth who are contributing to the larger society while serving selflessly to the Muslim community. Our future looks bright with leaders like Harun.

## Terumi Kuwada MSW (Board Secretary)



**Terumi Kuwada** is a retired Social Worker who has worked in many fields of social services in Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia. She has a long history of working as a volunteer with organizations that have a human rights/social justice focus. In 2012, Terumi was awarded the ‘Governor General’s Caring Canadian Award.’

Terumi has been involved with the Manitoba Japanese Canadian community for many years and served two terms as President and currently sits as a member of the board. The MJCCA was one of the centres involved in the Redress movement and she sat on the Manitoba Redress Committee. After the Redress settlement, the NAJC established the Redress Settlement Committee and the Human Rights Committee, Terumi was part of both committees.

She was a member of the Aboriginal Task Force in the early ‘90s. Terumi also sat on special committees, like the Restructuring Committee and Human Rights Guidelines Committee. Terumi

has served as volunteer mentor and advisor and instructor for the Canadian Muslim Leadership Institute for the past 4 years and is an invaluable asset for ISSA. Terumi served on the board of the United Way for over a decade.

### **Idris Knapp (member)**



**Idris Knapp** moved to Winnipeg in 2008 from the United States. He is executive Director of Winnipeg Central Mosque (WCM) and graduate of the Canadian Muslim Leadership Institute (CMLI). Idris is a devoted community volunteer and works diligently to maintain, run and manage programming at WCM. He initiated the community garden project at WCM and has established collaborations with other neighbourhood organizations to keep the area clean and neighbour friendly.

Idris runs the neighbourhood market and gardens on the grounds of Winnipeg Central Mosque. He is a member of ISSA's Speakers Bureau.

He also runs the youth and new converts programs at WCM. Idris also represents ISSA on the Interfaith Round Table and the Community Oak Table. Idris was recognized the 'Un-Sung Hero Award' from Our West Central Times.

### **Sid Frankel (member)**



**Sid Frankel** received Ph.D in 1991 from University of California, Berkeley, School of Social Welfare; in 1983 M.S.W. from University of Manitoba, School of Social Work, Concentration: Social and Clinical, and in 1974 B.S.W., University of Manitoba, School of Social Work. His areas of specialization include Population Health Promotion; Voluntary and Non-profit Sector; Social Policy; Research Methodology.

Sid has served on the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg for many years and is an anti poverty and social justice activist and champion and is known for his work internationally. He is a frequent contributor to newspapers, writing with passion and knowledge about the social and justice issues facing the under privileged in Canada.

Sid is one of the leading contributors to the development of Canadian Muslim Leadership Institute and has been instrumental in helping ISSA develop its programming and community profile. Sid has volunteered countless hours to many projects on various not-for-profit organizations.

### **Abdikheir Ahmed M.A. (member)**



**Abdikheir Ahmed** is the Citizens' Bridge Program Manager with the North End Community Renewal Corporation in Winnipeg. Until recently, he was the Interim Australia where he studied on a Rotary Peace Fellowship.

He immigrated to Canada in 2003 where he joined the University of Winnipeg to study International Development graduating in June 2006 with a four-year BA as a student of high distinction.

Abdi has extensive experience working with immigrant and refugee communities in Winnipeg's inner city focusing mainly on settlement issues, gang and street crime prevention and employment. He has interest in gang and street crime prevention among newcomer youth and employment opportunities for newcomer professionals .Abdi is member of the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) and was the recipient of the Amina Malko Fund Fellowship in 2009. Abdi has a Master's degree in International Peace and Conflict Resolution from the University of Queensland in Brisbane. He is the Executive Director at the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba (IRCOM) Inc.

In 2015 Abdi was awarded the Order of the Buffalo Hunt in recognition of his work with refugees and newcomers.

### **Dr. Niigaanwewidam Sinclair (member)**



**Dr. Niigaanwewidam Sinclair**- Acting Department Head - July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2017, University of Manitoba. Ph.D. University of British Columbia 2013. Dr. Sinclair has been with the department since 2012, researching a variety of topics including Indigenous literature, graphic novels, and masculinities. He is a regular commentator on CBC, CTV, and APTN regarding current Indigenous issues and recently, testified at the Clean Environment Commission of Manitoba hearings on the Keeyask Generating Station and Bipole III transmission line. An activist as well as a writer, he has helped organize Idle No More Winnipeg events and has co-edited three award-winning collections: Centering Anishinaabeg Studies: Understanding the World Through Stories, Manitowapow: Aboriginal Writings from the Land of Water, and The Winter We Danced: Voices of the Past, the Future, and the Idle No More Movement. Niigaan has been a mentor and volunteer faculty member of the Canadian Muslim Leadership Institute since its founding in 2010. His experience and expertise adds fresh perspective to ISSA's vision.

### **Kobra Rahimi (member)**



**Kobra Rahimi** arrived in Winnipeg as a teenager on Dec. 13, 2001 with her Kurdish-Iranian family after spending her life to that point living in a refugee camp. She came with no knowledge of English and very little education. Today, she is in her second year at the University Of Manitoba Faculty Of Law.

Kobra serves on the board of the Kurdish Association of Manitoba and steering committee of the Canadian Muslim Leadership Institute. Her experience as a refugee is an invaluable asset for ISSA in addressing and advocating for refugee families. Her passion for human rights and justice is contagious.

Kobra is a youth leader and a mentor for many youth within the Muslim community. She is also member of ISSA's Speakers Bureau.

### **Shiraz Mussadiq (member)**



**Shiraz Mussadiq** has a Bachelors in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Manitoba and is currently Senior Designer at the New Flyer Industries. He was raised in Winnipeg and is an active volunteer and is devoted to community service.

Shiraz brings the youth perspective to ISSA board and the energy of innovative and creative ideas.

Shiraz volunteers for Habitat for Humanity and is committed to the cause of justice for all peoples.

### **Jessie Reitberger (member)**



**Jessie** Reitberger is a 24 year old Muslim Canadian. Jessie works as a financial advisor at Investors Group specializing in Islamic Investing. He has been Muslim for 2 years and has graduated from CMLI. He holds a BA from Queen's University and has a passion for social justice, Islam, human rights and ethical economics. Islamic Finance and Islamic social services will brings his passions together and helps him give everything he can to the Muslim community.

## STAFF



**Irene McConachy** has worked as the Office Coordinator at Islamic Social Services Association for the past seven years. She came to ISSA from the Community Development/Community Economic Development course at Red River Community College on May 2009 where she was awarded a Certificate with Honours. She volunteered at the Burrows Central Residents Council from 2007 – 2014 holding the position of Treasurer from 2007 – 2008; Co-chair from 2008 – 2009; Chair from 2009 – 2013; Secretary/Treasurer from 2013 – 2014. Irene developed and ran the Kids Crafts program at Burrows Resource Centre from 2007 until 2014. She was a recipient of the Premier's Volunteer Service Award in 2011. Prior to this she worked as administrative secretarial support for a number of companies and worked as a computer instructor for the St. James/Assiniboine School Division at various schools for their night courses for adults as well as the Word Processing Specialist instructor at one of the Business Colleges.



Sabrina Bahadoosingh

**Sabrina Bahadosingh** attended the University of Manitoba and graduated with a degree in Business and Psychology. She worked for several years as a Financial Advisor with Freedom 55, assisting her clients with life insurance and mutual funds. Sabrina later decided she wanted to make a difference in the lives of others and applied for a job with The Salvation Army Booth Centre. Sabrina started as a Case Worker and moved forward to become the Program Coordinator of *The Haven*, a mental health rehabilitation program. During her time at the shelter, she helped many individuals with diverse issues. She always had an understanding of people who suffered from mental illness, and wanted to make sure they received the best care and help they required. Currently, Sabrina is the Operations Manager at Islamic Social Services Association. In her spare time, she likes to get together with her family and friends, spend time at her cottage and acting. She volunteers her time with Folklorama, Winnipeg Harvest and Siloam Mission.



**Rubina Atif** is from Pakistan and has been living in Canada for the last four years. In Canada she worked in sales for three years and has volunteered with ISSA, A&O and Immigrant Center. She has been the PFSS family support worker since the beginning of the year. She was program coordinator for the 2015 Multicultural Tea Fest. Over the past year she has trained as a positive parenting facilitator and at present she conducts workshops on positive parenting in partnership with Mosaic.

She completed her masters in English literature from the University of Punjab, and worked as a principal and teacher for 16 years. She has received her certificate Simply Accounting and Canadian Payroll as well as Basics of Computer and Academic Writing, Educational Assistant at Red River College. She also completed her English Language Teaching and Training Certificate in the UK and Teacher and Teaching training skills workshops from China and UK. She received Leadership and Management Certificate from the LAMP course at CITI School.



**William Barr BSW** holds both a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Winnipeg and a Bachelor of Social Work from Booth University College. He has dedicated much of his life to community and youth initiatives at the local and international level. He is currently the Coordinator of the Preventative Family Support Services at Islamic Social Services Association, a project implemented to provide support for Muslim children, families and service providers within the Child Welfare System. Created in August 2015, the PFSS has established a Foster Parent recruitment drive and begun developing targeted parenting skills training, and has established support groups for both youth and parents. The PFSS offers free counseling and mediation supports for those in need.

## REPORTS

ISLAMIC SOCIAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2016



### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT SHAHINA SIDDIQUI**

Peace be with you

It has been an exciting time to be serving as ISSA's executive director. Last 2 years have seen a growth spurt in our programming services and activities, which is unprecedented in our 18 years of operations. Many sectors have come to recognize our services, expertise and what we have to offer in terms of being an organization that caters specifically to the social, family, and healthy integration needs of Canadian Muslims.

We have now set into action the implementation of the Canadian Muslim Family Institute, through the generous support from General Authorities for a 14 month pilot project that comes to an end this October. We were able to employ a full time social worker and a family support worker, through their reports you will get the clear picture of how beneficial it has been to the Muslim community as well as service providers. We are unsure how we will continue past October if we do not secure multi- years funding from the provincial government or other sources. The unique needs, challenges, cultural diversity and demographics of Muslim population in Manitoba makes this a critical need and our priority moving forward.

We are looking for help and assistance from all of you in this matter. We have also through this program secured a dozen Muslim families as foster parents so that there are culturally and spiritually appropriate homes available for Muslims children if need be.

Through a grant from The Winnipeg Foundation we have employed a part time Operation Manager that is assisting the operational aspects of the organization.

ISSA continues to fill the knowledge gap about Islam and Muslims that exist in all sectors through its publications and trainings. From the stats in this report you will see the great demand for this information. Our latest guide for teachers was developed in collaboration with the Canadian Human Rights Commission was launched at a press conference in Ottawa.

Our work with Syrian newcomers is ongoing and with grant from Red Cross we were able run an Arabic Call-In information line. From grant from federal source we were able to run a 7 weeks summer program for Muslim newcomer boys ages 15 to 21 , through our Preventative Family Services we are developing parental support groups and workshops in parenting .

Our publications are being used around the world and we continue to receive feedback on how useful they have been in raising cultural competency of service providers. ISSA continues its collaboration with cultural and faith communities on issues of justice, human rights and anti racism.

From local conferences to national and international forums ISSA has been invited to present the perspectives both Muslim and Canadian about human rights, justice and extremism issues.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work of our board, staff and team of dedicated volunteers.

I invite you to please read the reports , ask questions and visit our office any time.

Sincerely

Shahina Siddiqui



#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT TERUMI KUWADA**

As Secretary of the ISSA Board, my duties include:

- Management of the regular board meetings, which includes, preparing the agenda, advising the members of the date of the meetings, taking minutes of the meetings, distributing the draft copies of the minutes and maintaining a record of the meetings.
- Participation in significant documentation of governance policies and procedures, such as contracts, memorandums of understanding, by-law changes, etc.
- Assistance in various functions and events of ISSA.
- Other duties as needed, may include meetings with funders and supporters of ISSA, as a Board representative, in areas of fund raising and other special requests.

A decision was made this year to have 4 meetings during the year for the entire Board and have Executive meetings as needed.



## **OPERATION MANAGER'S REPORT      SABRINA BAHADOOSINGH**

As the Operations Manager, I provide leadership, oversee operations and fundraising. We have bi weekly staff meeting where our coordinators report on their progress and budgets. We have been preparing documentation for different funders and service providers to expand our organization. This year ISSA had their First Fundraising Iftar; it was a successful event as we received monthly pledges from various community members and many generous one time donations. Next year will be our second year for the event and we hope to have double the amount of patrons by extending our invitation. We are also expanding our social media network. In November 2015, ISSA launched their new website and logo. Since the launch we have been able to access different avenues for the organization. Currently, all of our publications are on the site and viewers are able to purchase the books. For our instagram account we posted many pictures from our After School Program for the parents to see. Facebook has also allowed us to reach out to the Winnipeg Muslim community to inform them of our upcoming events and services we provide. We hope to extend this platform by utilizing it to its maximum capacity. During the month of October (Islamic History Month), each day we will be posting contributions of Muslims throughout history. ISSA will be hosting their third annual Tea Fest at Franco Manitobain on October 16, 2016. Tea fest has been an exceptional event for ISSA in the past. We have many vendors from around the world showcasing their hot beverages and dainties.

### After School Program

Islamic Social Services Association's (ISSA) After School Program was generously funded by The Winnipeg Foundation and Urban Green Team. This is the 9th year we had the honour of providing Muslim children the opportunity to build relationships with each other and have a safe place to engage in recreation. ISSA's After School Program has three major components: educational, community service and recreation. The programs objective is to support Muslim Youth in Winnipeg with social, spiritual, educational and physical development.

The 2016 After School Coordinators were Omar and Shirine. Omar and Shirine were dedicated to make each child feel welcomed and have as much fun as possible. Attendees for the program included newcomers and others from the community. There were 15 participants in the program, ages 6 to 15. Some of the activities the youth participated in were: Sky Zone, laser tag, playing different sports at Assiniboine Park, using the YMCA facilities, Freight House for crafts, drug awareness presentation, bowling, Assiniboine Park Zoo, Fun Mountain, watching movies and mini golf.

A week before their camping trip, the youth set up a hot dog sale to raise funds at Winnipeg Central Mosque. Their camping experience in August at Birds Hill Provincial Park was memorable for everyone. The children learned how to start a campfire and make different meals on the fire pit. The youth loved hearing ghost stories by the campfire while roasting marshmallows. This was a successful year for the After School Program. We were able to achieve our desired expectations. A special thanks to the After School Coordinators and all of our volunteers that helped. They did an exceptional job.

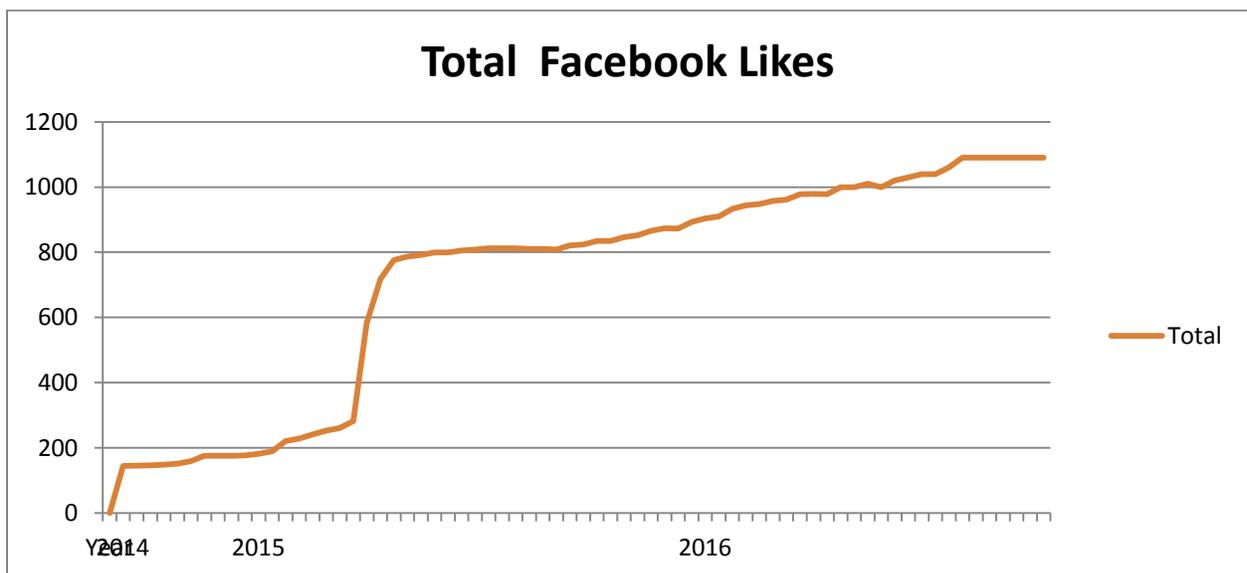


**OFFICE COORDINATOR’S REPORT      IRENE MCCONACHY**

ISSA has had a busy past year and half. With the addition of new staff members ISSA’s capacity has increased. ISSA has released three new handbooks: “United Against Terrorism,” and the English & French versions of “Helping Students deal with Trauma,” and “A Professional Guide for Canadian Imams,” and revised “Muslim Students: Their Culture and Faith.”

Our Cultural Competency Training Sessions have increased dramatically especially with the arrival of the Syrian refugees as well as other immigrants to our Province. The demand for this training continues especially from the Education sector.

Facebook



Website Statistics

Pageviews	13,857
Unique Pageviews	10,715
Avg. Time on Page	1.24
Bounce Rate	57.41%
% Exit	39.22%

Page	Pageviews	% Pageviews
/	4,119	29.73%
Services	948	6.84%
About	926	6.68%
Contact	922	6.65%
Events	671	4.84%
Helping Students Deal Trauma Guide Educators	585	4.22%
Publications	571	4.12%
Media	408	2.94%
Preventative Family Support Services	399	2.88%
Islam/basic beliefs	325	2.35%



**PFSS COORDINATOR'S REPORT WILLIAM BARR**

Things have been very busy for all those involved with the Preventative Family Support Services (PFSS) at ISSA. Our family support worker has been working to deliver culturally appropriate parenting workshops in various languages and in different areas of the city. So far Rubina has conducted Ten week workshops in West End, Old St.Vital/St. Boniface, Downtown, and just wrapped up a course for Twenty very motivated parents at the Waverley Mosque. Currently plans are in progress to conduct our next course in our own offices. This training will be conducted in Arabic and will target newcomer refugee women.

Our family support worker has also helped to create three self driven parent support groups for various communities in Winnipeg. These support groups consist of a core of parents who have completed the previous parenting workshops and would like to continue supporting each-other. These groups are self led and open to new participants. Our family support worker attends at least one of the groups every week to offer guidance and support, otherwise the groups are run entirely by leaders chosen from among the group.

This year all ISSA staff attended a training uniquely created by the Crisis and Trauma Resource Institute, focused on delivering services to adults and youth who have suffered trauma as a result of violent conflict. This has set up ISSA to be uniquely able to meet the needs of refugee families fleeing war.

The PFSS has been involved in providing possible places of safety for a number of cases involving Muslim children needing to be placed in care. The PFSS has also been active in recruiting foster parents through “Foster Aware” events hosted by Winnipeg Child and Family services staff. The next event is being planned at the ISSA office for October.

Earlier this year, ISSA conducted a needs assessment done with Muslim youth in the inner city. Out of these consultations a plan to give voice to the questions and concerns of these youth has taken shape. Beginning this October ISSA will host four events. The events will focus on different topics affecting Muslim newcomer youth, and will include mentorship activities and candid discussion. These events will hopefully lead into a more long term supportive programming. Leading up to the youth events, ISSA has been engaged with refugee youth and their families through a summer youth program. This program was led by two energetic community members who both speak Arabic as well as other regional languages. The youth in the summer program were able to experience much of the city as well as its surrounding natural beauty.

As the PFSS Coordinator, I was given the responsibility to manage the Arabic speaking hotline. The hotline, that was staffed by Arabic speaking volunteers, was an initiative to give newcomers from Arabic speaking backgrounds an additional lifeline to understand their new home. Volunteers reported fielding calls asking about everything from bus schedules, to assistance reading ingredients on food labels.

Although there has been plenty of other things going on this year, the strength of the PFSS still lies in its individualized support services. As the PFSS Coordinator I have been involved with numerous people, families and service providers with a wide range of concerns. Interventions range from short term, referrals, mediation, or training, to longer term case management, and ongoing counseling, but no matter the situation ISSA remains a support the entire way, even if it means traveling around the province to see interventions through, or checking in with clients after they have been referred to another service.

I would like to thank all those involved with ISSA for allowing the PFSS to exist and to do the work that we do.

Regards,  
William Barr

Islamic Social Services Association  
Preventative Family Support Service  
Coordinator



**PFSS FAMILY SUPPORT WORKER'S REPORT RUBINA ATIF**

As the PFSS Family Support Worker, I received facilitator training from Mosaic and presented parenting workshops with Mosaic for the Muslim community, free of cost. We have completed three sets of workshops, each comprising of 9 sessions. We provided child care and snacks for participants so that they could come without any pressure of leaving children unattended.

- Positive Development in Everyday Parenting CMWI. Total number of participants 9.
- Positive Development in Everyday Parenting Hazel Wood Masjid, total number of participants 15.
- Positive Development in Everyday Parenting Waverley Masjid, total number of participants 15.

We are hosting a workshop for Syrian Refugees by the end of September 2016 at 72 Princess. This workshop will be in Arabic and will have all material translated in Arabic as well.