



CMWI
Canadian Muslim Women's Institute

FALL
NEWSLETTER

EDITION (2024)





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NEWSLETTER

2024

Executive Director Introduction Letter



Dear CMWI Community,

I am thrilled to introduce myself as the new Executive Director of the Canadian Muslim Women's Institute (CMWI) Family Resource Centre, having joined the team on July 15, 2024. It is an honour to step into this role and be part of an organization so deeply committed to fostering well-being, safety and belonging for all members of our community.

My dedication to education, public safety and anti-hate initiatives has shaped my journey to CMWI. With a background that includes three Bachelor's degrees in History, Religion and Education, as well as a Master's in Religion, I have had the privilege of engaging in meaningful research and community work.

My academic pursuits have focused on critical issues such as the Canadian government's efforts to repatriate and reintegrate Muslim women and children from Syria. I have also developed an educator's toolkit to combat Islamophobia, which has been integrated into the Manitoba provincial curriculum.





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Executive Director

Introduction Letter



Currently, I am pursuing a Ph.D. in Cultural Studies at Queen's University, where my research examines the intersection of Christian nationalism and religious activism in Canada, informing current debates in the education system.

In addition to my professional background, I bring my own lived experience as an immigrant, having moved to Canada with my family from Greece in 2014 due to economic reasons. I understand firsthand the challenges and opportunities that come with navigating a new environment, and this personal journey fuels my passion for supporting community members and ensuring that they have access to the resources and community connections that are vital to their well-being.

As I embark on this new role, I am inspired by CMWI's mission to provide holistic, culturally sensitive support and resources to those in need, particularly newcomers and refugees to Canada. Our organization's commitment to building a strong, diverse community—one where everyone has access to basic resources, support in navigating complex systems, and the opportunity to build meaningful connections—is one that resonates deeply with me. It is a vision rooted in Islamic values I equally uphold, centered on integrity, community connection, empowerment and inclusion, guiding everything we do.





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I look forward to working closely with our experienced staff, dedicated board members and, most importantly, the vibrant community we serve. Together, I aspire to continue to build on CMWI's legacy of compassion and empowerment, ensuring that our services remain inclusive and accessible to all who need them.



Thank you for the warm welcome and I am excited about the journey ahead.

With warm regards,

Eve Sotiriadou

Executive Director





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MEET THE TEAM

MARIA RABADI

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES MANAGER

VER-SE MARK-IBER

EMPLOYMENT COUNSELLOR

CHANTAL BENJAMIN

CHILDCARE SKILLS INSTRUCTOR

NURUN JANNAT

CHILDCARE ASSISTANT

EVE SOTIRIADOU

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JOYCE ANN CAISIP

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

ABIR CHEHLAOUI

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

VILAILUCK PINASOUC

CULINARY INSTRUCTOR





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MEET THE TEAM

THE **CUTTINGEDGE**
EST 2018  QUALITY DESIGNS
+ MANUFACTURING

**MOHAMMAD OTHMAN
AGHA**

SENIOR SEWING INSTRUCTOR

ROZELINA DAUDA

SEWING INSTRUCTOR

YULIA TUZ

EMPLOYMENT FACILITATOR



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MEET THE TEAM

MESOUD MOHAMED

NEWCOMER RESOURCES &
SYSTEMS NAVIGATOR

HODAN ALI

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT
COORDINATOR

FAYSAL ALI

SETTLEMENT PROGRAM
COORDINATOR

ZEINAB ALI

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

ZEBIBA IBRAHIM

COMMUNITY
SUPPORT PROGRAMS
MANAGER

AHLAM JASIM

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT
COORDINATOR

MAHAM ALI

WELLNESS COORDINATOR /
COUNSELLOR

AISHA ALI

DONATION & VOLUNTEER CO-
ORDINATOR



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3 EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

Commercial Cooking Training
Industrial Sewing Training
Childcare Skills Training

including specialized English classes related to each employment field .



FALL

**Programs
and
services**



Financial Empowerment

Money Management Training
Financial Literacy & Counseling
Registered Saving Education Plan
Access to Benefits & Filing Taxes
Citizenship Applications and IDs



Wellness Programs

Mental Health Support Groups
Seasonal Workshops



Community Support Services

Food Bank
Community Closet
English Conversation Classes
Settlement Workshops



OUTREACH SERVICES

Phone calls
Interpretation
Translation
Child minding
Community Referrals
Customized Client Support



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2024





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CULINARY INSTRUCTOR



VILAILUCK

PINASOUC

Thank you

ALEMIFA

HALYNA SOKYRKO

IRYNA RAKOCHA

MARYNA NAZAROVA

METKELAWIT WELDE NSAIE

OLHA MARKUSHYNA

SVITLANA NAZEK



THE AGM DINNER WAS
PREPARED
IN-HOUSE BY OUR
CULINARY INSTRUCTOR
AND HER FORMER
STUDENTS





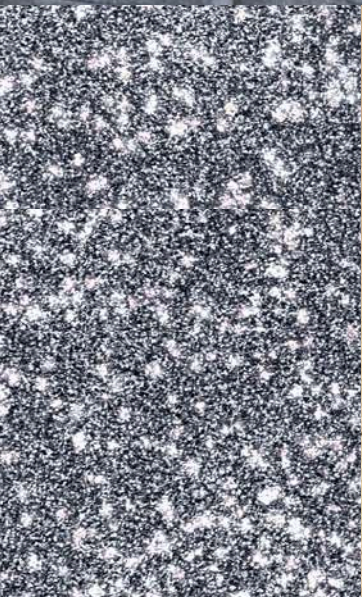
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**THE AGM GOODIE
BAGS WERE MADE
BY**



THE | CUTTING EDGE

EST
2018



QUALITY DESIGNS
+ MANUFACTURING



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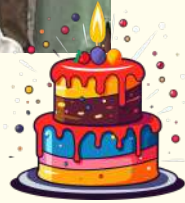
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Celebrating
staff birthday



CMWI Visits
the Forks



CMWI Wellness Dinner



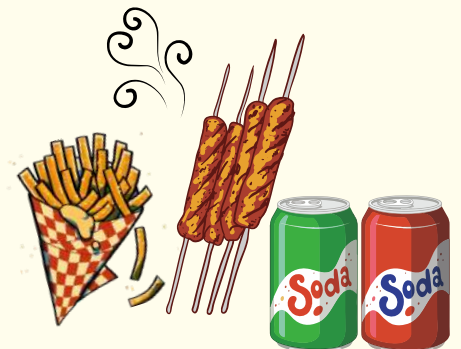


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During a recent visit to **Les Saj**, located at **1857 Grant Avenue**, our team had the pleasure of enjoying some of the most delicious Middle Eastern dishes in town.

Each meal is crafted with **fresh ingredients** and served in **generous portions**, capturing the essence of **authentic cuisine**.



Farook Khalif & Yasmin Ali
Les Saj Owner CMWI President



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We are thrilled to celebrate the success of one of our long-term friends and volunteers, **Farook Khalif**

Farook first came to the Canadian Muslim Women's Institute as a client, and over the years, he has become an integral part of our community, dedicating his time and energy to help others. His journey is a true testament to hard work, perseverance, and the power of community support.

Located at **1857 Grant Ave**, treat yourself to Farook's delicious food, made fresh with the best ingredients right on the spot!





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COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Looking to give back to the community while increasing your visibility as a local business or community member?

The Canadian Muslim Women's Institute Family Resource Center invites you to join us in making a difference. Support our mission through small or large scale donations, and in return, gain advertising opportunities across our platforms!

It's a perfect way to promote your business while giving back to the community.

WHY GET INVOLVED?



- **Community Impact:** Your donation will help us continue providing essential services to newcomers and those in need, fostering well-being and belonging.
- **Increased Visibility:** Your business will be featured not only in our quarterly newsletter but also as a valued partner in our events and on our social media channels, reaching a broad and engaged audience.
- **Positive Branding:** Align your brand with the values of integrity, empowerment, and inclusion, which are central to CMWI's work.



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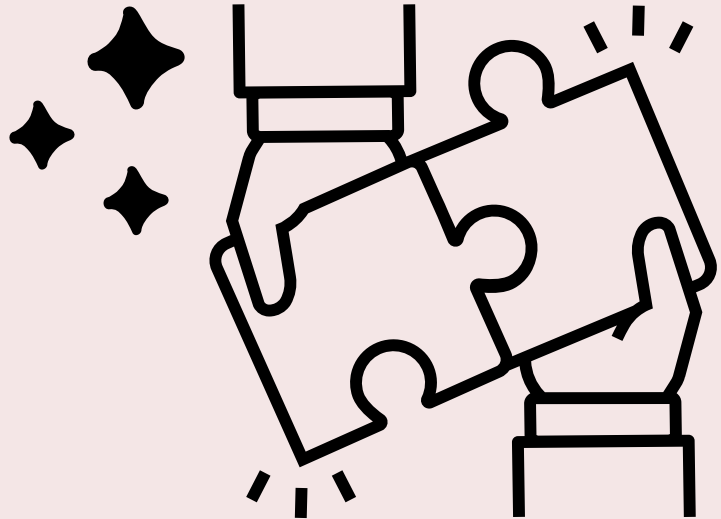
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HOW IT WORKS?



1. **Make a Donation:** Your contributions support our holistic, culturally sensitive programs that make a real difference in the lives of those we serve.
2. **Get Featured:** As a token of our appreciation, we'll promote your business in our newsletter, at our community events, and across our social media platforms, showcasing your commitment to community well-being.

Interested in partnering with us? **Contact us at eve.sotiriadou@cmwi.ca** to learn more about donation options and secure your spot in our next issue and upcoming events.

Let's work together to build stronger and more connected communities!





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Behind the scenes



CMWI offers childcare to parents attending programs and services on-site





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Behind the scenes



CMWI food bank operates twice a month (every other Wednesday)



Our hardworking volunteers, assisting during food bank days



Credit Union Central Of Manitoba (CUCM) Volunteers on June 5, 2024



Hosting long term friends and committed volunteers



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Supporting Each Other

THE | **CUTTING EDGE**

EST
2018



QUALITY DESIGNS
+ MANUFACTURING

proudly volunteered at the



acorn
Family Place

FASHION SHOW FUNDRAISER

fostering new friendships while
supporting a meaningful
initiative.



The Cutting **Edge** proudly supported the fundraising event with our product donations: making a difference together.



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Introducing The Cutting Edge new product, a modest swimwear line that combines style, comfort, and functionality for women who value coverage without compromising fashion.

ladies size chart swimming Burkini



Size	S	M	L
T-Length	87.5	90	92.5
Chest	48	50	52
Shoulders	39	41	43
Sleeve Length	60	63	66
T-Hips width	66	68	70
Pants length	87	92	97
Stretch Waist	48	50	52
Regular Waist	32	34	36
Hips	52	54	56
Ankle	13	13.5	14

Measurements { cm }

Our innovative burkinis are designed to cater to your unique needs and preferences, making them perfect for beach vacations, swimming lessons, or water sports.



Bigger Sizes Available by Request

THE | **CUTTINGEDGE**

EST 2018  QUALITY DESIGNS + MANUFACTURING

The Cutting Edge Social Enterprise attracts brand clients from across Canada and provides real-world experience as the trainees (newcomer women) work to complete orders with high quality and on-time delivery.

ORDER NOW

by reaching out to

contact@cmwi.ca





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\$ 85



**FINAL SALE
NO RETURNS OR EXCHANGES**

&

E-TRANSFER ONLY

Proudly made in Winnipeg, Canada,
our collection of burkinis is crafted
with ethical manufacturing
practices and a commitment to
sustainability.

Produced in fair working
conditions by skilled artisans,
ensuring the highest quality
while supporting our local
economy.





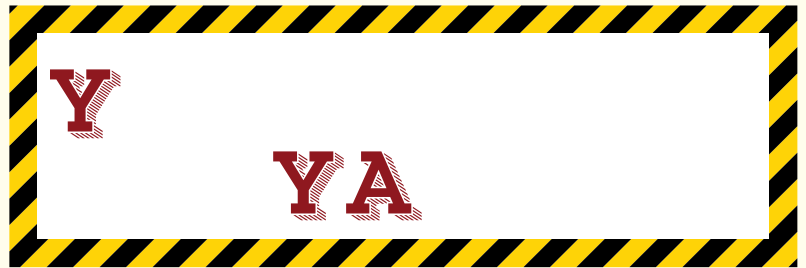
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As the colder months approach, many of our community members are in need of winter essentials.



We are seeking donations of winter coats, shoes, and warm gear, including blankets, for women, men, and children.

Your generosity can make a huge difference in ensuring everyone stays safe and warm this season.



Every contribution counts!

www.cmwi.ca



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Donor Appreciation Wall

MANITOBA
OPERA

**GIFTING WITH
INTEGRITY**

**SOUTH
RIVER
HEIGHTS**

**ALL OF
YOU
FOR YOUR
INDIVIDUAL
DONATIONS**



**ISLAMIC
RELIEF
CANADA**



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A Night at the Opera
Opera Access Program Provides Free
Tickets to CMWI Staff



*This program provides free tickets to organizations that offer programming or services to individuals who might not otherwise have the opportunity to attend an opera performance, ensuring that the arts are accessible to everyone. **Last year over 1,400 people experienced an opera, many for the first time.***

*The impact of Opera Access is best illustrated through the voices of ticket recipients. Rob and Shelley Henn, volunteers with Bear Clan Patrol, shared their thoughts on last season's opera *Li Keur. Riel's Heart of the North.**



*This month, 20 Canadian Muslim Women's Institute staff will be attending the Manitoba Opera (MO) production of the whimsical comedy **The Elixir of Love** free of charge.*

Complimentary tickets are being provided through the MO's Opera Access Program.

TESTIMONIALS



▷ "I attended the opera last night for the first time in over 25 years...I thought it was all fabulous—the costumes, the singing, and the overall performance." ▷

Another opera goer from Ka Ni Kanichihk Inc. remarked:



▷ "I had never been to an opera before and was in awe of the beautiful set design, performances, and storytelling... I was captivated." ▷



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We extend our heartfelt thanks to



and **Carolyn Trono** for their generous donation of children's clothing, which will greatly benefit the families we serve. As we continue to work together to support our community, we kindly remind all future donors that contributions of clean, freshly packed items are essential to ensure the well-being and comfort of those in need.



We are thrilled to announce that



has generously **donated 115 backpacks filled with school supplies and 15 lunchboxes** to the CMWI Family Resource Center!

These backpacks will go a long way in supporting families with high needs as they prepare for the upcoming school year. A huge thank you to ISI for helping us ensure every child has the tools they need to succeed!"



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My friend and I feel incredibly fortunate to have discovered CMWI Family Resource Center when we were in desperate need of support. I learned about CMWI from fellow refugees who accessed the services.

I was warmly welcomed by the staff. At that time, I was in urgent need of food and clothing. The receptionist connected me with the settlement service coordinator, who conducted a thorough needs assessment.

They provided me with a comprehensive overview of CMWI's services, as well as information about other organizations and government agencies that offer additional support.

I received assistance in various areas, including:

- Access to the donation center.
- Participation in the Men Support Group program.
- Engaging in the English Conversation Circle.
- Referral to the Welcome Place to initiate my refugee claim process.
- Assistance with filing my 2023 tax return.



Whenever I needed support, CMWI Family Resource Center was always there as a reliable resource. They either provided direct assistance or referred me to the appropriate entity for the services I required. Once I received my refugee paperwork, including a work permit and health card, CMWI helped me register for Employment and Income Assistance (EIA), which provided benefits enabling me to secure housing and transition out of the shelter.

The educational and awareness programs, such as the Men Support Group and English Conversation Program, have been instrumental in broadening my ability to communicate with English speakers and overcoming feelings of isolation. I continue to participate in these programs, grateful for the opportunities they provide for personal growth and community connection.



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Refugee Claimants waiting to receive services at Salvation Army - Henry Avenue, Winnipeg Mb. August 2024

CMWI PROGRAMS & SERVICES TRACK SHEET

Despite limited funding, CMWI Family Resource Center made a huge impact!

From April 1 to August 31, 2024, we provided **7,581 services and programs** to our community, reaching an incredible **1,777 individuals**. Among them, **198 were refugee claimants**, receiving crucial support during their time of need. We are so proud of what we've accomplished together and are committed to continuing this vital work for our community!



7,581 SERVICES AND PROGRAMS



1,777 INDIVIDUALS



198 REFUGEE CLAIMANTS



UPDATE
ANNUAL REPORT

We are excited to share that our **Annual Report** is now available on our website! Take a look at the progress we've made, the programs we've developed, and the positive impact we've had over the past year.

Visit www.cmwi.ca to learn more.



BE PART OF OUR SUCCESS STORIES

FOLLOW US! @CMWI

