

EDITION 2025





HAPPY INTERNATIONAL

Women's Day

MARCH 8, 2025





WISHES YOU

Eide at Adhar Mulainak









Executive Director's Quarter Contribution'

Building a Culture of Care: CMWI's Role in Empowering Winnipeg's Newcomer Communities



Over the past twenty years, Winnipeg has experienced significant growth, with the local Muslim population emerging as a vibrant and engaged community invested in the city's social and economic well-being. The Canadian Muslim Women's Institute Family Resource Center, founded in 2006, has been an integral community resource, operating in the heart of Winnipeg, supporting the city's most vulnerable and marginalized communities.

Founded on a vision of "a healthy, strong, stable and independent diverse community," CMWI has helped shape an inclusive definition of Canadian identity that resists assimilationist ideals and instead embraces diversity as foundational to community strength. Through our programming, we cultivate spaces where newcomers and racialized individuals are not asked to abandon their histories and cultures, but are empowered to lead, organize, and thrive on their own terms.

Our outreach, financial empowerment, and wellness initiatives are more than service delivery, they are acts of community-making that resist systemic neglect and cultural erasure.





Whether guiding families through complex systems, building economic resilience through financial literacy, or offering healing-centered wellness programs, our work affirms that care, connection, and cultural dignity are not luxuries, they are essential to leading a happy and healthy self-determined life. These values are not peripheral to Canadian identity; they are central to reimagining a nation operating beyond systems of oppression such as white supremacy, colonialism, and hyper-racial capitalism.

Even our donation center, sustained by a spirit of mutual aid and an entrenched culture of care, stands as a radical act of resistance to austerity, food insecurity, and systemic neglect, forcing individuals to social peripheries and ultimately into premature social death. In this way, our everyday work is inherently political: each act of care is an act of defiance, reimagining Canadian identity through the lens of justice, collective care, resilience and resistance.

Operating on the values of a) integrity, b) community connections, c) empowerment, and d) equity and inclusion, the Canadian Muslim Women's Institute Family Resource Center brings together community members with intersectional yet deeply diverse experiences, skills, and life trajectories. We organize under the same mission: furthering diversity and communal care in our immediate environments.





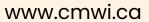


Guided by Muslim women's leadership, the organization's focus spills into an entrenched culture of care, inspiring compassion, patience, and understanding toward diversity even in the face of systemic discrimination and structural inequities. Our work is rooted in a deep understanding that many of our participants come to Canada as a result of displacement, forced migration, and political upheaval, consequences of colonial, imperial, and capitalist systems that continue to shape global realities today.

The increasingly populist tendencies across North America call for communal organization, **linking capital** to create spaces of resistance and solidarity. These spaces stand collectively against systems of oppression that negatively affect not only marginalized communities but everyone, even those who may not fully understand or recognize the impact.

To be Canadian, within our framework, is not about assimilating into dominant norms or narratives. Instead, it is about building communities of care, advocating for equity, and organizing to protect one another in the face of systemic neglect. CMWI challenges the notion that success or belonging must come at the cost of one's cultural identity or lived experiences.

We offer an alternative vision of Canada, one where justice, dignity, and care are foundational.







Our programming and services are acts of resistance. They disrupt systems of marginalization by centering the knowledge, resilience, and leadership of newcomer and racialized communities, individuals who have long been denied agency and voice in shaping the policies and systems that affect their intimate lives. Every workshop, food hamper, employment referral, or wellness circle serves as a form of organizing against the normalization of neglect, exploitation, and systemic injustice. These forces have historically shaped the decision of newcomers from diverse backgrounds to relocate to North America in pursuit of the assumed common goal: a better life.

As we continue to grow alongside the communities we serve, we remain committed to building a future where care is political, where the value of diversity is not just celebrated, but actively protected and nurtured. We recognize that to simply acknowledge diversity is insufficient; it must be supported with concrete actions that dismantle the structures of exclusion and inequity that continue to marginalize racialized and immigrant communities.





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Our work prioritizes the voices and leadership of Muslim women, particularly those who are most impacted by intersecting systems of oppression. Muslim women, bearing the weight of multiple layers of discrimination and oppression, are at the forefront of transformation, challenging not only the societal norms that seek to silence them but also the very systems that perpetuate their marginalization. Their leadership is the foundation upon which we build our efforts toward systemic change and community empowerment, showing us that true transformation comes from within and through collective action.

To build a truly inclusive and equitable society, we must embrace a culture of care that fosters mutual support, understanding, and active participation in community-driven change. A culture of care is not just about providing resources; it's about creating spaces where everyone feels valued, where differences are celebrated, and where collective action is the foundation for justice. Getting involved in the community is not only a means of support; it is a radical act of resistance against the forces of apathy and individualism that seek to fragment and isolate communities. By offering time, care, and skills to those in need, we take part in reshaping our shared narrative, empowering others and ourselves in the process.

TO CARE IS TO RESIST, AND TO RESIST IS TO BUILD THE FUTURE WE DESERVE TOGETHER.







Programs & Services



Employment Program



Industrial Sewing Training



Including specialized English classes related to each employment field.



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



- **Mental Health Support Groups**
- **Seasonal Workshops**



Community Support Services

- Food Bank
- Community ClosetEnglish Conversation Classes
- Settlement Workshops



Outreach Services

- **Phone calls**
- Interpretation Translation

- Child minding Community Referrals Customized Client Support







Program of







Social Enterprise

At the Culinary Edge, we create flavorful, culturally inspired Halal dishes for individuals, organizations, and businesses. We also train newcomers in kitchen skills, helping them start careers. Many go on to join our team, giving back to the community while building their futures. Our focus is on great food, new opportunities, and making a difference.



Newcomer Employment Training

- · Hands-on food prep workshops taught by experienced
- Training in food preparation, safety, and presentation.
- · Real kitchen experience to build job skills.
- Support for newcomers to succeed in food industry careers.



Key Services & Projects

- Catering: Custom menus designed for any event.
- · Pre-Made Meals: Fresh, nutritious, and easy-to-heat options.
- Custom Desserts: cakes, pastries, and treats.
- · Cooking Workshops: Learn new skills in a welcoming space. (Coming Soon)
- · Community Impact: Helping newcomers build careers in the food industry.











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 EST WOLLD CHARLES OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPE

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





www.cmwi.ca













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.













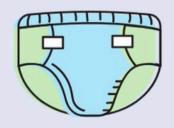




SEEKING DIAPER DONATIONS FOR CHILDREN SIZES 5 AND 6



DROP OFF LOCATION CMWI - #201, 61 JUNO STREET, R3A 1T1



CONTACT@CMWI.CA

WWW.CMWI.CA

204-943-8539

www.cmwi.ca











CMWI is proud to recognize the meaningful contributions of Islamic Relief Canada, whose partnership has strengthened our ability to serve newcomer communities with care and dignity.



Islamic Relief Canada volunteers supported our Donation Centre by assembling 250 thoughtfully prepared snack bags and helping us restore the space through a much-needed clean-up, demonstrating a deep commitment to community service through their hands-on involvement.

They also provided funding that allowed us to host a well-attended Lunch and Learn session for newcomer families, offering practical guidance on how to navigate spring and summer safely in Winnipeg.







Most recently, their generous donation of **150 Qurbani meat bags** ensured that Muslim families across our network could celebrate Eid with nourishment and joy. We are deeply thankful for this continued partnership, which reflects the impact of shared values and collective care in building stronger, more connected communities.











CMWI extends heartfelt gratitude to every individual and family who donated Qurbani meat this year. Your generosity allowed us to distribute hundreds of meat packages to Muslim families across Winnipeg, many of whom are newcomers adjusting to life in a new country while navigating financial and social challenges. These donations not only provided essential nourishment during Eid, but also brought with them a sense of dignity, belonging, and shared celebration.





CMWI sincerely thanks the Manitoba Islamic Association for their generous and thoughtful donation of clothing, household items, toys, and men's apparel. Their contribution arrived in abundance and with care, helping us replenish our Donation Centre with items that directly support newcomer families in need. From essential clothing to comfort items that bring joy to children, this donation reflects a deep sense of community responsibility and solidarity.

We are truly grateful for MIA's ongoing support and their commitment to uplifting those who are starting over in a new home.









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.



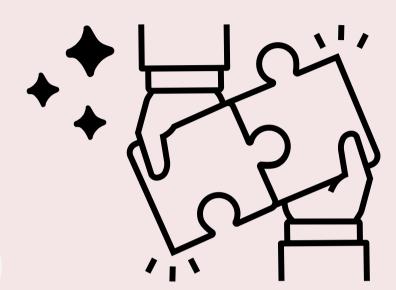


- Community Impact: Your donation will help us continue providing essential services to newcomers and those in need, fostering well-being and belonging.
- Increased Visibility: Your business will be featured not only in our quarterly newsletter but also as a valued partner in our events and on our social 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.









- 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!







CLIENT TESTIMONIALS



My name is A.G., and I came to the CMWI to file my 2024 tax return, based on a recommendation from my friend who regularly receives services from the Centre. She encouraged me to visit, assuring me that the staff were helpful and knowledgeable.

With my permission, a staff member accessed my CRA account and discovered that I had not filed tax returns for the past three consecutive years. When I was informed of this, I was surprised, I had no idea the returns had not been filed. I asked if it would be possible to file the outstanding returns for the previous years.

The employee kindly responded,

"Yes, we would be happy to assist you with your delayed tax returns."

With their support, the tax returns for the missing years were successfully filed. As a result, I received a refund of \$2,918, along with retroactive GST and Canada Carbon Rebate payments for the years I had missed.

I expressed my sincere gratitude to the CMWI staff. I was genuinely pleased, and surprised by the unexpected amounts I will be receiving, thanks to their support in filing my outstanding returns.





CMWI PROGRAMS & SERVICES TRACK SHEET

During the March to April 2025 tax season, CMWI's free tax clinics provided critical support to hundreds of low-income and newcomer individuals and families across Winnipeg. Through the tireless efforts of our dedicated staff, a total of 950 tax returns were successfully filed. For many clients, this was their first time navigating the Canadian tax system, and the service provided not only ensured accurate filings, but also helped build confidence

and financial literacy.

As a result of these filings, clients received a combined total of \$4,628,564 in tax refunds and benefits.

CMWI free annual tax clinics demonstrate how access to free, culturally responsive services can directly improve the financial security and well-being of newcomer communities. We are proud of this impact and grateful to all who made it possible.







BE PART OF OUR SUCCESS STORIES



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