

ISNA Canada Annual General Meeting 2020 – Minutes
September 20th Meeting via Zoom

Agenda

- Welcome and Quorum confirmation
- Review of Accomplishments
- Update on By-Laws changes
- Approval of the auditor
- Approval of Nomination and Elections committee
- Q&A
- Closing Du'a

Meeting

Started at 2:35pm with opening Du'a by Sr. Burhana Bello and Quran by Br. Usman Siddiqui.

Sr. Burhana stated that Br. Chihab Kaab will present until quorum confirmation is achieved. She apologized for any technical difficulties. Due to COVID and the unprecedented times, we must have the meeting digitally and cannot meet physically. She asked to please forgive us for any technical hiccups that occur throughout the meeting and that we are trying our best.

Br. Chihab started presenting a summary of activities and accomplishments of ISNA Canada in 2019 and the first part of 2020 (Appendix A).

Point of order by Br. Nazim Awan – he wanted to start the meeting after quorum. Br. Chihab provided clarification that the presentation was being done until confirmation for quorum is achieved. Br. Chihab stated that quorum was confirmed at over 70 members as he was just given word of the development.

Quorum confirmation – quorum reached at 83 members and quorum confirmed.

Br. Mostafa started presenting on a quick financial summary for the 2019 year.

Point of order by Sr. Katherine Bullock – she asked if we will be calling for an approval of the agenda. Br. Chihab said that after the current part of the presentation, the agenda would be approved.

Summary provided of the activities and accomplishments of ISNA Canada in 2019 and the first part of 2020.

Agenda moved by Aysha Qureshi and seconded by Asmaa Chraibi. Sr. Katherine opposed stating a petition sent the night before should be added. Sr. Burhana mentioned that the board had not discussed the petition yet and that if there was time in the Q&A portion, it could be discussed then and also to please send in items much earlier to be included in the agenda. No other oppositions. Agenda carried.

Br. Chihab spoke of accomplishments. One accomplishment highlighted was the creation of the Canadian Muslim Response Network by ISNA Canada which received an accolade from the Prime Minister due to COVID response and the distribution of relief packages, hygiene kits, food kits, etc. Other highlights were drive thru events such as Eid and food distribution where even MPs and MPPs came to help. The Premier of Ontario also came and helped with food distribution. Another major highlight was the provision of an American Sign Language interpreter for the deaf community to be able to follow along with some of the programming at ISNA Canada.

Br. Michael Singh spoke about the ICC debt settlement and that we will, by the Will of Allah (InshaAllah), completing the payment of the debt by the end of 2026.

From the Q&A:

Br. Liaquat asked in summary: What is the reason for the (outstanding) debt increase from \$2.5M to \$4M or \$7M (total)? Was there any consultations with community leaders?

Answer (Br. Michael): The ICC debt issue has been outstanding for years, and an investigation to resolve the matter was kicked off in 2018. ISNA and ICHC entered into a settlement agreement in 2015 for the verifiable costs related to the construction of the ICC.

This amount was being paid off over time as indicated by our financial statements. This settlement agreement was not comprehensive. It included the verifiable costs, but there were additional costs that were unallocated and disputed.

In 2018 we set out to investigate these disputed costs and come to a resolution. The costs were investigated, and a new model was proposed to settle the outstanding balance. This led to a subsequent settlement agreement that was entered into with ICHC in 2020. The details of the model was discussed with over 2 dozen stakeholders in February 2020 (including our Shuyukh and Community Leaders) and was endorsed at that time.

Br. Chihab spoke about the search for the Executive Director of ISNA Canada and that after many candidates and interviews and consultation with our Shuyukh to ensure the candidate is able to move ISNA successfully through its mission and vision. We have landed on a candidate that will InshaAllah start mid-October. Our dear friend and brother, Fouzan Khan, who many know through the Reviving the Islamic Spirit convention, who has done amazing work building and running one of the best Muslim-run programs and events in Canada that attracts 25 to 30 thousand individuals. After many conversations, he has agreed to come on board, working through a transition period as a Chief Operating Officer, slowly taking over, making sure he is successful in his role as Executive Director InshaAllah. We look forward in learning from him and what he has done in other organizations and bringing some of those ideas and concepts and innovations into ISNA Canada InshaAllah.

Update on By-Laws changes

Sr. Omayya presented on the updates on By-Laws changes. In the spirit of excellence, service, and collaboration the updates to the by-laws are intended to elevate the organization. We aim to elevate the members and the directors through a higher level of engagement. We have heard back from

many members suggesting changes to the by-laws, we also held several consultation sessions with members and the community and consolidated feedback (from over 70 individuals). Each of the proposed changes were reviewed carefully and were tested against best practices in the charitable sector in Canada. We also looked at wide spectrum of charitable organizations including those that are non-denominational, Muslim, Jewish, Catholic, Sikh, and others. This process ensured that all the changes reflect best practices that are well established and have been proven successful in other Muslim organizations as well as mainstream ones. The changes brought forward were put to a vote and the result of the vote were as follows: 169 valid votes received, 118 in favour (70%) and 51 against (30%). The by-laws were passed.

Br. Mostafa spoke about the approval of the auditors. In the spirit of excellence, we were hoping to find one of the big four firms to be ISNA Canada's auditor.

Br. Liaquat asked why we are changing the auditing firm when the standards are the same. Sr. Katherine had a similar question. Br. Mostafa replied with the cost change being marginal, but the recognition of the big four audit firms holds great weight when conducting business, especially with the banks and other institutions. Br. Liaquat responded with we are not a billion-dollar company and that we do not need to go to a bigger firm and pay more to go to a bigger auditing firm. Br. Mostafa replied by saying as we grow, smaller auditing firms will not be able to keep up with our demands in the future and whether we like it or not, the name brand holds weight in the market, especially with the banks, lenders, etc. and to know we are being audited by one of the big four, it holds a lot of weight with third party lenders. These are two of the main reasons. Br. Liaquat mentioned that we already had these communities and PwC does not use different auditing standards.

Br. Malik asked what the cost of hiring a new audit firm was. Br. Mostafa replied with the informal quote that was received.

Motion to move forward with firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). In the event we cannot secure a contract with PwC, we move ahead with Ernst & Young (EY) In the event we cannot secure a contract with EY, we continue with the firm used for 2019, Rosenthal Perves & Noor.

Zainab Khan moved and Asmaa Chraibi seconded. Four persons opposed. All else approved. Majority voted in favour of the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Nominations and Elections committee

Motion to approve the following for the Nomination and Elections committee (Appendix B):

- 1. Dr. Fezal Ackburally***
- 2. Zainab Khan***
- 3. Abdul Kerim Sandooya***
- 4. Azam Al Shokaki***
- 5. Zameer AbdulRahman***

Aminna Syed moved and Mohamad Azam Al Shokaki seconded. All five candidates were approved by majority vote. Motion carried.

Q&A took place.

Br. Chihab thanked everyone who took out time to join, contribute, and ask questions. We hope everyone knows that we are doing our best with guiding ISNA to the right direction. And yes, we will make mistakes along the way; however, if there are questions or concerns, please meet with us and ask us and have engaging discussions and conversations.

May Allah help us to unite our hearts, make sure we serve the community in the best way sincerely, and mend our differences. Ameen.

Meeting ended at approx. 5pm with Du'a by Br. Chihab.

APPENDIX A

ISNA Canada AGM Sept 20th, 2020

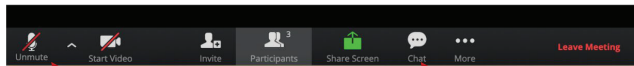
AGENDA

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- Review of Accomplishments
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- Approval of the Nominations and elections committee
- Q&A
- Closing Duaa

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Guidelines for using Zoom

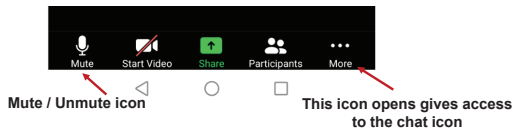
Desktop



Mute / Unmute icon

Chat box icon

Mobile



Mute / Unmute icon

This icon opens gives access to the chat icon

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Guidelines for using Zoom

- To ask questions, please type them it in the Chat box one at a time.
- The moderator will group the questions and read them to all.
- To move a motion or second it please type it in the chat box.
- For voting please use the pop-up polling window that will appear.
- During the Q&A session, if you want to ask a question directly, please type in the chat box "I want to ask a question". When it is your turn, you will be unmuted and asked to limit yourself to a max of 3 min and one question at a time.
- If you need help with Zoom please call 905-403-8406 #208

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Welcome and Quorum Confirmation

2019 Accomplishments

Resources

- Online services
- Forms and publications
- A to Z index
- Enquiries

ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA - Canada (ISNA - Canada) – Quick View

[Charity's detail page](#)

Registration no.: 118971886 RR 0001
Charity status: **Registered**
Effective date of status: 1983-01-01

Designation: Charitable organization ⓘ
Website: WWW.ISNA.CA

moya
FINANCIAL

2019 AT A Glance



13 Unique scholars presented at ISNA

36 Programs delivered

50 Events hosted (external & internal)

1000 Programming hours delivered

18 Collaborators



Commemorating JAMI MOSQUE

Jami Mosque, located just east of High Park in Toronto's beautiful Rosedale Village, celebrated its 50th Anniversary on Saturday, December 28th, 2019. Hundreds of well-wishers including founders, neighbours, congregants and donors united to celebrate a nostalgic 50th anniversary of Jami Mosque.



50th Anniversary

WHEN YOU VISIT **Jami Mosque**, YOU SMELL THE FRAGRANCE OF THE **history of Islam in Canada**. EVERY MUSLIM IS **welcome** REGARDLESS OF THEIR CULTURE.

Dr. Hamdy Shafiq
Chairman of Jami Mosque

THANKING Sh. Abdalla

A warm and emotional community event with hundreds of guests from the Muslim Communities of Canada, USA and around the world gathered in honor of Sh. Abdalla ibn al-Khattab's decades of community building, selfless service and unconditional support.

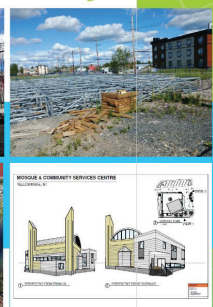
ISNA COMMUNITY WANTED TO SHOW OUR GRATITUDE to **Sh. Abdalla** FOR HIS 40 years of dedicated SERVICES IN CANADA AND WORLDWIDE.

Dr. Farouk Ghannam
President of ISNA-USA

A Night of Gratitude



AWAITING A NEW Building



The Muslim Community of Yellowknife, organized 28 years ago, continues to serve the growing population of 400 Muslims in the area. 2019 was a special year for the Muslim Community of Yellowknife as the original masjid building was demolished to give birth to a new community centre that will cater to the local population's needs. Phase 1 was completed as the construction team completed the foundation.

Islamic Center of Yellowknife

PROVIDING A **purpose-built** SPACE WILL BRING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER THROUGH RELIGIOUS, EDUCATION, OUTREACH AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES. THIS WILL FILL A HUGE NEED FOR OUR SMALL BUT **diverse community**.

Mustafa Aboon
Chair of Islamic Center of Yellowknife

SOME KEY Programs AND Services



Quran Quest Class
"The Quran Quest class provided me with a much needed sense of belonging & sisterhood in Allah SWT. The learning and discussion strengthen my well-being and love of Allah."

Enkhbat Alkhbat



FREE Seniors Fitness Classes
2:30pm in Winter
Every Tuesday & Thursday
Bring a friend or a guest
Bring a donation to the class
Register online at www.isna.ca

Seniors Fitness Classes
When I joined this program, I had never exercised, although I was having physiotherapy sessions. The program gave me flexibility in my schedule.

Abdullah Alkhbat

Health Coaching
During the 6 months of coaching (Sh. Hosam) was patient and non-judgmental in his interactions with me. He answered all my questions and I began to notice a perspective shift.

Anonymous Coaching Recipient



Youth Development
The youth developed confidence with the new ability to voice opinions and influence others and it all started with the free classes at ISNA."

Hosam Alkhbat Youth Speech & Leadership Facilitator



The Spirit OF ISNA



THE EXPERIENCES THAT I GAINED LET ME FULLY INSTILL IN ME THE SENSE OF **confidence** TO PUSH MYSELF FURTHER TO CONTRIBUTE AS MUCH AS I CAN

Hamdy Yousif
Student 2019-2020

THE DOOR WAS OPEN FOR YOU TO REACH **dream big**. SET HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR YOURSELF AND TAKE YOUR OWN **initiative** TO THINK **outside the box**.



Muhammad Ishtiaq
Toronto 2019-2020



ISNA HAS BEEN A PLACE WHERE I **grew**. IT'S BEEN A PLACE WHERE I **learned** SO MUCH.

Reemah Alkhbat
Summer 2019-2020

WE'RE BEING STRIVING TO BECOME **leaders in sustainability**. WITH THE COMMITMENT AND SUPPORT OF THOSE AT ISNA, WE ARE MOVING TOWARDS A **sustainable center**.



Mustafa Aboon
Chairman 2019-2020



ISNA IS CONSTANTLY ANSWERING **questions & concerns** AND EMPOWERING PEOPLE. THERE IS A LOT OF **good change** THAT IS **visible**.

Mustafa Aboon
Chairman 2019-2020

OUR Financials

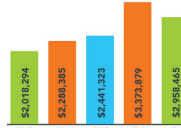
Financial health of ISNA Canada continues to improve year on year as we are on target towards our economic priorities. Information presented is based on audited Annual Report for 2019.

2015 to 2019 Revenue*



*Not including in-kind transfer of properties

2015 to 2019 Expenses



2019 Revenue Breakdown



2019 Donations Breakdown



2020 Progress update

OUR DIRECTION



Building A Community Powered by Youth

Helping Muslims Put Faith into Action

VISION MISSION



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Canadian Muslim Response Network

COVID-19 RELIEF EFFORT



2020 PANDEMIC RESPONSE



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Knowledge

At ISNA, we offer a number of programs designed for different age groups including our youth, the leaders of tomorrow.



Community is what makes ISNA feel like home. We try to help and incorporate our community in every aspect we can.

Community & Outreach

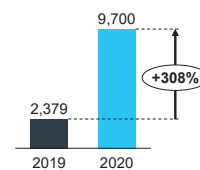


Youth

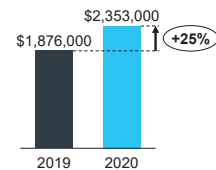
At ISNA, we offer a number of programs catered towards our youth. We want to build the leaders of tomorrow by listening and helping them.



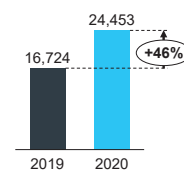
Newsletter Subscribers



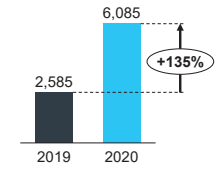
Income



FB Followers



IG Followers



ICC debt settlement

Guidelines

- Responsibility to the organization
We honor our obligations. If we have any debt we will pay it.
- Responsibility to our donors and to our community
We balance the responsibility to our donors and community to preserve the amanah that comes with their donations.
- This means we investigate fully and base our decisions on provable claims, and Islamic principles

Approach

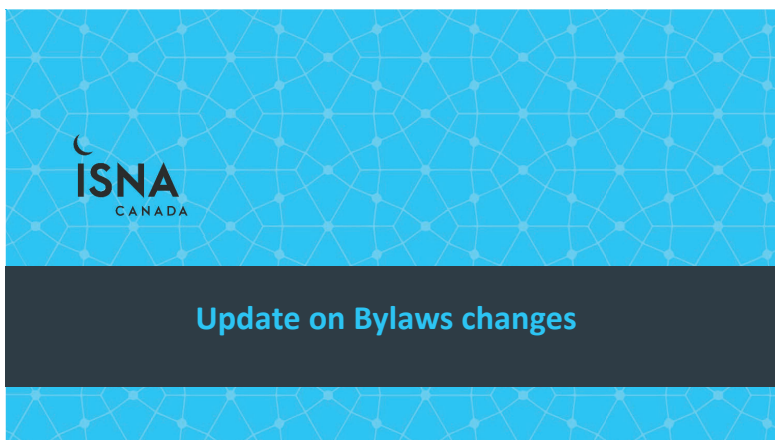
- Investigation – Interviews, documentation review
- Scholarly advice

Settlement

- ISNA and ICHC have entered into a settlement agreement to fully and finally resolve the dispute
- ISNA will pay ICHC \$7M at a rate of \$1M a year starting in 2020 and ending in 2026
- This amount includes the \$2.96M already owed to ICHC
- The new settlement extends the payment period beyond 2020

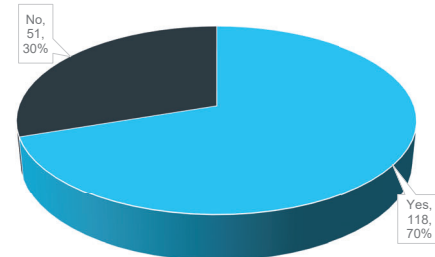


Update on the Executive Director search



Vote results

- 169 valid votes received
- 118 in favour
- 51 against



Approval of Nomination and Elections Committee

Recommended Nomination and Elections Committee members

Fezal Ackburally

- *Project Manager*
- *PhD in Information Security*
- *Volunteers in Islamic and secular institutions*
- *Volunteered in last year's election committee*

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Recommended Nomination and Elections Committee members

Zainab Khan

- *Teacher by profession*
- *Bsc in Psychology and Masters in Education*
- *Long time dedicated volunteer and member of ISNA*
- *Volunteered in last year's election committee*

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Recommended Nomination and Elections Committee members

Abdul Kerim Sandooya

- *IT Director*
- *Passionate about support the community in any way he can*
- *Volunteered in last year's election committee*

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Recommended Nomination and Elections Committee members

Azam Al Shokaki

- *Civil Engineer*
- *Contributor to Arab Community Vote group*
- *Worked with various Islamic organizations including ISNA and Seekers Hub in various Capacities*

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Recommended Nomination and Elections Committee members

Zameer AbdulRahman

- *Manages Umrah and Hajj groups*
- *Runs project management company in design and renovation work*
- *Part of the leadership team of the ISNA Badminton team*

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APPENDIX B

List of Nominations and Election Committee members

- 1. *Dr. Fezal Ackburally***
- 2. *Zainab Khan***
- 3. *Abdul Kerim Sandooya***
- 4. *Azam Al Shokaki***
- 5. *Zameer AbdulRahman***

Dr. Fezal Ackburally

I, Mahmad Fezal Ackburally, am an accomplished Project Manager, currently working at the french public school board. Alhamdoulillah, I have a PhD in Information Security as well as numerous professional certifications in Information and Communication Technology, please see below. All praise be to Allah SWT Who has blessed me with a youth that was spent in volunteer work, both at islamic and secular institutions. I am always looking forward to serving a good cause and contributing my knowledge, skills and experience to whoever may be in need, while at the same time growing and expanding with the interactions I have with others. Last year, I was introduced by brother Abdul Sandooya to the election committee, and hence after, was able to provide my time, support and expertise towards the smooth running of the candidate selection and ballot counting process.

Zainab Khan

Zainab Khan has a B.Sc in Psychology and an M.A./B.Ed. from OISE/UT (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto). A teacher by profession, she currently works part time at DEEN Support Services as Director of Program and Facility.

Zainab served on the Elections Committee in the Fall of 2019. She is a member of the Green Team, and volunteers at ISNA in different capacities for Ramadhan, Masjid maintenance, Friday collection and other activities as needed. She has been a member of the ISNA community for most of her life. Growing up, she accompanied her father to Jami Masjid for Dr. Mahdy's class and attended numerous ISNA conferences, volunteering when and where needed.

Abdul Kerim Sandooya

I am a member of ISNA since 2019. I volunteered in last year's election committee. I work as an IT Director and live 10 mins away from the ICC. I have two very young children (3 and 6yrs old). The older is registered for weekend arabic classes. I would like to spend more time and effort in the islamic community and encourage my children to do so as well as they grow. The election committee was an interesting experience with brother Riad and I look forward to participate again. I am generally available weekdays after 6pm and weekends.

Mohamad Azam Al Shokaki

I was a member of the ISNA management team in 2019. I was honoured to serve and contribute to our Muslim community during my tenure. I am no longer an employee at ISNA.

I wish to continue to serve the Muslim community in any way possible.

My name is Mohamad Azam Al Shokaki. I have been working with the Islamic community for the last five years. My recent few involvements in addition to ISNA are Seekers' Guidance and Muslim Neighbour Nexus (MNN).

I am willing to commit my time for the next 12 months for the cause.

I am a retired Civil Engineer with over 30 years of experience in managing large infrastructure projects. I have been an organizer for political nomination campaigns for both Federal and Provincial candidates since 2016.

In 2020, I was nominated as the Liberal party delegate for the provincial leadership campaign in Mississauga EAST- Cooksville riding.

I am also a contributor to the AC Vote group. The Arab Canadian Vote is a national nonprofit grassroots initiative that aims to increase civic engagement of Canadian Arabs through community outreach and education.

Zameer AbdulRahman

Self employed, running exclusive group tour organizing programs for the last 3 years and simultaneously working as project manager in design and renovations work. Part of leadership team of the ISNA Badminton club.

If given opportunity, I will be glad to contribute weekday evenings and weekends full day for the community commitment.