



EDMONTON COUNCIL OF MUSLIM COMMUNITIES

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For Immediate Release

ECMC URGES EFFORTS TO COMBAT RADICALIZATION

It is with shock and sadness that the board of Edmonton Council of Muslim Communities (ECMC) has learnt about a Calgary youth who is reported to have died in a suicide attack in Iraq. In view of this development, the ECMC joins other local and national organizations in urging the Muslim organizations in the city to renew their efforts towards combatting any attempts to radicalize our citizens to commit such acts, whether at home or abroad.

The ECMC board reaffirms its position that nothing can justify the taking of innocent lives. The Islamic faith is unequivocal in its condemnation of violent extremism and terrorism in all its forms.

The ECMC further supports a recent publicly stated position of a national organization, National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM), which is as follows:

"While Canadian Muslim communities should not be expected to do the job of security agencies, it is vital to promote the understanding that the rights of citizenship in our diverse country go hand-in-hand with responsibilities. It is a criminal act to leave Canada to join a terrorist group and to commit crimes abroad and it is our religious and moral duty to notify the authorities if we are aware of someone planning to do so. Further, our communities need to openly discuss misunderstood concepts such as jihad in order to demystify and deglamorize the message of those who would prey upon our youth and most vulnerable .."

"The recently reported incident has clearly brought the issue closer to home for us. We need to use this as an opportunity to re-connect with our member organizations so that we can work together to raise awareness of the issue and use our collective resources to proactively combat the potential for any such developments in our city", said Masood Peracha, Chair, ECMC.

For any further media inquiries, anyone of the following may be contacted:

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The Edmonton Council of Muslim Communities is an umbrella organization representing nine different Muslim entities in and around Edmonton, with the mission to speak and act on behalf of Edmonton Muslims with fellow Canadians in a manner that protects, promotes, and enhances the understanding of Islam and Muslims in matters of public policy, education, peace and safety.

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