

Williams Lake Muslim Association Meeting

Meeting Date: October 25, 2024

Location: In-person and virtual

Attendees: Dr. Rafiullah, Ms. Afroj Azad Shaikh, Dr. Ali Rehman, Dr. Abu Bakar, Mr. Arif Khan, Mr. Nadeem Mulani, Mr. Imran Khan

Background:

This meeting was called to discuss the following points.

1. A brief introduction to the chair and the established board of directors.
2. Restoring or re-registering WLMA with the BC registry.
3. Opening a new bank account and transferring existing funds.
4. Exploring options for achieving charitable status with the CRA.
5. Developing a pathway to join the Kamloops Muslim Association for funding opportunities.
6. Creating a social media strategy.

Meeting Points:

The meeting began with opening remarks from Board Chair Dr. Rafiullah, who then handed the session over to Mr. Imran Khan to moderate.

1. Completion of board of directors and introduction

The board of directors was completed with the successful and unanimous election of the chair and the addition of a Director for the Women's Wing, finalizing the organization's general body. The updated Board of Directors is as follows:

Chair: Dr. Rafiullah

Finance: Dr. Ali Rehman

Communication & Public Engagement: Mr. Imran Khan & Mr. Nadeem Mulani

Director-at-Large: Mr. Arif Khan

Director, Women Wing: Mrs. Afroj Azad

Director, Religious Affairs: Dr. Abu Bakar

2. Reinstatement or Registration Association

The board held a detailed discussion on the steps required for reinstatement and registration with the BC Registry. Key considerations included the necessary documentation, associated costs, and the expected timeline for completion. Following this discussion, it was decided to proceed with **a new registration**, with Dr. Rafi Ullah expected to initiate the registration process as soon as possible.

3. Opening a Bank Account for Masjid Finances

The group reviewed options for handling the Masjid's finances, including transferring an existing bank account to the new registration or opening a new account. After discussion, the board concluded that **opening a new account** during the registration process would be the best approach.

4. Exploring options for achieving charitable status with the CRA

The Director of Finance suggested **consulting a legal expert** to gain further insights into **gaining charitable status** with the CRA.

5. Developing a pathway to join the Kamloops Muslim Association for funding opportunities

The board held a detailed discussion on the possibility of collaborating with the Kamloops Muslim Association to collect funds, with plans **to explore this option once the association's registration is complete.**

Additionally, some members suggested seeking community funding on a weekly basis and organizing community gatherings and events to build support. The idea of community **fundraising received mixed reactions**, with various members raising important points on effectively communicating the community's funding needs.

6. Creating a social media strategy

The primary goal of the social media strategy is to engage with interfaith communities and social activists throughout the Williams Lake area. Activating and fully utilizing Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube has been set as a short-term objective, with all updates also being published on the website. The Directors of Communication & Public Engagement and the Women's Wing will work together and coordinate with the web developer to enhance outreach.

Additionally, plans include recording or live streaming the Friday Khutbah (sermon) on social media platforms to reach a broader audience.

7. Additional Points

During the conversation, there were some other significant points that came under discussion.

1. Finding a Space for the Masjid

The team explored potential options for securing a physical location for the masjid, **including the possibility of sharing a space with a church.** Both temporary and permanent solutions were discussed, with careful consideration of the community's needs.

2. Setting Up Classes for Community and Kids

The board discussed organizing learning sessions and classes for children and community members, with plans to establish regular sessions in the future depending on space and resource availability. **Special thanks were extended to Dr. Rafi Ullah, who kindly committed to beginning classes for the children as early as the next day, Inshallah.**

3. Name of organization and setting up vision and mission statements

The name “Williams Lake Muslim Association” was agreed upon as it aligns with the requirements of the registration process. The following alternative names were also suggested for consideration:

- ❖ Williams Lake Muslims Organization
- ❖ Williams Lake Muslims Association
- ❖ Williams Lake Muslim Association

Vision and mission statements will be compiled shortly and shared for the Board of Directors' approval.

Ending Note:

The meeting concluded with a commitment to carry out all discussed points, emphasizing individual and collective responsibilities. Everyone agreed to put forth their best efforts moving forward.

Board has decided to meet at least once a month; probably we will meeting again in the last week of November or the first week of December, Inshallah.