

Williams Lake Muslim Association Meeting

Meeting Date: November 30, 2024

Attendees: Dr. Rafiullah, Mrs. Afroj Azad, Dr. Ali Rehman, Mr. Arif Khan, Mr. Nadim Mulani, Mr. Imran Khan

Dr. Abu Bakar was absent.

Background:

The meeting was the formal monthly Board of Directors (BOD) gathering, held to review the status and progress of assigned tasks. The pre-meeting agenda points were as follows:

1. A thorough discussion on activities and accomplishments after the last meeting.
2. Discussion about an available property and feasibility of buying it.
3. Opening a bank account for WLMA.
4. Acquiring charitable status for WLMA.
5. Space sharing with a Church or a community place.
6. Preparing proper documentation for WLMA (e.g. Letter head, a short introductory pamphlet etc.)
7. Marketing our idea of inclusivity on social media platforms.

Meeting Points:

The meeting commenced with opening remarks by Dr. Rafiullah, Chairman of the WLMA Board of Directors, who subsequently passed the session to Mr. Imran Khan for moderation.

1. Completion of board of directors and introduction

Two new roles on the Board of Directors were filled during the meeting.

Vice President: Dr. Ali Rehman

Secretary: Mr. Imran Khan

2. Review of Previous Meeting and Accomplishments

Reviewed the progress on last month's agenda, including the successful **registration** of the "Williams Lake Muslim Association," and acknowledged individual contributions. Emphasized the positive impact of the **published article** and the launch of the **WLMA website**, both of which significantly enhanced **community engagement**.

3. Bank Account & Charitable Status

- It was discussed in detail to initiate the process of bank account opening for organization with **CIBC**.

- Dr. Rafiullah and Dr. Ali Rehman provided a detailed explanation and guidance to the board members.
- They reviewed the essential steps required to obtain **charitable status for WLMA**, which would enhance support for community activities and **facilitate donations**.
- No collaboration is planned with Kamloops; the focus remains solely on strengthening WLMA independently.

4. Church Space Sharing

- Discussed the possibility of temporarily **sharing space with a local church** as a practical interim solution.
- Members agreed that the church space is a **viable option** and decided to proceed with exploring steps to formalize this arrangement if deemed feasible.

5. Property Acquisition

- Dr. Rafiullah and Mr. Imran Khan discussed the feasibility of acquiring a dedicated property for WLMA.
- Financial and other practical options were discussed in detail to turn this vision into reality.

6. Community Donations

- It was proposed if we can request from the Ismaili community for financial support and to return the full amount later in installments.
- Developed a plan to raise awareness within the community about supporting WLMA's initiatives.
- Mr. Arif Khan proposed opening a Return-It account and encouraging both the Muslim community and the broader Williams Lake community to support WLMA's cause by donating recyclable items.

7. Documentation and Social Media Engagement

- Approved the development of essential materials, including official letterheads and a concise introductory pamphlet, to represent WLMA effectively.
- Mr. Imran, Mr. Nadim, and Mrs. Afroj agreed to maintain WLMA's social media platforms with weekly updates, promoting inclusivity and strengthening community connections.
- Decided to share personalized updates and messages on WLMA's website or YouTube channel to maintain engagement with the wider community.

8. Holiday Season Community Gathering/Potluck

Mrs. Afroj Proposed organizing a community meet-and-greet event during the holiday season, including a potluck, to strengthen bonds and foster inclusivity.

Ending Note:

The meeting was highly productive, achieving significant progress on key initiatives, including the potential use of church space, strengthening community engagement through social media, and planning future events. Members appreciated the collaborative efforts and stressed the importance of sustaining this momentum.

The next meeting is scheduled for late December or the first week of January.