



Williams Lake Muslim Association

WLMA Incorporated under the BC Societies Act (Number: S0081549)

Williams Lake Muslim Association Meeting

Meeting Date: May 10, 2025

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

Regrets: Dr. Abubakar Ahmer, Mr. Arif Khan

Background:

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

1. Renting room in church
2. Considering membership for BCMA
3. Mosque land prospect
4. Lessons learned from Eid dinner arrangements

Meeting Points:

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

1. Renting Room in Church

The idea of renting a room in a church was first proposed by Dr. Ali Rehman. After thorough discussions and careful consideration of various factors, including accessibility and community acceptance. It was decided to conduct a poll within the community group to gather members' opinions.

Based on discussion, the board members unanimously agreed to proceed with renting the church room on a permanent basis.

2. Considering membership for BCMA

The proposal to join the BC Muslim Association (BCMA) was initially put forward by Dr. Ali Rehman. The motivation behind this idea was to explore potential funding opportunities from BCMA for the Williams Lake Muslim Association's (WLMA) Mosque project.



Williams Lake Muslim Association

WLMA Incorporated under the BC Societies Act (Number: S0081549)

It was agreed that Dr. Ali would reach out to BCMA's management to initiate contact and work towards arranging a meeting to discuss the terms and conditions of potential affiliation.

3. Mosque Land Project

As the church declined to share their land, the board explored several alternative options. The board members are actively brainstorming all possible solutions.

Once a decision is reached, we will gladly share the outcome with our community. In the meantime, we kindly ask for your prayers and best wishes. We remain hopeful that we will have good news to share soon, INSHALLAH.

4. Lessons learned from Eid dinner arrangements

The Board was collectively pleased and highly satisfied with the overall arrangements and the enthusiastic participation from the broader community. However, there were serious concerns regarding the guest registration process.

To address this, the Board proposed and unanimously agreed to implement a closed RSVP and invitation-based system for participant entry. For members of the public who are not invited but wish to attend, a limited number of spots will be made available through a paid registration window.

Other Significant Points

Several other important points were discussed during the meeting

The primary focus was on addressing the **FUNDING NEEDS** of the Association to cover the mosque's rent and other ongoing expenses.

As WLMA is still in the process of registering as a charitable organization with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), we are currently not authorized to issue tax-deductible donation receipts. Despite this, the Board agreed to continue encouraging our community to support us financially through all available donation options listed on the WLMA website.

Mrs. Afroj proposed an initiative called **"Know Our Community"**, aimed at helping us better understand and connect with one another. She expressed interest in setting up a process to conduct short interviews with families and individuals, capturing their personal stories and journeys. These stories would then be shared on social media and within our community groups to foster greater awareness, connection, and appreciation among members.



Williams Lake Muslim Association

WLMA Incorporated under the BC Societies Act (Number: S0081549)

Ending Note:

The meeting was well-coordinated and highly productive, reflecting a strong spirit of collaboration and shared purpose. Key discussions led to important decisions, including moving forward with renting space at the church, exploring BCMA membership for potential support, and continuing efforts toward securing land for a future mosque.

Looking ahead, our priority remains completing registration with the Canada Revenue Agency to obtain charitable status. This step will allow WLMA to issue tax-deductible receipts, launch formal donation appeals, and initiate broader fundraising efforts to support our long-term goals.

The Board deeply values the community's active involvement and support. Members expressed appreciation for the inclusive and strategic approach taken during the meeting, emphasizing that unity, transparency, and thoughtful planning will be essential in strengthening and sustaining WLMA's mission.

The next meeting will probably be happening soon to discuss Eid ul Adha arrangements.