



Toronto's Diverse Communities Celebrate Eid

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Toronto, ON- November 10, 2011- Over 1000 people will gather to celebrate Eid al-Adha at Scadding Court Community Centre on Sunday.

The Muslim Association of Canada (MAC) and Scadding Court Community Centre (SCCC) presents this year's annual Eid al-Adha Community Lunch. For Muslims, this is a time for sacrifice, benevolent donations, kindness and reflection. The Muslim community is reminded to help those in need and contribute to their well-being, mainly expressed through the giving of meat.

This year, event organizers with the support of International Development and Relief foundation (IDRF) will aim to distribute over 2000lbs of meat to over 500 families, fulfilling a Muslim practice known as Qurbani. Among those attending the lunch are Muslims, members from diverse communities and individuals representing different faiths. Elected officials MP Olivia Chow, MPP Marchese Rosario, Councillor Adam Vaughan and Councillor Mike Layton will also bring greetings to the Muslim community.

"It is amazing to live in Toronto where together we celebrate our shared values and promote strong and healthy communities. This Eid, we will see many people of different cultures, faith communities and ethnicities come together in solidarity to support our shared vision for a vibrant, dynamic and generous city," says Kevin Lee, Executive Director of Scadding Court Community Centre.

Activities will take place throughout the day for the entire family and people of all ages. Event highlights include: speakers, performances, an educational display and screening, henna body art, a children's area and more.

"Eid al Adha is the festival of sacrifice commemorating the Prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son Ismail as an act of obedience to God, and God's intervention by providing a ram to sacrifice instead. This is a common story among the Abrahamic faiths. In today's world this translates into one's willingness to sacrifice things for his or her covenant with God," says Sandra Noe, event organizer.

This event promises an educational, insightful and fun-filled day. This is a perfect way to dispel existing stereotypes and beliefs about the Islamic faith to the local and

larger community. This year, Eid al-Adha commenced on the evening of November 5, in accordance with the Islamic calendar, which is based on lunar cycles.

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About Muslim Association of Canada

Muslim Association of Canada is a national, grassroots organization which currently operates in 11 Canadian cities. Its vision is to establish an Islamic presence in Canada that is balanced, constructive and integrated, though distinct, within the social fabric and culture of Canada.

For more info visit: www.macnet.ca

About Scadding Court Community Centre

SCCC is a multi-service agency offering a wide range of programs, services and opportunities for people of all ages, and from all walks of life. This organization is known for high quality social and recreational programming, particularly for children, youth, newcomers and people with disabilities, and for progressive community and social development activities that extend across the city.

Learn more at www.scaddingcourt.org

About International Development and Relief Foundation (IDRF)

IDRF (International Development and Relief Foundation) is a trusted Canadian charitable organization, dedicated to empowering the disadvantaged people of the world. For over 25 years, IDRF has been providing effective humanitarian aid and sustainable development programs to disadvantaged individuals, without discrimination, upholding the Islamic principles of human dignity, self reliance and social justice.

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