



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 15, 2009

Community comes together to celebrate the end of Ramadan!

Scadding Court Community Centre and the Muslim Association of Canada (MAC) are inviting their communities to come together to celebrate the end of Ramadan, the annual month of fasting practiced by Muslims. This year, Eid al Fitr, the celebration which marks the end of Ramadan falls on September 20th. This is a time for communal celebration and, traditionally, also a time in which Muslims distribute food to those in need.

On Friday September 18th, 150 volunteers from Masjid Toronto (a project of MAC), Scadding Court and the Muslim Students' Association (MSA) of the University of Toronto will assemble 1000 Eid food baskets with non-perishable food items and then distribute them to households in the Atkinson Co-op community. Afterwards, all volunteers will return to Scadding Court where they will break the fast together at sunset and share a meal prepared by the Scadding Court Greenhouse Café. *“Islamic tradition strongly encourages that Muslims serve their community by giving in charity and being close to those members of the community that may be less fortunate. This custom of charity is recommended at all times of the year, but is even more important during the month of Ramadan and during the Eid celebration. It is befitting that MAC and Scadding Court join forces to benefit our community.”* says Abdussalam Nakua, Head of GTA-MAC Chapter.

“Almost 10% of Toronto’s population is Muslim, making Eid al Fitr a significant event for the city. We look forward to the opportunity to reach out to and include all communities in our celebration” says Dr. El-Tantawy Attia, Executive Director of Masjid Toronto.

"This initiative builds on work done by Scadding Court in food security, diversity, community education and community engagement" says Mr. Kevin Lee, Executive Director of Scadding Court, who adds that *"As an agency and a community we celebrate Black History Month, the Asian Lunar New Year and other cultural events – the time has come to include Eid."* Activities include food basket preparation and distribution, an educational display in Scadding Court's lobby, additional distribution of food baskets in Regent Park on Saturday September 19th by Masjid volunteers and a community lunch on November 29th at Scadding Court to celebrate Eid al Adha, which marks the end of the Hajj, the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Makkah.

- What:** Celebration of Eid al Fitr with preparation and community distribution of 850 Eid food baskets followed by collective breaking of the fast and dinner
- Who:** 150 Muslim and non-Muslim community volunteers, invited elected representatives include Premier Dalton McGuinty, Mayor David Miller and others
- Where:** Scadding Court Community Centre, 707 Dundas Street West
- When:** **Friday September 18th**
3pm food basket assembly
6pm food basket distribution in the community
7pm prayer, breaking the fast, dinner

Photo opportunities and interviews with volunteers available.

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