

Eid Mubarak! Eid Mubarak! Eid Mubarak!

Eid Greetings from the BCMA President:

In the Name of Allah the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

All the praises and thanks be to Allah, the Originator or the Creator of the heavens and the earth. He increases in creation what He wills. Verily, Allah (S.W.T) is able to do all things. Whatever of mercy, Allah (S.W.T) may grant to mankind, none can withhold it; and whatever He may withhold, none can grant it thereafter. And He is the Almighty, the All- Wise . And Salutations to the beloved Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H.).

Allahu - Akbar , Allahu - Akbar , Laila - ha ill - lal - lah . Allahu - Akbar , Allahu - Akbar .
Wa - Lilahill hamd .

Eid ul Fitr is a joyous occasion with religious significance , celebrating the achievement of enhanced piety after the end of the blessed month of Ramadan , the month of fasting which is one of the greatest religious observance in Islam . It is a day that signifies moral victory, peace of congregation, fellowship, brotherhood and unity. It is a time for sharing and giving and it gives an opportunity for Muslims to offer forgiveness towards each other. Eid is the day of celebration for all Muslims with expression of Eid Wishes everywhere. On this auspicious day, we wear our best clothes, women apply henna and wear lots of accessories and jewelleries to mark the benevolence of this day. It is indeed a true Thanksgiving Day for the believing men and women. On the day of Eid, every believing man , woman and child has this moral duty to go to the Eid Prayer and must pay Zakat Ul Fitr before the Eid Prayer .

My dear fellow Muslims , while indulging in the grandeur of these celebrations , we must take all steps necessary to include our fellow Canadians in our celebrations as well , as a gesture of goodwill . We should invite our non - Muslim neighbours, co-workers, classmates and business acquaintances to Eid festivities with the view to expose this great religion of Islam and Muslim Culture.

My dear Brothers and sisters, In the past, whilest, the moon sighting for Shawal has been a major source of disunity and rancour in the Muslim World, this year, Insha Allah! , the shawal moon sighting shall be a cause for unity and celebrations because the overwhelming majority observed the beginning of fasting together. While on the subject of moon sighting , allow me to share with you the fatwa by the Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia , Shaikh Abdul Aziz Al Shaikh . In a press statement before the month of Ramadan , the Grand Mufti and the Chairman of the Ulema Board stressed that the beginning and the end of lunar months should only be determined on the basis of sightings and not by any other means. "Sharia does not accept astronomical calculations based on mathematical computing as the basis for the beginning and ending of Ramadan," he said. Al Shaikh cited a Hadith of the Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h.) which says , " You start fasting when you see the moon and stop it when you sight the next moon , and when it is hidden by clouds , complete 30 days of fasting ." He went on further to warn the Muslims "If anyone doubts our moon sighting, fasting and feasting, it shows his weak faith and defective perception. " This, Alhamdulillah, is a very positive statement from the Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia who has shown great

leadership with this pronouncement and it certainly clears any misguided perceptions that may have existed in the minds of some.

My fellow Muslims, as Muslim Canadians, we live in what is often described as the world's best country in terms of freedom of religion, political, social and economic rights. Access to education, medical care and a caring society characterized by the rule of law, equality for all citizens and a Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms that many non-Canadians envy. If we consider Canada our country, we are obliged to participate in it at all levels as other minorities do. We are about close to one million Muslims in the whole of Canada and over 100,000 in British Columbia alone, obviously we have chosen Canada as our new country of residence and citizenship. Living in Canada does not merely mean making a living, sticking to one's community, reaping its benefits and forgetting our obligations of good citizenship. We must decide as a minority faith group as to whether we have only rights or duties as well. We must ponder over this question. We as a community should be very proud that Islam is now very much a Canadian Religion, and the Muslim community is a microcosm of Canada's multicultural mosaic.

With the blessings and grace of Allah (S.W.T.), the B.C. Muslim Association has taken great strides in bringing Muslims of all corners of the world together in not only in promoting but in establishing unity in diversity for all. In its 43 years of existence, and as the senior most religious organization in British Columbia, it has always endeavoured to cater for the religious aspirations and needs for all Sunni Muslims. It has always demonstrated immense leadership in providing, religious, educational, social, youth, sports and burial services. It does not believe in grandstanding its activities and achievements by way of glowing pictures in news print or media. We go along discreetly and with profound humility with the business of achieving our goals and objectives with only one view and that is for the sake of the pleasure of Allah Almighty.

In closing, let us pray to Allah (S.W.T.), all praise and glory be to Him, that He may shower His infinite mercy on the entire humanity, particularly on those who are vulnerable, under oppression, who are sick and in difficulties. Let us pray that this Eid will bring to this world peace, happiness and tranquility. Let us also share the celebration of this festive occasion of Eid Ul Fitr with the poor and less unfortunate in the society.

"So give to the kindred his due, and to Al-Miskin (the poor) and to the wayfarer. That is best for those who seek Allah's Countenance; and it is they who will be successful."
Al-Quran, Surah Ar-Rum.

May you all have a meaningful Eid Celebration matched only with the splendour of this blessed and festive occasion.

Once again Eid Mubarak to all.

Your Brother in Islam,

Sikandar Khan.
President
The British Columbia Muslim Association