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## Report on the 2009 Canadian Muslim Forum Iftar Dinner

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Date of the dinner: September 4, 2009

Date of the press release: September 11, 2009

Excerpts:

This year, elected officials from all three levels of government - federal, provincial and municipal - attended. Political leaders, including Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Quebec Premier Jean Charest, Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff, NDP leader Jack Layton, Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe, Parti Québécois leader Pauline Marois, sent the FMC-CMF and all Muslims a special Ramadan greeting message.

Ramadan greetings also came from leaders of the Orthodox Jewish community in a video message and a personal address from L'abbé Thomas Dowd, "adjoint au directeur de l'office du personnel pastoral", representative of l'archevêque de Montréal; Liberal MP, Paulo Rodrigues; PQ MNA, François Rebello; Quebec Solidare MNA and co-president, Amir Khadir; Marcel Tremblay, representing the Montreal Mayor; Montreal opposition Leader, Louise Harel; Alain De Sousa, St-Laurent Mayor; Jean-Marc Pelletier, Brossard Mayor; as well as Jean-Guy Gagnon, "directeur adjoint de la direction stratégique de Service de police de la ville de Montréal". (Letters from party leaders and photos of the event are available on the FMC-CMF website).

During the Iftar, the Canadian Muslim Forum gave an award and recognized the contributions of Nicole Fillion, the director of the Ligue des droits et libertés and Lorraine Guay, a well known activist and the coordinator of the Coalition for Justice and Peace in Palestine (CJPP), in addition to Sheikh Saïd Fawaz and Lazhar Aissaoui for their continuous services for the Quebec and Canadian society.

**Communiqué de presse**  
**Pour Diffusion Immédiate**  
[www.fmc-cmf.com](http://www.fmc-cmf.com)

**FMC-CMF Holds Successful Iftar Dinner with more than 200 Participants**  
**FMC-CMF launches Islamophobia project**

**(Montreal, Quebec - Sept. 11, 2009)** On Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009 the Canadian Muslim Forum (FMC-CMF) hosted its annual iftar/dinner with more than 200 participants. The annual dinner's goal is to bring community members, Muslim and non-Muslim, with elected officials together for a meal and conversation during the holy month of Ramadan, when Muslims open their fast.

This year, elected officials from all three levels of government - federal, provincial and municipal - attended. Political leaders, including Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Quebec Premier Jean Charest, Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff, NDP leader Jack Layton, Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe, Parti Québécois leader Pauline Marois, sent the FMC-CMF and all Muslims a special Ramadan greeting message.

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At the iftar, FMC-CMF's President, Mohamed Kamel, launched the Canadian Muslim Forum's new campaign against Islamophobia. The newly launched campaign seeks to have this form of discrimination recognized and combated against by the federal, provincial and municipal governments. The FMC-CMF's campaign is open to all individual Quebecers and Canadians and has been assigned with a special separate fund.

Islamophobia is already recognized by the United Nations. Then Secretary General Kofi Annan said at a UN conference on Islamophobia in 2004, "when the world is compelled to coin a new term to take account of increasingly widespread bigotry, that is a sad and troubling development. Such is the case with Islamophobia." (See: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2004/sgsm9637.doc.htm>). In Québec, "l'Office de la langue française" has defined Islamophobia, since 2005, as "Racisme qui se manifeste par une haine, des préjugés et une discrimination délibérés à l'endroit de l'islam, des membres de la communauté musulmane, pratiquants ou non, ou des objets et lieux du culte islamique."

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CMF Hold Successful Iftar Dinner

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CMF launches Islamophobia project

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