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Azhar Ali KHAN (Ottawa Citizen – July 2, 1983): *The Muslim Community in North America* / Book review

Page 22, The Citizen, Ottawa, Saturday, July 2, 1983

Religion

New work reviewed

New book on Muslims in Canada long overdue

By Azhar Ali Khan
Citizen staff writer
"One of the most pressing problems confronting the Muslim leadership is relative inability to reach the new, Canadian-born generation of Muslim children, teenagers, and youth adults."

So says Dr Baha Abu-Laban, professor of sociology at the University of Alberta and one of the editors of the useful new book, The Muslim Community in North America. Edited by Earle H. Waugh, Baha Abu-Laban, and

Regula B. Qureshi. The University of Alberta Press. Edmonton. 316 pages. \$30.

This is, as far as known, the only book that deals with the Muslim community in North America. Since Muslims first were said to have come to North America in the 16th and 17th centu-

ry, and are now said to number about two million in the continent, a major study about their experiences in the continent, and vice versa, has long been overdue.

This book provides information on their problems, aspirations and perceptions. It is based largely on pap-

ers presented at a symposium on Islam in North America held at the University of Alberta, Edmonton in May, 1980. In publishing the book, the university has provided a useful service.

But the book has its limitations, admitted by the introduction itself when it quotes Confucius as

saying that it is better to light one small candle than to curse the darkness and saying the quotation applies to this book.

Indeed, the book is modest in describing itself as one small candle. Small though it may be, the candle sheds needed light on the Muslim community of North America.

But the continent is so vast, and the Muslim community so dispersed and heterogeneous, that the candle does little more than remove some of the darkness.

This is especially true because it tries to cover both the U.S. and Canada. It therefore fails to provide detailed information

about the Muslims of the United States and certainly of Canada.

Admittedly, the Muslims of Canada number only some 100,000 of the two millions Muslims of North America. But little information is available about their interaction among themselves, with other Canadians.

OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP
NOVENA
EVERY WEDNESDAY
4:30 & 7:30 P.M.
OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CHURCH

UNITY CHURCH
NO SERVICE
JULY 3rd.
VEITCH-DRAPER CHAPEL

CALVARY Pentecostal Church
1771 Cuba Ave.
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship

FAITH BAPTIST
10:00 A.M. - MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE
11:00 A.M.