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The Edmonton Council of Muslim Communities funds a Chair in Islamic Studies at the University of Alberta

Original addresses: http://www.foa.ualberta.ca/en/Giving/Meet_Our_Donors.aspx

http://www.foa.ualberta.ca/Giving/Meet_Our_Donors/Edmonton%20Council%20of%20Muslim%20Communities.aspx

Excerpts:

“We live in a global community and to achieve understanding you must be educated,” explains Nashir Karmali, Education Chair of the ECMC. “We need to contribute to the educational system so people can have a better understanding.”

(...) “We’ve been amazed and very grateful to the Muslim community, to the university and the government officials for the tremendous support we’ve received,” says Karmali.

(...) Karmali stresses that it is important to “keep an open mind and look behind what you see in the media and on the internet. If we go into education with an open mind, we can appreciate the different peoples from the world and enjoy learning from them.”

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL http://www.foa.ualberta.ca/en/Giving/Meet_Our_Donors.aspx. The page header includes the University of Alberta logo and navigation links: Find a Person, Bear Tracks, Maps, Email & Apps, eClass, Libraries, and a search box. The main content area is titled 'FACULTY OF ARTS' and features a navigation menu with links to About, Undergraduate Programs, Graduate Programs, Departments, Institutes & Centres, Alumni, Giving, and Research. The 'Giving' link is highlighted. The page content includes a breadcrumb trail: Home > Giving > Meet Our Donors. The main heading is 'Meet Our Donors', followed by a paragraph: 'We would like to honour some of our most dedicated and generous supporters. Their friendship has touched the lives of so many students and staff in our Faculty. For this we are forever grateful.' Below this is a sub-heading 'Edmonton Council of Muslim Communities (ECMC)' and a paragraph: 'The ECMC raised one million dollars to establish Canada's first Chair in Islamic Studies – a gift that will educate generations of students on Islam and its many cultures.'

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Edmonton Council of Muslim Communities

The Edmonton Council of Muslim Communities (ECMC) is a success story in itself. In response to the backlash that resulted from 9/11, the diverse Muslim communities of Edmonton decided to put their differences aside in order to work together on bigger issues affecting their communities.



The ECMC is comprised of representatives from nine mosques and Muslim organizations in Edmonton, who work towards a common goal of spreading an understanding of Islam and its many cultures, often misunderstood in today's media.

As one of the Council's initiatives, education became an important focal point for the group. "We live in a global community and to achieve understanding you must be educated," explains Nashir Karmali, Education Chair of the ECMC. "We need to contribute to the educational system so people can have a better understanding."

Motivated by a desire to continue educating future generations, the ECMC decided to establish a Chair in Islamic Studies at the University of Alberta, "to further the knowledge of cultures." Their incredible solidarity came through again, as they set out to raise one million dollars to establish the position.

"We've been amazed and very grateful to the Muslim community, to the university and the government officials for the tremendous support we've received," says Karmali.

Edmonton has a strong history in the Muslim community, being the first Canadian city to erect a mosque in 1938. It is also the home of Alberta's first Muslim MLA and the first Muslim Cabinet Minister in Canada, the late Larry Shaben, who was also the former Chair of the ECMC.

Karmali stresses that it is important to "keep an open mind and look behind what you see in the media and on the internet. If we go into education with an open mind, we can appreciate the different peoples from the world and enjoy learning from them."

The Edmonton Council of Muslim Communities Chair in Islamic Studies is the first endowed chair devoted to Islamic studies in Canada, a significant achievement for Muslim communities and for the Faculty of Arts.

In 2011, the ECMC reached \$1 million in funds raised for the endowment.