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CAIR-CAN welcomes Marc Garneau's answer to its questions

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Source: CAIR-CAN News Release, December 19, 2012
Contact: Ihsaan Gardee, CAIR-CAN Executive Director
Amira Elghawaby, CAIR-CAN Human Rights Officer

Original title: MP Marc Garneau responds to CAIR-CAN concerns

(Ottawa, Canada – December 19, 2012) The Canadian Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-CAN) welcomed the [public response from Liberal Member of Parliament Marc Garneau](#), received yesterday which addressed concerns raised by an [open letter CAIR-CAN issued](#) about comments attributed to Mr. Garneau in an interview with the Toronto Sun.

Mr. Garneau clarified that "...my comments were specifically about IRFAN and not about Muslims broadly or the conference." Mr. Garneau further affirmed that "...broad-brush approaches deny the many valuable contributions of Canadian Muslims to building a just and compassionate Canada."

"CAIR-CAN is encouraged by Mr. Garneau's clarification now that his sole concern has been addressed by the severing of the relationship between the Reviving of the Islamic Spirit conference and IRFAN," says CAIR-CAN Executive Director Ihsaan Gardee. "Our politicians have a role and duty to speak to and represent Canadians in their diversity and Mr. Garneau made it clear that he takes this responsibility to heart."

Canadian Muslims currently number close to one million and represent 2.8% of the population. The number is expected to grow to 2.7 million or 6.6% by the year 2030.

"Canadian Muslims are doctors, teachers, lawyers, engineers, scientists, entrepreneurs, managers, politicians, and CEOs, and much more. They are active and contributing members of communities across Canada. It is critical that everyone remain engaged and work to ensure that our voices are heard and our concerns are addressed," says Mr. Gardee.

Read CAIR-CAN's open letter [here](#).

Read the response from MP Marc Garneau [here](#).

CAIR-CAN is a national, non-profit, grassroots organization striving to be a leading voice that enriches Canadian society through Muslim civic engagement and the promotion of human rights.

MP Marc Garneau responds to CAIR-CAN concerns

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