



**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

- IAS expansion is complete
- The roof repair needs your support; We need \$300,000
- Join the second Jumooa prayers to reduce the crowdedness

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# The *SaskMuslim* Herald

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## Your continuous support is needed

The Association has fulfilled, Alhamdulillah, its promises regarding the 2010-2011 construction projects. The expansion is almost complete with brand new carpet and prayer hall that can accommodate 800 persons.

Last September, gravel was placed on the ground of the parking lot making the entire parking lot accessible for our community members. This was done right after the landscape has been beautified with trees and new grass.

Inside, the space in the IAS has been rearranged; a new office for the Imam has been created, as well as a new board room and a resource/media room. Over the

last two construction seasons, the IAS has spent over \$600,000 to adapt the facility to our community needs. There are now two action items on our agenda



The new carpet in our Masjid

as a community; first, we need to adapt to our facility. To reduce the load on the prayer hall and the parking lot during the first Jumooa, please make every possi-

ble effort to attend the second Jumooa prayers; more space for prayers and more space for parking!

Second, one more major project is remaining—The roof repair! The IAS has confirmation from three experts that the roof repair is overdue. It must be done during this summer of 2011. It will cost close to \$300,000; yes, you got it right: three hundred thousand dollars! Please donate generously, we cannot afford the water leakage all over the Center. You can donate online through our website or stop by our office and pay by cash or cheque.

## We are not happy!

The Muslims of Saskatoon, and all Canadian Muslims, are very concerned that Canada Christian College has invited the Dutch politician Geert Wilders to come and speak in Toronto and Ottawa between May 8-10, 2011. Leaders of the College were quoted as saying that Wilders will discuss that "Islam is not just

a religion, it's a political and cultural system as well and we know that Christians, Jews and Hindus don't have the same mandate for a hostile takeover. Here in Canada there is a real, clear and present danger." Wilders is well-known internationally for saying "Islam is not a religion" and that constitutional religious

freedom should not be accorded to Muslims and Islam in the West. "We hope that our politicians and all religious leaders in Canada will denounce Mr. Wilders' comments as xenophobic and non-Canadian", said Amin Elshorbagy, Vice President and the spokesperson for the IAS Board of Directors.

# Internet safety for Muslims



Saskatoon Police officer instructing the children at the Islamic Center

On April 16th, two police officers from Saskatoon Police visited our Islamic Center and held two educational sessions for adults and children. They talked about internet safety, spam, chat rooms and so much more. *“parents got up to speed on issues that they need to know to make sure their kids are safe”* said Suhad Bakri, the Education Director and the event organizer. *“That session was only for adults, and the children got their share of knowledge in a separate session with the offi-*

*cers”*, she added.

The community enjoyed a barbeque right after the talks. The Center was full of adults and children from the community. *“We thought that mixing the seminar with a social gathering is the best way to bring our people out”*, said Rana Sand, the Social Director and the organizer of the barbeque.

*“We learnt few important tips today, our kids should be using the technology and benefit from the internet under smart supervi-*

*sion”*, said Aman Abid, the general secretary of the IAS who enjoyed the entire afternoon event along with his family.

Let your children use the internet, let them do it in an open space of the home, no closed doors! More importantly, teach them what is right and what is wrong. We as a community should work hard with our children to make them better Muslims and better citizens.

*“Our youth has huge potential to be a vibrant force for our community at large”*, said Nabil Asfour

# Muslim youth gear up

The IAS and the Muslim Association of Canada (MAC) teamed up and launched a youth kick off gathering on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Over 75 male and female youth attended the event. *“They all had a great time and insha-Allah we will able to tap into this huge potential and activate them to be a vibrant force for our community at large”*, said

Nabil Asfour, the Director of Religious Affairs and the organizer of the day.

*“I have big plans that I hope to implement in collaboration with Saleema, our Youth Director”*, Asfour added. The IAS board hopes that this is the beginning of a series of events that will bring more youth to the Islamic Center. *“There is no doubt in my mind that we need*

*to put more emphasis on youth issues. Religious, educational, and fun have to be integrated in an innovative way to encourage our youth to come and listen to what they need to listen to”*, said Abu Baker Hassan, the IAS President. Saleema Mohamed reminds all of us that *“the youth are not going to listen all the time, the IAS also needs to listen to them.”*

The road ahead is long but exciting!



# The board agenda

The following items are on the agenda of the IAS Board:

- Center’s roof repair in this summer;
- Paving the graveled part of the parking lot;

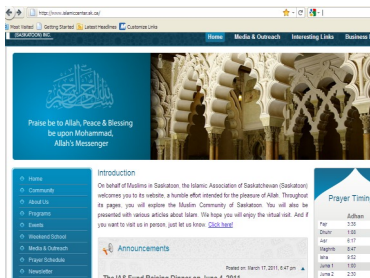
- Furnishing the new board room and Imam’s office;
- Amending the IAS constitution within the coming 3 months;
- Awarding the academic scholarship through the scholarship review committee before the end of

May;

- Arranging a fund raising dinner on June 4th;

Please, donate time, money, and everything you can to help your volunteer board of directors.

# Why stand in line? Go online!



**Go online and tell us what you think!**

or renewing your IAS membership, donating to IAS, or even asking IAS for financial help through the Takaful application is now at your finger tips!

tion for you; prayer timing, interesting links, weekend school page, media page, a page for this newsletter, photo galleries, the IAS policies, forms, the constitution, and a lot more!

If you have a business that you want to advertise for on the website, just email the Webhost at: [info@islamiccenter.sk.ca](mailto:info@islamiccenter.sk.ca)

Please visit our website at: [www.islamiccenter.sk.ca](http://www.islamiccenter.sk.ca)

A few months ago, we have developed a completely new website for your convenience. You may check it regularly for announcements, updates, news, and events. Applying

A survey question (poll) is always posted to get your feedback or opinion on certain issues. Please make sure to participate, your input is essential for the healthy operation of our organization.

The website has tons of informa-

**“The Board expanded its activities by involving more community members through a set of active committees”**

## Know your IAS

Since this is the first issue of Sask-Muslim, let us give you a brief introduction about the IAS organizational structure and the responsibilities of the Board directors. This will be useful for you to know who is responsible for what, and how the IAS is governed.

**President:** The Association leader; liaising with other Muslim organizations; Ex-officio for the Strategic Planning Committee; Signing on behalf of the Association.

**Vice President:** The Association manager (following up with the rest of the board directors); Chairing the construction committee; Ex-officio for the MCOC (media);

**Secretary:** Announcement & communications (email system, website); recording meeting minutes; Association records and archives; membership.

**Treasurer:** Account management & bookkeeping; financial planning; mail management, including bill payment; Ex-officio for the Takaful

Fund Committee.

**Religious Affairs:** Khutbah schedule; halaqas; Quran classes; religious conferences/seminars; Dawah; Taraweeh and Eid prayers arrangements.

**Education:** Weekend school; academic scholarships; professional development; seminars & lectures.

**Maintenance:** Facility booking; Center operations and maintenance, including supervising the caretaker; asset management and repair planning and scheduling.

**Fund raising:** Fund raising dinners; food & meat sale; donation boxes; financial planning for major events & projects.

**Social:** All women affairs (cooking, halaqas, sports..etc); community newsletter; functions & celebrations (Eid, wedding, family nights, barbecues...etc); kitchen; Ramadan Iftar.

**Youth & Sports:** Liaising with the MSA; All youth (male & female) affairs (sports, halaqas, programs... etc ); tutoring for school students;

management of the Gym and sports equipments.

For names & contacts, check our website!

The Board established ad-hoc committees that offer great help in running the Association:

**Muslim Communications & Outreach Committee (MCOC)**, chaired by Br. Ahmed Shoker;

**Strategic Planning (SPC)**, chaired by Br. Mohamed Sherhan;

**Takaful Fund (TFC)**, chaired by Br. Arshud Dar;

**Constitution Review (CRC)**, chaired by Br. M. Akbar Khan.

**Scholarship Review Committee (SRC)**, chaired by Br. Muhammad Anzar.



**IAS is yours ! Get involved.**



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**SaskMuslim: One community, multiple views**

The *SaskMuslim Herald* is a community newsletter run by the Islamic Association of Saskatchewan (Saskatoon) Inc. It aims at providing news, information, and announcements to the Muslim Community in Saskatoon. The *SaskMuslim Herald* may also publish views and opinion articles written by board directors or community members. Unlike the editorial, views and opinion articles may reflect the viewpoints of the writer, and not necessarily those of the IAS board. However, the editorial board reserves the right to reject publishing any item deemed to be problematic. Please submit your article, viewpoint, or news item to: [saskmuslim@islamiccenter.sk.ca](mailto:saskmuslim@islamiccenter.sk.ca)

## What have we learnt? (1) Omar does not fear the majority.....

A series of political insights into the Islamic history

(By Amin Elshorbagy)

Khaled Eben Alwaleed (R), one of the greatest field marshals in the Islamic history, was sweeping the Arab Peninsula with his victorious army and smashing his enemies one after the other when the letter of the Khalif Omar Eben Alkhattab came terminating his service as the army leader in year 13 (H). "*Khaled, once you get my letter, give the leadership to Abu Obaidah, listen to him and obey*", said Omar (R). I remembered this when I was reading what Prophet Muhammad (P) said describing Omar "...I have not seen any other genius man manages the affairs, the way Omar does!" فلم أر عبقرياً من الناس يفري فرية This was not the only shocking decision that Omar (R) made with regard to Khaled, but three years later (year 16 H), Omar (R) fired Khaled (R) from his position as an Ameer or ruler of a district of As-sham. This time, Khaled's service termination was final.....later, the super fighter died on his bed like any average Muslim at that time. ....

### Omar does not fear the majority

It was an earth shattering event in the Madinah when Abu Bakar (R) confirmed the

news of the death of Prophet Muhammad, offering one of the most crucial statements in the Islamic history "*whoever was worshipping Muhammad, let him know that Muhammad has died, but whoever was worshipping Allah, Verily Allah is immortal*". The natives of the Madinah and the great supporters of the Prophet - Alansaar - flocked to the shed of Bani Saedah to have an assembly calling for the nomination of one of their prominent chiefs, Saad Eben Obadah, as the leader of the Ummah.

The Prophet of Allah was still on his death bed, surrounded by his cousin Ali Eben Abi Taleb and the rest of his direct family and household arranging for the burial and the funeral process, when Abu Bakar, Omar, and Abu Obaidah realized that the future of the Ummah could be at stake. The three rushed to the Shed. Omar wanted to speak; fully convinced that he has words to utter that even Abu Bakar may not be able to deliver, but Abu Bakar asked him to stay quiet.

### How Abu Bakar became the chief commander?

Under the shed, the atmosphere was tensed, Alansaar were blunt and put forward the name of Eben Obadah as a potential candidate. Abu Bakar could not see the position going to someone from outside Al-muhajereen, his close relation with the prophet (P) gives him the feeling of what would have pleased the prophet more. Abu Bakar eloquently presented the case, "*leaders are from us and the ministers from you*", he said.

Long debate broke out, Alansaar proposed power sharing and leadership swapping, but Abu Bakar politely interrupted saying "*here are Omar and Abu Obaidah, pick one*". Omar sensed the danger; the Islamic etiquette prevents offering the leadership covenant (Bay'ah) to a person after it was offered to another. So much concerned that Alansaar might offer the covenant to one of them, Omar stood up and gave the covenant to Abu Bakar, basing on two facts; first, nobody would reject Abu Bakar, and second, Alansaar are great Muslims who would never offer a rival covenant. Being one of three Muhajereen among overwhelming majority of Alansaar, Omar dared to end the debate and get the right thing done.