

Celebrating Canadian Islamic Heritage Month

October 1, 2025

Dear Educators,

This October, schools across Canada are invited to join in marking **Canadian Islamic Heritage Month** (CIHM); a national observance recognized by the House of Commons in 2016 to celebrate the diverse contributions of Muslim communities to the fabric of Canada. CIHM is an opportunity for educators and students to engage with the history, cultures, and lived experiences of their Muslim neighbours, fostering deeper understanding, inclusion, and belonging in our classrooms and communities.

The importance of marking this month cannot be overstated. The Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights has clearly identified the need for education systems to play a central role in combating Islamophobia. In recent years, incidents of Islamophobic bullying, stereotyping, and hate speech have sharply increased across Canada, including in BC schools. Harms stemming from islamophobia not only undermine safety and well-being but also create barriers to learning and full participation.

Canadian Islamic Heritage Month is both a celebration and a responsibility. By bringing visibility to Muslim histories and voices, we affirm the principles of equity and human rights enshrined in our provincial and federal frameworks. The Toronto District School Board has designed and published a CIHM guidebook to help teachers and school staff integrate CIHM into daily learning and activities in simple, meaningful ways:

- **Daily Morning Announcements:** Short scripts highlighting Muslim Canadian achievements, cultural contributions, and historical milestones.
- **Suggested Classroom Activities:** Age-appropriate ideas for discussions, art, history, and social studies connections.
- **Library & Classroom Wish List:** A curated list of inclusive titles by Muslim authors and illustrators to expand your school's resources.
- **Teacher Resources:** Evidence-based background materials to support your own learning and confidence in addressing Islamophobia and teaching Islamic heritage.

Resource can be found here:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/docs/IHMResourceGuidebook-UPDATES%26REVISIONS.pdf>

We encourage you to adapt these tools to your classroom and school context, weaving them into the broader goals of equity, diversity, and inclusion. By marking Canadian Islamic Heritage Month thoughtfully, we send a clear message to all students: every child deserves to feel safe, respected, and represented in their learning environment.

Thank you for your commitment to building inclusive schools where diversity is celebrated and all children can thrive.

Sincerely,