

BARDI

A magazine by and for Egyptian Canadians

بردي

Issue 1 - December 2025



Leaning into Soft Petals

Oil and mixed media on canvas

by Elaf Selim

www.elafselim.com

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Message from the Editor

Welcome to the first issue of Bardi.

Bardi was created as a space for Egyptian Canadians to see themselves reflected—honestly, thoughtfully, and with pride. Our community is rich with stories shaped by migration, memory, ambition, success and belonging. Yet too often, these stories live only in fragments: at family tables, in community gatherings, and trapped inside our own minds. Often, these stories can be lost between generations. Bardi exists to bring these stories together, from coast to coast to coast and across the ocean back to Egypt.

Bardi explores identity, culture, career, creativity, and the social questions that matter to us, without flattening the complexity of who we are. Our goal is not nostalgia alone, nor is it assimilation. It is conversation. Across generations. Across provinces. Across perspectives. We aim to amplify voices that are curious, critical, and compassionate—voices that reflect the diversity of the Egyptian Canadian experience.

As you turn these pages, we hope you find moments of recognition, challenge, and inspiration. Most of all, we hope Bardi feels like a home you can return to—and a platform you can help shape.

Bardi will be published quarterly in English in electronic format. It will be available for download for free. We welcome your letters, opinion submissions, corporate announcements, or company information as well as your advertising inquiries.

You can contact us at info@bardimedia.ca.

Thank you for being part of our beginning.

Ahmed Selim

Featured Business

Chappelle Veterinary Clinic

Chappelle Veterinary Clinic (chappellevet.ca) is a locally owned, family-operated veterinary facility that combines modern, full-service care with a touch of vintage charm. Conveniently located in the Shoppes of Jagare Ridge at 141 Street & 28 Avenue SW, Edmonton, Alberta, we are proud to serve the southwest Edmonton communities, including Chappelle, Paisley, Jagare Ridge, Heritage Valley, Graydon Hill, Desrochers, Glenridding Heights, Ambleside, Windermere, Keswick, Terwillegar, Riverbend, and surrounding areas.

At Chappelle Veterinary Clinic, our knowledgeable and compassionate team is committed to providing exceptional medical, surgical, and dental care for your beloved pets.

Our comprehensive services for dogs and cats include:

- Routine exams & vaccinations
- Preventative care & senior consultations
- Full diagnostics (laboratory testing, digital X-ray, dental X-ray, and ultrasound)
- Soft tissue & orthopedic surgery
- Spay & neuter procedures
- Dentistry
- Emergency & urgent care

We are dedicated to promoting responsible pet ownership and proactive healthcare, ensuring your pet enjoys a long, happy, and healthy life. Our veterinarians strongly believe in preventative medicine, encouraging pet owners to schedule biannual wellness exams to catch potential health concerns early.

At Chappelle Veterinary Clinic, we understand that your pet is family, and that's exactly how they will be treated when they walk through our doors.

Dr. Bassam Abdelmalek earned his Bachelor of Veterinary Science (BVSc) in 1998. After completing his studies, he served as a military veterinarian for one year before transitioning into a prominent role in the pharmaceutical industry. In 2006, he founded his own mixed animal clinic. Upon moving to Edmonton with his family, Dr. Bassam pursued his North American veterinary certification, which he successfully earned in 2016, allowing him to practice as a licensed veterinarian in North America.



Born Abroad, Still Canadian? New Citizenship Rules

Mohamed Negmeldin, RCIC-IRB

Many immigrant families assume “Canadian citizenship” is automatically granted to their children, until their assumption is challenged when a baby is born outside Canada, or a Canadian citizen marries overseas and starts a family abroad.

Canadian citizenship, as a legal status, began on January 1, 1947, when the first *Canadian Citizenship Act* came into force. Before then, Canadians were generally treated as “British subjects”.

Today, citizenship is commonly gained in three ways: by birth in Canada, naturalization, or citizenship by descent. Naturalization is the path most first-generation immigrants follow: you become a permanent resident first, then apply for citizenship after meeting the legal requirements.

Citizenship by descent is where second- and third-generation families can obtain their Canadian citizenship under old and new rules.

Under the 1977 *Citizenship Act*, some people born abroad to Canadian parents in the second (or later) generation, born abroad, could automatically lose citizenship at the age of 28, unless they took steps to retain it (including by meeting residency and connection requirements and applying before their 28th birthday).

This is part of what Canadians often call “Lost Canadians”, people who believed they were Canadian (or should have been) but were excluded or later lost citizenship because of rules under previous laws.



Mohamed Negmeldin is a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant-IRB and an active member in good standing of the College of Immigration and Citizenship Consultants (CICC).

Mohamed Negmeldin holds a L3 RCIC-IRB licence and is authorized for unrestricted practice before all four divisions of Immigration Refugees & Citizenship Canada (IRCC) including Immigration Division (ID), Immigration Appeal Division (IAD), Immigration & Refugee Board of Canada (IRB), and Refugee Appeal Division (RAD).

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Photo by Brandie Sunley

Over the years, Parliament has repeatedly had to “fix” these gaps as families only discovered this problem when applying for a passport, sponsoring relatives, or registering a child born abroad.

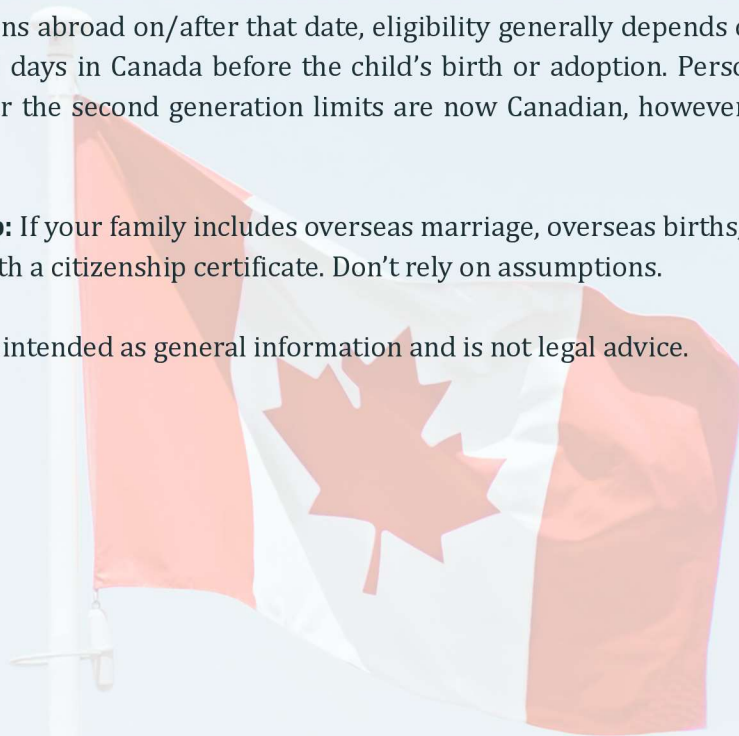
In 2009, Bill C-37 repealed the retention requirement and replaced it with the first-generation limit to citizenship by descent. Practically, anyone who turned 28 on or after April 17, 2009 did not lose citizenship for failing to “retain” it. However, the 2009 changes did not automatically restore citizenship for those who had already lost it under the former rules.

Fast forward: on December 19, 2023, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice struck down key parts of the first-generation limit, and the federal government chose not to appeal this decision.

Now, Bill C-3 (which came into force on December 15, 2025) expands recognition for many “Lost Canadians” and creates a “substantial connection” test. For many second-generation-or-later births/adoptions abroad on/after that date, eligibility generally depends on the Canadian parent having lived for 1,095 days in Canada before the child’s birth or adoption. Persons born before December 15, 2025 fall under the second generation limits are now Canadian, however, they must apply for proof of citizenship.

Consultant tip: If your family includes overseas marriage, overseas births, or frequent moves, verify status early with a citizenship certificate. Don’t rely on assumptions.

*This article is intended as general information and is not legal advice.



Merry
Christmas
And Happy Holidays



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Buying and Selling a Business in Canada*

Ahmed Selim, J.D. Barrister and Solicitor

Buying or selling a Canadian business can be a complex process that requires early planning, careful structuring, and a clear understanding of legal, tax, and commercial risks. If you are considering buying or selling a business, regardless of the business size or industry, you should consider the following issues to set yourself up for success.

There are generally two ways to buy or sell a business; an asset sale or a share sale. In a share sale, the buyer acquires ownership of the target corporation itself by buying some or all of the target corporation's shares. The buyer becomes the new shareholder and therefore indirectly acquires the target corporation's assets and liabilities. As a result, share transactions place significant importance on comprehensive legal, financial, and tax due diligence.

Buyers must closely review corporate records, material contracts, employment arrangements, pension obligations, intellectual property, litigation exposure, environmental matters, and regulatory compliance to identify risks that could affect value or future operations.

Most transactions begin with a letter of intent (LOI) outlining key economic and structural terms, such as purchase price, transaction type, timelines, exclusivity, and confidentiality. While often non-binding, LOIs play a critical role in aligning expectations and managing deal momentum.



Ahmed Selim is a lawyer licensed in Alberta, Canada. Ahmed practices in a full-service international law firm in the area of corporate and commercial law with a focus on mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance, secured lending, board governance and regulatory issues.

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The definitive share purchase agreement then addresses purchase price mechanics, payment structure (including cash, deferred payments, promissory notes, or vendor financing), and potential earn-out arrangements designed to bridge valuation gaps based on future performance.

In contrast, an asset acquisition allows a buyer to purchase selected assets of a business while assuming only specified liabilities. This structure provides greater flexibility and can significantly reduce risk exposure, as unwanted liabilities can be excluded. Asset transactions also offer potential tax advantages, including the ability to establish a new tax cost base for acquired assets. However, asset purchases often involve more operational complexity, particularly where contracts, permits, leases, or licenses must be assigned with third-party consent.

Asset purchase agreements must clearly define which assets are included and which liabilities are assumed or excluded to avoid post-closing disputes. Buyers must also consider indirect costs such as GST/HST, land transfer taxes, and provincial sales taxes, unless appropriate elections or exemptions apply. Employment matters require careful handling, as employees generally transfer to the buyer on similar terms, and failure to manage this process correctly can create significant liability. As with share transactions, asset deals involve due diligence, purchase price adjustments, representations and warranties, indemnities, and potential regulatory approvals.

From the seller's perspective, advance preparation is essential to achieving a successful and efficient sale. Sellers should begin preparing well before entering the market - often up to twelve months in advance. Early preparation allows sellers to clarify personal, financial, and tax objectives, address structural or compliance issues, and position the business to withstand buyer scrutiny during due diligence.

Sellers are encouraged to view the sale as a structured project requiring coordination among management, legal advisors, accountants, tax specialists, and valuation professionals. Establishing a clear understanding of the business's value and identifying the most likely buyer profile - whether a strategic acquirer or financial investor - helps shape deal strategy and negotiation dynamics. Strategic buyers may place greater value on synergies and growth opportunities, while financial buyers often focus on cash flow, scalability, and management continuity.

* This article provides general legal information and does not contain any legal advice. To discuss your specific situation, please contact ahmed.selim@dlapiper.com

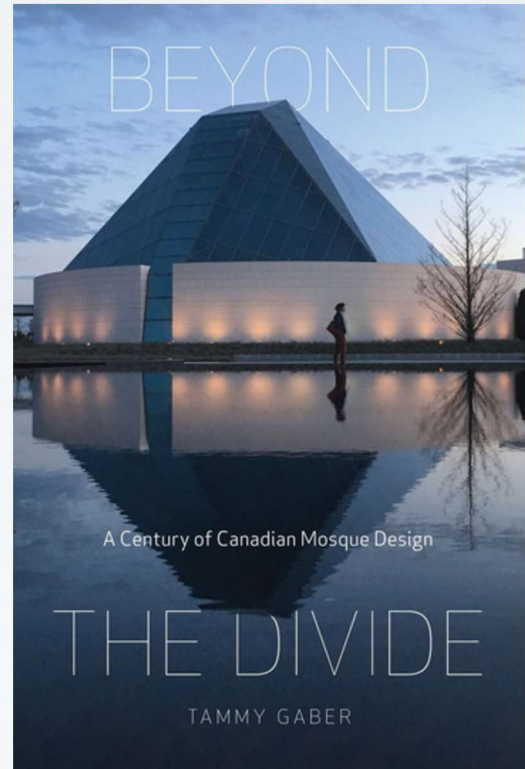
Book Review: *Beyond the Divide: A Century of Canadian Mosque Design* by Tammy Gaber

*Dina Moustafa, Registered Architect, Alberta Association of Architects, Director at Mode Architecture Inc.
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Tammy Gaber's *Beyond the Divide: A Century of Canadian Mosque Design* is a thoughtful and timely exploration of how mosque architecture in Canada reflects broader questions of identity, belonging, and pluralism. Rather than treating mosques solely as religious buildings, Gaber positions them as social, cultural, and political artifacts that reveal how Muslim communities have negotiated their place within the Canadian landscape over the past hundred years.

One of the book's key strengths is its historical depth. Gaber traces mosque development from early, modest prayer spaces established by immigrant communities to contemporary, architecturally ambitious projects that consciously engage with Canadian urban contexts. This longitudinal approach allows readers to see how changes in immigration patterns, public attitudes toward Islam, and state policies have directly influenced mosque design. The result is a compelling narrative that situates architecture within lived social realities.

Gaber's central argument—that Canadian mosques embody a dialogue between Islamic tradition and local context—is convincingly developed. She challenges the simplistic assumption that mosque architecture is either “imported” or “foreign,” demonstrating instead how Canadian mosques often blend global Islamic references



“Beyond the Divide” was in 2022 published by the McGill-Queen's University Press.

About the Author: Dr. Tammy Gaber is Director and Full Professor at the McEwen School of Architecture, Laurentian University (Canada) where she teaches architecture design and theory courses, which she joined as founding faculty in 2013.

www.mcewenarchitecture.ca/people/tammy-gaber/

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with local materials, zoning constraints, and aesthetic norms. In doing so, the book dismantles the perceived divide between “Western” and “Islamic” architecture, showing that hybridity, adaptation, and negotiation are fundamental to both.

The book is also notable for its interdisciplinary approach. Drawing on architecture, urban studies, history, and cultural analysis, Gaber moves beyond purely stylistic discussions to address community politics, funding structures, gendered spaces, and public controversies surrounding mosque construction. These discussions make the book accessible not only to architects and scholars but also to readers interested in multiculturalism, religious diversity, and Canadian social history.

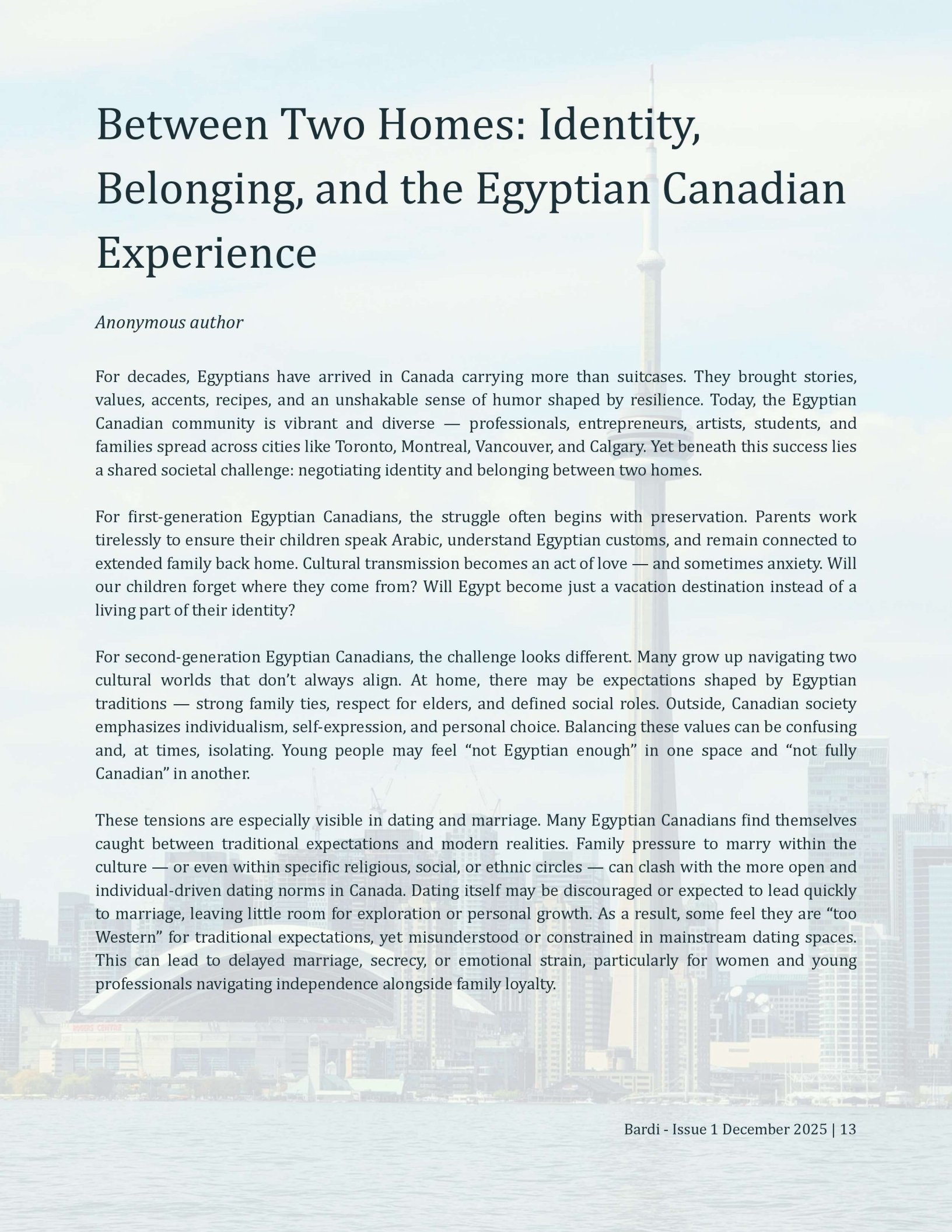
Visually and analytically, the case studies are particularly effective. Detailed descriptions of specific mosques ground the theoretical arguments and help the reader understand how design decisions respond to both internal community needs and external societal pressures. Gaber’s writing is clear and measured, avoiding jargon while still engaging rigorously with complex ideas.

If the book has a limitation, it is that readers seeking extensive comparative analysis with mosque design in other Western countries may find the focus tightly centered on Canada. However, this narrowness is also a strength, allowing for a nuanced and context-sensitive study rather than broad generalizations. Overall, *Beyond the Divide* is a valuable contribution to the study of architecture and multiculturalism in Canada. Gaber offers a nuanced, empathetic, and intellectually robust account of how mosque design serves as a mirror of Canadian Muslim experiences. The book ultimately invites readers to reconsider architecture not as a static symbol of difference, but as an evolving space of dialogue, negotiation, and belonging.



Dina Moustafa and Michael de Wolf are both registered architects and owners of Mode Architecture Inc. They share a vision to rehabilitate overlooked, and underutilized spaces. They focus on creating new humanized spaces that brings joy and playfulness to their community. Dina is licensed to practice architecture in Canada and Egypt. Michael is licensed to practice architecture in Canada and the UK.

Collaboration is the cornerstone of their success. For more information, contact Dina at dina@modearch.ca



Between Two Homes: Identity, Belonging, and the Egyptian Canadian Experience

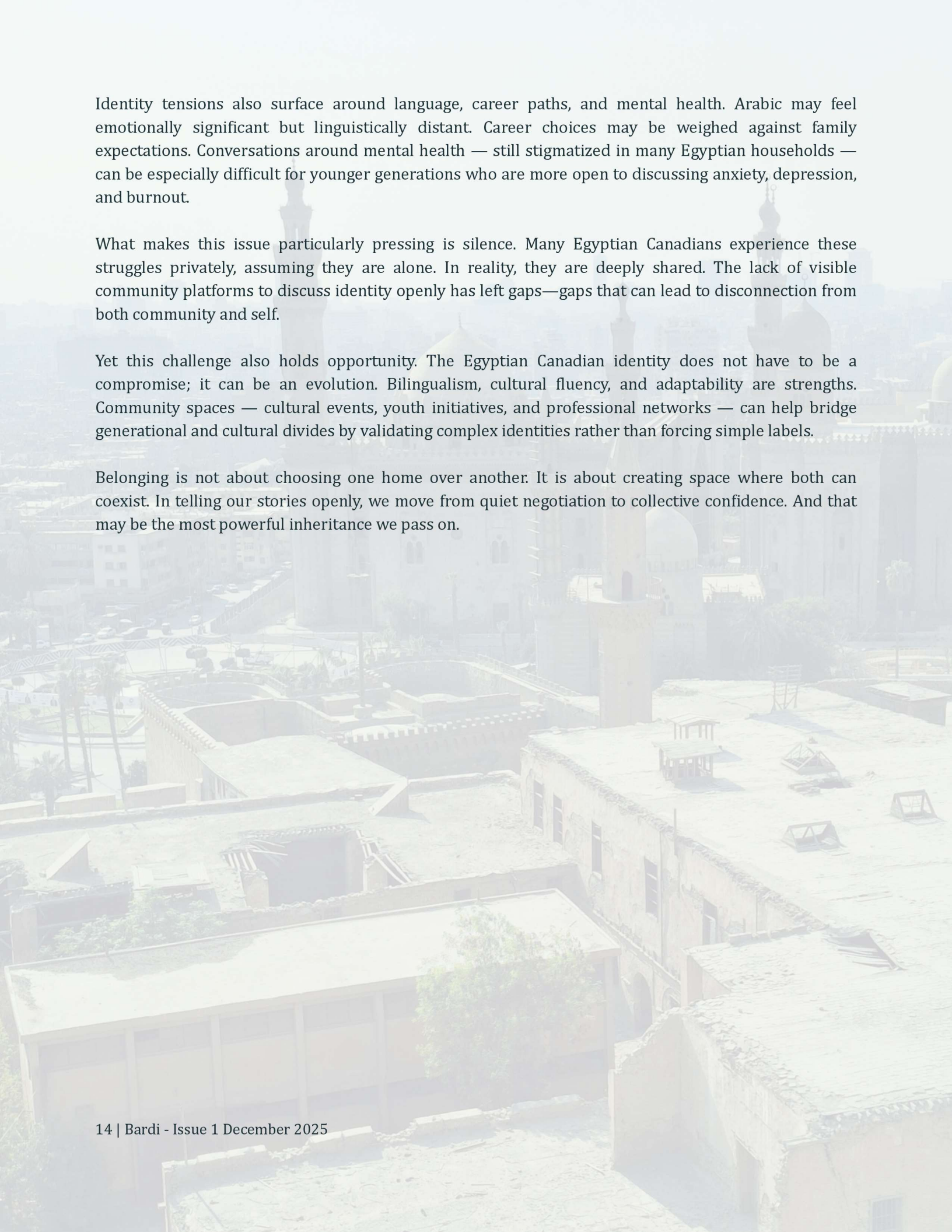
Anonymous author

For decades, Egyptians have arrived in Canada carrying more than suitcases. They brought stories, values, accents, recipes, and an unshakable sense of humor shaped by resilience. Today, the Egyptian Canadian community is vibrant and diverse — professionals, entrepreneurs, artists, students, and families spread across cities like Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, and Calgary. Yet beneath this success lies a shared societal challenge: negotiating identity and belonging between two homes.

For first-generation Egyptian Canadians, the struggle often begins with preservation. Parents work tirelessly to ensure their children speak Arabic, understand Egyptian customs, and remain connected to extended family back home. Cultural transmission becomes an act of love — and sometimes anxiety. Will our children forget where they come from? Will Egypt become just a vacation destination instead of a living part of their identity?

For second-generation Egyptian Canadians, the challenge looks different. Many grow up navigating two cultural worlds that don't always align. At home, there may be expectations shaped by Egyptian traditions — strong family ties, respect for elders, and defined social roles. Outside, Canadian society emphasizes individualism, self-expression, and personal choice. Balancing these values can be confusing and, at times, isolating. Young people may feel “not Egyptian enough” in one space and “not fully Canadian” in another.

These tensions are especially visible in dating and marriage. Many Egyptian Canadians find themselves caught between traditional expectations and modern realities. Family pressure to marry within the culture — or even within specific religious, social, or ethnic circles — can clash with the more open and individual-driven dating norms in Canada. Dating itself may be discouraged or expected to lead quickly to marriage, leaving little room for exploration or personal growth. As a result, some feel they are “too Western” for traditional expectations, yet misunderstood or constrained in mainstream dating spaces. This can lead to delayed marriage, secrecy, or emotional strain, particularly for women and young professionals navigating independence alongside family loyalty.



Identity tensions also surface around language, career paths, and mental health. Arabic may feel emotionally significant but linguistically distant. Career choices may be weighed against family expectations. Conversations around mental health — still stigmatized in many Egyptian households — can be especially difficult for younger generations who are more open to discussing anxiety, depression, and burnout.

What makes this issue particularly pressing is silence. Many Egyptian Canadians experience these struggles privately, assuming they are alone. In reality, they are deeply shared. The lack of visible community platforms to discuss identity openly has left gaps—gaps that can lead to disconnection from both community and self.

Yet this challenge also holds opportunity. The Egyptian Canadian identity does not have to be a compromise; it can be an evolution. Bilingualism, cultural fluency, and adaptability are strengths. Community spaces — cultural events, youth initiatives, and professional networks — can help bridge generational and cultural divides by validating complex identities rather than forcing simple labels.

Belonging is not about choosing one home over another. It is about creating space where both can coexist. In telling our stories openly, we move from quiet negotiation to collective confidence. And that may be the most powerful inheritance we pass on.

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Job Board

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Location: Edmonton, Alberta (remote position)

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Classified

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Mohamed Negmeldin

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