



IslamicFamily
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Letter of Support: National Centre for Police Excellence

On behalf of IslamicFamily, I am pleased to offer my full support for the establishment of the National Centre for Police Excellence (NCPE), and to accept your invitation to serve as a community champion for this initiative.

IslamicFamily has served Edmonton's newcomer, refugee, and Muslim communities for over 35 years, walking alongside families through displacement, trauma, and the long work of rebuilding. Through that work, the relationship between these communities and Canadian policing has been a constant thread — and often a complicated one. Many of the people we serve arrive from countries where police were instruments of state violence. That history does not dissolve at the border. For these families, trauma-informed, culturally competent policing is not a luxury; it is a condition of trust.

Muslim Canadians, and the racialized and newcomer communities we serve more broadly, face compounding dimensions of this challenge — from surveillance and profiling to being among those with the lowest confidence in policing institutions nationally. This is not a perception problem to be managed. It is a structural gap to be closed, and the NCPE's commitment to embedding ethics, cultural safety, and trauma-informed practice into foundational police education speaks directly to it.

What compels me most about this proposal is its clarity about what the NCPE is and what it is not — not a replacement for existing institutions, not a jurisdictional overreach, but a research and advisory body that centres the voices of those most impacted by policing. That is the right approach, and it reflects the kind of systemic change that actually endures.

IslamicFamily is ready to contribute. We bring 35 years of experience in trauma-informed social services and deep relationships across Edmonton's newcomer, Muslim, and racialized communities. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can meaningfully participate as this initiative moves forward.

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