

Prelude:

Note: Throughout in **Section A** below (titled: Presentation), we will refer to the **36 page presentation**, which is inserted below.



ISNA Canada AGM
2018 Sept 23-Final.p

A: Presentation

2:07 PM: Dr. Katherine Bullock started the AGM with *Du'a*.

It was announced that, *Alhamdulillah*, we have 877 members and quorum was achieved with 96 members present at the Centre and 3 members online.

2:09 PM: Br. Usman Siddiqui started the official AGM with Qur'an recitation.

2:11 PM: Agenda (page 2/36 of presentation):

- Welcome
- Overview of Programs
- Strategic Planning Update
- Results of Ratification of Board Member
- Results of By-laws vote
- Financial Update
- Debt
- Approval of the Auditor
- CRA Decision Update
- Questions & Answers

Motion: Sr. Rana motioned to approve the Agenda, Br. Shaukat seconded.
Motion was carried with no objection or abstention (unanimous).

2:13 PM Welcome (pgs. 3-5/36): Dr. Katherine Bullock

After introducing 6/7 Board members present (Sr. Khadija regretted), Dr. Kathy did a brief introduction of the Centres and the titles that ISNA holds. Where our members reside geographically was shown in a pictorial.

2:18 PM Impact & Potential – Programs (pgs. 6-16/36 of presentation): Br. Taha Ghayyur

Br. Taha spoke about ISNA at large.

- Jummah , Food Bank, Ramadhan, Eid, # of Active Volunteers, Active Projects, Weekly Quran Classes, Family Socials, Multi Faith tours from Schools/Churches/etc., Funeral Services, Nikahs Performed, Family Counselling, Halal Certification, Weekly Patient Visits to 2 major Mississauga Hospitals were some of the programs that were highlighted.
- Governance of 3 Islamic Centres through a new Executive Director, Board and 5-year strategic plan with refined processes and procedures was briefly explained.
- Goal is community focus with a national vision by listening to feedback (closed loop).

2:26 PM 5 Year Strategic Plan (pgs. 17-20/36 of presentation): Br. Chihab Kaab

- Strategic planning started in April with several ISNA Listens sessions. We heard the voices of diverse Muslim organizations and communities.
- Some survey and census of Muslims in Canada and practicing Muslims was shared.
- From feedback, inputs and consultations, it was concluded that the key principles for ISNA Canada in our 5-year Strat. Plan will be:
 - Focus : More depth than width (less but ‘successful’ programs/projects)
 - National Level (Start Small, Move Fast)
 - Filling Gaps (If we are not the niche, help others)
 - Collaboration (Partner, if need be).
- Strategic Meetings with several dozen people, over last 6 months have pointed ISNA Canada towards the following **three streams**:
 - Preparing the Next Generation (Youth)
 - Collaborating on National Issue, one at a time
 - Setting a new standard for Islamic Centres (3 at this time).
- Vision: Vibrant Muslim Communities as Catalysts for Positive Change in Canada.
- Mission: Provide Muslims with Opportunities to Develop and Put their Faith into Action.
- Finally, ISNA Canada strives to do all of the above with the following 3 intrinsic Values
 - Caring for others
 - Striving for excellence
 - Working Together.

2:37 PM Results of Ratification of Board Member (page 21/36 of presentation): Dr. Katherine Bullock

- A director resigned in March, leaving the Board with 6 members – need minimum 7.
- Usman Siddiqui was ratified as a new board member (he had the next number of highest votes).
- 613 ballots were sent and 142 valid ballots were returned with 112 voting in favour.

2:39 PM Results of By-laws vote (page 22/36 of presentation): Dr. Katherine Bullock

- By-laws passed including the change in regional representation was voted by majority.
- Overall By-laws vote: 109 voted yes from 142 valid ballots.
- Regional Representation: 78 voted yes out of 142 valid ballots received.

2:41 PM Financials (pgs. 23-30/36 of presentation): Br. Chihab Kaab

- Revenue, Donations and Programs/Services breakdown for 2017 was presented.
- Revenue vs Expenses Summary of 2017 was shared.
- 2014-2017 Revenue and Assets/Liabilities was also discussed.

2:50 PM Debt (page 31/36 of presentation): Br. Michael Singh

- ICC (ISNA flagship masjid in Mississauga) was completed in 2005.
- There was an interest free loan of 7.66 million.
- 4.1 million payment of debt has been paid in last 3 years, hence ISNA Canada currently owes 3.56 million.
- We have ongoing discussions with our lender on disputed amount which may increase the amount that we owe.

2:55 PM Approval of the Auditor (page 32/36 of presentation): Dr. Katherine Bullock

- Rosenthal, Pervez and Noor is recommended by Board for 2018 Fiscal Year. This will be their third year of auditing ISNA Canada.
- There was some discussion about exploring the big four accounting firms, as that may assist in solving the issue of trust. The current auditors are doing a good job. Board will still discuss other option when recommending for 2019 Auditors.

Motion: Br. Feras Marish moved that Rosenthal, Pervez and Noor be ratified as ISNA Canada 2018 Auditors. It was seconded by Dr. Farouk Ghani.

Motion was carried with no objection or abstention (unanimous)

2:58 PM CRA Decision (pgs. 33-36 of presentation): Dr. Katherine Bullock

- CRA Fine and Hold of Tax- Receipting for one year was summarized. Letter communicating the CRA decision has been sent to members and community.
- It was reiterated that ISNA Canada Charitable status is NOT revoked.
- CRA is actually pleased with the progress since 2011 audit of 2007-2009 fiscal years.

3:04 PM Alhamdulillah, Presentation part was completed within an hour.

B: Feedback

3:05-4:07 PM Q&A and Suggestions/Comments

- Questions were written down by members present and typed in by those online. One of the Board members read them and respective Board members answered the questions.
- There were also some suggestions and comments.

- Brief summary of **most** questions/suggestions (and brief answers where applicable) are inscribed below. *Please note that we have tried to combine some questions which were repeated and/or same topic.*

Questions:

- How much time does ISNA Canada have to pay the **penalty** of \$548,872 and to whom?
 - 12 months
 - CRA or a registered Charity
- Will an appeal be made to CRA to reduce **penalty**, the time period to pay the penalty and non-receipting period.
 - Appeal: Board is consulting with relevant parties and will make a decision within stipulated time (in November)
 - Extension to penalty: We will confirm with CRA if we can defer it for more than a year.
- ISNA Elementary and/or High **School** run by ISNA Canada, can they change their name and how is the relationship with our tenant ISNA High School?
 - Schools are not run by ISNA Canada

- Yes schools are legally entitled to change their name
 - Relationship is very good.
- Will the objectives, projects that feed into the **strategic plan** have measurements? Can the members and Community be part of the plan when its converted into actions
 - Yes and Yes. Please contact the Strategic Committee Chair, Br. Chihab Kaab
 - All initiatives will roll into Ops Plan (cadence for implementation). Hard part is implementing the plan, so please do help us
 - We plan to have measures for each focus areas (e.g. # of Youth we are developing/engaged; accreditation by management Canada etc.)
 - Everyone is encouraged to get engaged. This is the best way to know, if ISNA-Canada is executing the strategic plan well.
- Are we doing a **Conference** this year?
 - Big conferences have been expensive for us and this year we will do two small conferences in Halifax and Jami Masjid Toronto – expand nationally with minimal expenses.
- Why did ISNA not start paying the \$7.6M **debt** until 2015?
 - The process stalled because of some legal and other opportunities. The good news is that we started paying and within 3 years have paid more than half of the loan.
- Is isnacanada.net portal active? Are there plans for incorporating all under one **webpage**?
 - It's not active. We are working on a new website, which will cover a lot of features including a portal, *in sha Allah*.
- Is ISNA continuing the IDB **Scholarship** program because of the issues with CRA?
 - It will be decided and communicated when we submit our compliance plan in November.
- Isn't it a **conflict of interest** to have spouses of the Board of Directors/Staff running programs at ISNA?
 - Volunteers run programs independently of Board of Directors. Staff managing the programs do not have spouses who are active volunteers.
- Was the same **audit firm** involved in which the violation happened?
 - No, this firm has audited ISNA Canada 2016 and 2017 statements.
- What is the **financial impact** on the suspension of tax receipts –less donations? How to address that?
 - Less donations: So far the response have been very positive. We are monitoring it very closely.
 - We have addressed the issues and put in some checks and balances. We have a compliance agreement to sign and must comply.
- Can members find out about **ISNA Monthly detailed expenses** such as salaries, # of staff members, full or part time, maintenance and electricity etc?
 - As members, it's your right to know. ISNA does this on an annual basis.
- One of the **Strategic Plan** focus is Youth. Is there any hope to build an Alim program for youth?
 - We have MYNA, ISNA Youth. Would like to consolidate and reach out to **more** youth and then go for niche. Focus for now is to Muslims (especially youth), should not leave practicing Islam.
- As a charity organization, is ISNA running any **government funded** programs?
 - We do apply for government grants per need and as recently as last summer, had 2 high school students work through a government program
- Are we able to secure younger **Islamic university graduates** (e.g. Medina /Al Azhar Universities)? They invest years to become qualified. Community can pay for their remuneration for a good course/specific Halaqah. Win-Win
 - Of course, it's possible. We are looking into bringing more and more relevant programs 7 days a week (more on weekends), *in sha Allah*.
- Does ISNA Management have a plan to ask the community to offer **volunteer services to help in admin matters** such as Help Desk, Accounting to reduce operating expenses?
 - We welcome any ideas for cost savings/avoidance/reduction. Please do contact our office staff what volunteer services one can offer.

- **Can CRA fine be paid** to Muslim social services organizations, different masjids across Canada, collaboration with other organizations and help build ISNA National Branding etc.
 - It is recommended to provide ideas to Head Office. ISNA Canada will make a decision before end of 2018, *in sha Allah*
 - ISNA Canada has not made any donations or payments towards the penalty amount.

Suggestions:

- A **Code of Conduct policy** for Board members, employees, contractors and volunteers and a penalty for those who do not follow the conduct
- Improve gymnasium to accommodate activities like soccer and cricket. A committee to **actively** work on a better gym facility and hence stay **active**.
- Low **Membership #s** and Overall Membership System and Process needs to be reviewed. Also, look at affordable family pricing and discounts for low income Muslims, especially youth.
- Improve our **Friday Khutba** topics and Imaam Presentation. Topics more relevant to address our community challenges.
- Better coordinate the **use of facilities** between different activities, especially across brothers and sisters.

4:08 PM Final call for questions

No more questions received.

4:09 PM Meeting ended with a *du'a* by Shaykh Abdalla Idrees Ali.

Minutes prepared by Usman Siddiqui and Nabeel Mirza

Reviewed by ISNA-Canada Board of Directors and Executive Director in attendance

Approved by ISNA-Canada Chairperson

October 2018.

E&O E (Errors and Omissions Excepted)