



"Take advantage of five opportunities before five other things (that end the opportunity): your youth before your senescence, your health before your illness, your wealth before your poverty, your leisure before your haste, and your life before you death"

- Holy Prophet Muhammad (saww)

Islam is growing at an incredible rate in the western world. This is largely been due to the immigration of Muslims to the west and the introduction of Islam in remote parts of the world. Islam is truly a universal religion and a complete way of life. There is no separation of state and church in Islam as every Muslim seeks to please and serve only Almighty Allah (swt).

The Islamic Humanitarian Service based in Kitchener, Ontario, has strived to serve Allah (SwT) and human beings in the name of Islam for over a decade. In continuation of its legacy of serving Muslims in the West, the Islamic Humanitarian Service initiated the position of the National Youth Coordinator (NYC) in February 2000. The NYC office has established a national youth network by the name of the Muslim Youth Association (MYA). The goals of the association are: to promote unity amongst Muslims, to engage youths in the propagation of Islam, and to promote youth involvement in Islamic initiatives.

The MYA is striving to establish of various sub-groups overlooking issues such as Media, Peer Mentorship, Discussions/debates, Reverts to Islam, Current Events, Marriage Counseling, Literature Review, Career Counseling, Disaster Relief, Graduate Registry etc. MYA is not limited by geographical or cultural boundaries and thus it is an organization that welcomes all Muslim youths, regardless of background.

It is MYA policy to involve as many Shia Youth organizations in the network as possible. In fact, the next generation should pool resources and work together, which is why the Muslim Youth Association always welcomes local Shia youth groups in Canada become a member of the team, for which there is no membership fee. Alhamdulillah there are MYA representatives across Canada and inshallah with your prayers, this medium will reach out to even a larger number of youths in high school, college and university.

Muslims have settled in the West for a number of decades, and it now time to plan for sustainability of the future generations of Muslims. Thus, in light of the above tradition of Holy Prophet Muhammad (saww), the office of the MYA has, embarked upon numerous projects geared towards the spiritual and intellectual development of the youths and young generation. The MYA website www.MuslimYouth.ca features Book Reviews, News Bulletins, Events, Contests, Awards, the Fortnightly Gift, and numerous other online resources. Alhamdulillah, in the year 1422 A.H., the MYA conducted the Canada-wide 12th Imam [a] contest as well as provided financial assistance in the form of a scholarships to four of our bright young stars. More information is available on the website.

At this point the MYA is in the growth stage and thus we require your input and support. Volunteers with different expertise are sought across the country. Also, MYA is accepting nominations for MYA Representatives in a number of smaller Canadian cities / towns. If you think you have the leadership skills and dedication it takes to make a difference in your local or regional community, please get in touch with us via email: Muslim Youth Association MYA@MuslimYouth.ca We would love to get you involved! Also note that this work depends on the financial support of generous donors. If you looking in invest in the future of the Muslim Youths in Canada, please come forward with a donation. Receipts for income tax purposes are available.

The opportunities and potential for Muslims in the West are infinite. It is the responsibility of all Muslims in this part of the world to become active in the propagation of Islam. We hope that the Muslim Youth Association can trigger this propagation and facilitate the establishment of a comprehensive network progressive Muslims in Canada and the Western world.

The Islamic Humanitarian Service has ignited something very special, and it is for us, the future of the Muslim Community, to take the torch and kindle the passion of Islam in the hearts of humanity in preparation for the coming messiah, Imam Muhammad al-Mahdi (ajtf).