



NATIONAL
COUNCIL
OF CANADIAN
MUSLIMS
Your Voice. Your Future.

#WeAreIMO

FOOD DRIVE

September 6th - 10th

IN MEMORY OF
**MOHAMED
ASLIM-ZAFIS,**

ONE YEAR SINCE A LIFE WAS
CUT SHORT BECAUSE OF
ISLAMOPHOBIA.

www.nccm.ca/imofooddrive

Dear Educator,

As we prepare for another school year during a pandemic, we acknowledge the ongoing effort of educators and administrators to centre student safety and wellbeing.

As I reflect on needed supports to disrupt Islamophobia and hate, I am reminded of Muslim students and staff. I am reminded of how a few weeks after the terrorist attack in London, Ontario that left 3 generations of a Muslim family dead and a 9-year-old child orphaned, students started their summer breaks and now, as we prepare for the start of the school year, we recognize that students return days away from the 1-year anniversary of the lethal Islamophobic attack at the IMO mosque where the life of Mohamed Aslim Zafis was taken on September 12, 2020.

This violence has become all too familiar. As we begin this school year, I invite you to commit to action. I encourage you to participate in NCCM's #WeAreIMO Food Drive.

Sincerely,
Aasiyah Khan,
Manager of Education Programs
NCCM

ABOUT NCCM's #WeAreIMO FOOD DRIVE

The National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) invites your school to participate in our #WeAreIMO Food Drive from **Sept 6th – Sept 10th, 2021**.

The initiative honors the life and generosity of Mohamed Aslim Zafis, the victim of a horrific and lethal Islamophobic attack at the IMO Mosque in Toronto on September 12, 2020. Mohamed was a caretaker at the IMO mosque who dedicated the last day of his life providing food boxes to the needy during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Through this food drive, we aim to carry on the legacy of Mohamed's devotion to aid those in need and shed light on the hate-motivated violence that cut his life short.

HOW CAN MY SCHOOL PARTICPATE?

How to Participate:

1. Assign a designated area in your school where students, staff and families can drop off non-perishable food items.
2. Collect non-perishable food items from Sept 6th- Sept 10th, 2021. Use the poster at the beginning of this package to promote the food drive.
3. Assign a staff member or designated team to drop all food donations to the participating local mosque in your community by September 10th.
Check www.nccm.ca/imofooddrive for an updated list of participating mosques.
4. During this week we encourage you to have trauma-informed conversations with your students and staff about the work we must do to end Islamophobia and hate in our schools and communities.

Important considerations

- Ensure your planning, pedagogy and curriculum is rooted in trauma informed anti-racist and anti-Islamophobic frameworks.
- Share culturally responsive and relevant mental health and wellbeing supports to students and staff

SCHOOL WIDE ANNOUNCEMENT

Make an announcement/send out an email inviting the school community to participate in the food drive to honor the life and legacy of Mohammed Aslim Zafis who was victim to a lethal Islamophobic attack at the IMO mosque in Toronto on Sept 12, 2020. Ensure that you also highlight ways you will continue to commit to creating inclusive classrooms and communities.

Suggested announcement for week of Sept 7th-12th

This week we invite everyone to participate in the **#WeAreIMO Food Drive**. The initiative honors the life and generosity of Mohamed Aslim Zafis, a Muslim man whose life was cut short by Islamophobic violence at the IMO Mosque in Toronto on September 12, 2020.

Mohamed was a caretaker at the IMO mosque who dedicated the last day of his life providing food boxes to the needy during the Covid-19 pandemic. Through this food drive, we aim to carry on the legacy of Mohamed's devotion to aid those in need and push back against the hate that cut his life short.

As we invite everyone to participate, we also acknowledge that this can be an especially difficult time for Muslim students, staff, and families. Our school community stands with you and stands against all form of hate and Islamophobia.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

It is important for us to be mindful that **this month can be increasingly difficult for Muslim staff, students and families**. Ensure to incorporate a [Trauma Informed Lens](#) throughout any learning around Islamophobia and hate. Below are culturally responsive mental health supports.

[Naseeha](#) provides an anonymous, non-judgmental, confidential and toll-free peer support helpline for youth experiencing personal challenges. Naseeha's services are open to all regardless of age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, family makeup, social status, income, ability, physical and mental health, and religion.

Phone: 1 (866) 627-3342
7 DAYS A WEEK (12PM – 9PM EST)

Text: 1 (866) 627-3342
MONDAY to FRIDAY (12PM – 9PM EST)

[Khalil Center](#) is a psychological and spiritual community wellness center advancing the professional practice of psychology rooted in Islamic principles. Khalil Center utilizes faith-based approaches rooted in Islamic theological concepts while integrating the science of psychology towards addressing psychological, spiritual and communal health.

CONTACT

For more information on the initiative contact Nima Macci, NCCM Program Coordinator, at nmacci@nccm.ca

For more information on how NCCM can support your schools' anti-Islamophobia efforts contact Aasiyah Khan, Manager of Education Programs, at akhan@nccm.ca