



COMMUNITY MAPPING RESULTS

MUSLIM FAMILY SAFETY PROJECT

The Muslim Family Safety Project is a partnership between the Arabic Cultural Centre, the Religion and Violence Research Team of the MMFC, and the Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration. We are collaborating with the Fredericton Police, Liberty Lane Domestic Violence Outreach, and Child Protection on a culturally integrative approach to family safety in Fredericton.

[Visit the ACC Website](#)

“As a Muslim I personally wish that people could see the beauty of my religion, that it is a religion of peace. It is about helping your neighbors, giving the utmost respect to your parents, and treating your friends with dignity and respect. It is just such a beautiful religion.”

2725

Estimated TOTAL number of people who identify as Muslim or Arabic in the Fredericton area



PRE-MIGRATION & ARRIVAL IN CANADA

Friendly smiles and words of welcome upon arrival in Fredericton were much appreciated. However, Muslim and Arab newcomers also need information in Arabic and English about the resources, organizations and services available to them. [Members of Muslim and Arab organizations can develop strategies to reach out to vulnerable newcomers.](#)

During the first few months in Fredericton, it is hard to take in new information and make friends. The COVID 19 pandemic made this even harder. Organizations offered support online, but this was not as meaningful as in-person support. Isolation and loneliness abound, and members of the Muslim and Arab community are feeling depressed, anxious and some have been suicidal.

All newcomers feel a bit unsure about themselves and how to interact with Canadians. They want members of the Muslim and Arab community who have lived in Fredericton for a few years to go with them to their first appointments at the doctor and dentist, or the first time they go to a bank, the hospital or Service NB.

“ There are people coming from war, broken homes, and broken families. Some people stayed in tents for 5 or 6 years and they do not know what is outside the tent, or outside military zones, and there are kids that had to grow up in those refugee camps. When they come here, there is shock from the parents and children that do not know how to deal with some situations and issues. ”





LIFE IN CANADA: COMMUNITY, EDUCATION & BUSINESS

Interacting with English-speaking Canadians in leisure activities, schools, universities and workplaces helps members of the Muslim and Arab community understand the local culture, feel integrated, and communicate better. Yet many Muslim women feel excluded and unwelcome.

Learning about religion and culture and dispelling stereotypes about Muslim and Arab families can be part of the curriculum in community organizations, schools, colleges and universities.

International students are a substantial part of the Fredericton population. Student associations and personnel working in the international student advisors' offices have been helpful in integrating students socially.

However, there are significant differences between universities in their home countries and here. The lack of information about how university degrees lead to professional careers in Canada means that some Arab and Muslim students waste time and resources.

Immigrants who start businesses need help understanding how things work. There seems to be more public services to meet the needs of refugees than for business class immigrants. This is discouraging and costly for members of the Muslim and Arab community who want to share their skills with and improve the lives of people in Fredericton.

“ When we go to yoga local centers, we are made to not feel welcome there. . . it is a white women's club. . . We are dealing with a massive amount of anti-Muslim bigotry in this area. It is very widespread, and nobody talks about it. ”

“ The university should have a professional that gives academic help to those newcomer students and teach them about how university, courses, GPA and so on work. . . We need students and professionals who are aware of both systems to bridge this gap. ”

“ People know that I'm from a different ethnicity, but they don't really know I'm from a different religious group. And then when I tell them . . . I got it once here when somebody said, “But you're really open-minded for a Muslim. ”



PARENTING & FAMILY DYNAMICS

Muslim and Arab parents care about the wellbeing of their children and want their children to have positive Muslim-Canadian identities. Sometimes there are misunderstandings and conflict between parents and children because young people more readily embrace change and parents become afraid that their children are losing their cultural values. Muslim and Arab cultural and religious organizations could provide opportunities and safe spaces for members to talk about the challenges they face.

Parents' experiences of living Islam are different than that of their children because the culture in which they grew up was different. Religion and culture are intertwined. Discussion is needed within the Muslim and Arab community about how to live as Muslims in Canadian culture.

Muslim and Arab women are part of extended family networks. Some have experienced pressure from their in-laws and relatives to act and to parent children in particular ways.

“ We really need that because being a teenager is hard. It is not an easy phase to go through, and they should have activities where the Muslim youth would get together and feel connected. So, the people they hang around understand them, and they share common beliefs. Not having to explain yourself all the time. . . Since there are so many women who have struggled coming here, and experience cultural shock. Maybe their kids do not listen to them anymore. They have issues with their husbands and because everything is so different when coming to a completely different country. . . there is a lot of struggles in families. ”

“ I lived with my husband's family. He didn't have a problem with me studying or working, but his family did. This had a detrimental impact on our relationship. Then I had my first child which was a daughter and they were not happy and a lot of bad words were said between us. I was getting very negative comments about my baby. It was very frightening. I did not know anyone who would be helpful. I asked multiple people, and the response was “Unless somebody attacks you violently and you have it on camera, nobody is going to do anything about it.”



ON DIVERSITY WITHIN MUSLIM & ARAB FAMILIES

Some Muslim and Arab parents/families come from countries where public awareness and support for children with mental illnesses, learning disabilities and neurodivergence are unavailable. As a result, children's behaviours are misunderstood and dealt with through discipline. Muslim and Arab parents need education about these issues as well as information on available public services for their children. [Muslim and Arab families with teenagers need help too.](#) Tensions arise because the youth learn to adapt and integrate into the local culture more quickly than their parents. This is an inevitable process, however, tension can turn negative when parents have fears about Canadian culture and the loss of religious values as their children embrace a new way of life. [Schools can provide information to Muslim and Arab parents on learning disabilities and how to support children diagnosed with learning disabilities.](#)



Muslim and Arab women who live in fear of family violence need support in assessing risk and developing safety plans.

PRACTICAL STEPS FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS

Understand that religion and culture shape experiences of family violence but are not the cause.

Consider that religious and cultural groups' beliefs and practices can be a source of strength or vulnerability for Muslim and Arab individuals and families. Ask about which religious and/or cultural beliefs and practices are important to your client.

Get to know the Muslim and Arab community resources in your community.

Use professional interpretation services when working with people whose mother tongue is not English or French.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, GROUPS & RESOURCES

Fredericton Islamic Association

Email: frederictonislamicassociation@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.frederictonislamicassociation.com>

Alnour Center (Islamic)

Email: alnourcenter@outlook.com

Syrian Association of Fredericton (cultural-Islamic)

Website: <https://bit.ly/Syrian-Association-of-Fredericton>

Egyptian Cultural Association of NB

Website: <https://bit.ly/Egyptian-cultural-Association-of-New-Brunswick>

Arabic Cultural Center (ACC)

Address: 641 Valleyview Court, Fredericton, N.B., E3B 2B2

Email: arabicculturecenter@hotmail.com

Mosque (Alnour)

Address: 139 Riverside Drive, Northside Fredericton N.B., E3A 6R1

Mosque

Address: 130 Lincoln Road, Southside Fredericton N.B., E3B 2A3

Arabic Islamic School of Arabic Cultural Center (ACC)

Address: NBCC Fredericton, 26 Duffie Drive, Fredericton N.B., E3B 0R6

Arabic Islamic School (FICE), of the Fredericton Islamic Association

Address: 130 Lincoln Road, Fredericton N.B., E3B 2A3

Phone: 1-506-462-9006

Email: frederictonislamicassociation@gmail.com

Iranian Community Association in New Brunswick (ICANB)

Email: ICANB.ASSOCIATION@gmail.com

PROJECT STATISTICS

This data was assembled by members of the Arab Cultural Centre and are the best estimates of Muslim and Arab families and individuals at this time.

1. A-Statistics

Religion	Female	Total	Member average	Families	Origin
Muslim	50%	1250	5	250	Syrian families
Muslim	50%	500	4	125	Egyptian families
Muslim	5%	80	4	20	Algerian families
Muslim	5%	130	5	25	Libyan families
Muslim	6%	50	5	10	Moroccan families
Non-Muslim	55%	200	4	50	Lebanese families
Muslim	40%	40	4	10	Jordanian families
Muslim	50%	25	5	5	Palestinian families
Muslim	40%	50	5	10	Indian families
Muslim	40%	25	5	5	Pakistani families
Muslim	55%	125	5	25	Afghan families
Muslim	50%	50	5	10	Bangladesh families
Muslim	50%	200	3	60	Iranian families