



Sep 19, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On September 18 The Toronto Muslim Cemetery Corp. (TMCC) held a successful **Ground Breaking Ceremony** for the first Muslim Cemetery in the GTA at its Cemetery in Richmond Hill, Ontario. This is the first large joint project by the Sunni and Shia Muslim communities in Toronto.

Over 1500 people listened attentively to Messages from Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Premier Dalton McGuinty Liberal Party leader Bob Rae and Imam Sayyid Muhammad Rizvi. Speakers included Mayor Dave Barrow of Richmond Hill, Mayor Frank Scarpitti of Markham, Councilor Greg Beros, Markham MP, John McCallum, Minister of Transport Kathleen Wynne, MPP Dr. Helena Jaczek, MPP Dr. Reza Moridi, several leaders of the GTA Muslim Community and TMCC management. Maulana Kasim Ingar recited the Dua (Prayer) and initiated the ceremonial ground breaking to be followed by many community leaders, elected officials and dignitaries.

The guests knew that they were at a historic event. Smiles were seen all around and the applause was very energetic. The pride of ownership and sense of accomplishment for the Muslim community was evident as the speakers complimented TMCC Management for persevering on this project despite the challenges, and for working hard at including the broadest possible spectrum of Muslim communities in this project. Noting that the cemetery caters to the needs of all Muslims, Imam Rizvi urged the Sunni and Shia communities to expand their horizons and cooperate in life as well as death.

The crowd enjoyed the fresh air and beautiful weather while surveying the beautiful 36 acre property. TMCC prepared 3,000 Kebabs, 300 Burgers, and Biryani for 800 people; all of which was consumed by the guests who enjoyed the picnic atmosphere.

TMCC will become the focal point of Muslim unity by the fact of it being the only organization in the GTA serving the mainstream Muslim communities. There are as many as 500,000 Muslims in the GTA and there is a need for more organizations like TMCC.

The TMCC facility is located in a beautiful location, neighbouring a golf course, lakes, conservation areas and farms. It will be landscaped to provide a beautiful and tranquil place to celebrate the lives of the individuals who will make TMCC their final resting place.

Former Markham Councillor Khalid Usman did an excellent job of starting the program on time, and keeping it on schedule to the minute. Mr. Usman is an active community supporter and has helped to raise over 15 million dollars for community causes.

Date of event: Sunday September 18, 2011

Time: 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Place: 13076 Leslie Street, Richmond Hill, ON
(between Stouffville Road and Bloomington)

Photographs Available.

Contacts:

Sabi Ahsan 416-931-1339

Abdul Huq Ingar 416-230-5229

E-mail info@torontomuslimcemetery.ca.

RSVP: www.torontomuslimcemetery.ca