

# MILTON MUSLIMS CONNECT



Volume 3, Issue 2

Thursday April 30, 2015

## MUSLIM ASSOCIATION OF MILTON

**Dear Brothers and Sisters** *السلام عليكم*

Alhamdulillah, it is yet another bright new day, greeting us with unconditional opportunity to improve. The bright new day is imploring us all to make good things better and better things great. The brightness of the day has also sparked debate and discussions on ethics, transparency and accountability in MAM. These concepts, while rooted in the value of "trust", are unfortunately not being universally interpreted in the same way by everyone within the organization. Without putting aside those emotions that blind us to trust (and tolerance), it is hard to see transparency... and accountability.



Those people who in the past favoured the traditional upward flow of trust and loyalty from the members to the Board are ironically now demanding the non-traditional downward flow of transparency and accountability from the Board to the members. This new sense of transparency and accountability in decision-making processes is indeed quite refreshing although not a new school of thought. Most of the members have for years been asking for this downward flow of transparency but no-one at the top would listen. The recent converts to this view seems to be motivated by wrong and cynical reasons. Whatever their reasons may be, the current MAM management team choose to take the high road and focus on the positives to move MAM forward.

### What exactly is accountability and transparency?

**ACCOUNTABILITY** is about being responsible to someone for actions taken; about being able to explain, clarify and justify actions. It implies that someone has a right to know and hold an organization to account; and that the organization has a duty to explain and account for its actions. Charities have this duty as they have a privileged status because their purposes must be for the benefit of the public. In the new MAM, accountability is paramount. Hence the attitude depicted below has no place in it and the current management has zero tolerance for it.



**TRANSPARENCY** is about being easy to understand, and being open, frank and honest in all communications, transactions and operations. It is possible to be accountable by providing a lengthy and technical explanation of every detail but if this information is not easily understood by the audience, and if key facts are hidden by the sheer volume of information then the information is not presented in a transparent form.



Accountability and transparency go hand-in-hand, and involve being aware of who charities are accountable to, what the important pieces of information are, and how they can be communicated most effectively.

### Key principles - accountability & transparency

There are some key principles of transparency and accountability that apply to all charities:

- Must be honest & truthful, and comply with the law.
- Must perform their duties under a legal framework that provides for accountability and transparency.
- Must make public their mandate, responsibilities, mission and strategy
- Must adopt accounting standards, processes and methods that are objective and transparent.
- Must ensure accountability & transparency principles are not compromised when they outsource activities.
- Must manage their operations economically, efficiently, effectively and in accordance with laws and governing regulations.
- Must communicate timely and widely on their activities through the media, websites, etc.
- Must make use of external and independent advice to enhance the quality and credibility of their work.
- Must respect reasonable requests of donors and other stakeholders, and operate in order to give donors, beneficiaries and other stakeholders a better understanding of how the charity works.

MAM's Board and management team are committed to these principles and accept the fact that the moral impact of their leadership and behavior has great power to shift the ethics mindfulness of the members in positive as well as negative directions. Hence the measures the Board and management team has instituted in the organization are designed to set MAM on its way to becoming the most ethical, accountable and transparent Muslim organization. The Board urges everyone to donate their time and expertise to build MAM. Please bring your knowledge and expertise and join us in building MAM to the organization that we all want it to be.

**JAZAK ALLAHU KHAIRAN**

*MAM Board and the management team*

## 4269 RR#25 Status

Multiple meetings with external consultants has resulted in a detailed construction plan for 4269 RR#25. The plan is divided into four phases:

1. Site Alternation Permit (Silt Fencing, Tree Hoarding)
2. Site Plan Approval (Left Turn Signal, Deposit to the City, etc.)
3. Building Permit (Driveway, Parking Lot, Sceptic Tank, etc.)
4. Occupancy Permit (Includes Interior Building Changes, Ramp, etc.)

## Accountability & Transparency in action:

### Jan 18, 2015

- held a General Members meeting
- reported on interim Board findings and what items were actioned
- charted a new course forward for MAM

### Feb 22, 2015

- held elections to elect a new Board

### Mar 2015

- re-established newsletter to update members and community

### Apr 19, 2015

- held open house for the community
- **CONNECTED** with members and community

to answer questions/concerns and provide updates

## Upcoming Events

### May 2015

“How to earn The believers behaviours (Tafseer Quran Surah Al Mu'Minuun Verses:1-11)”

Date: Sunday May 10, 2015

Venue: Milton Lions Club Hall

### June 2015

“Welcoming the Month of Rahma (Ramadan) and how to take advantage of this great month”

Date: Sunday June 7, 2015

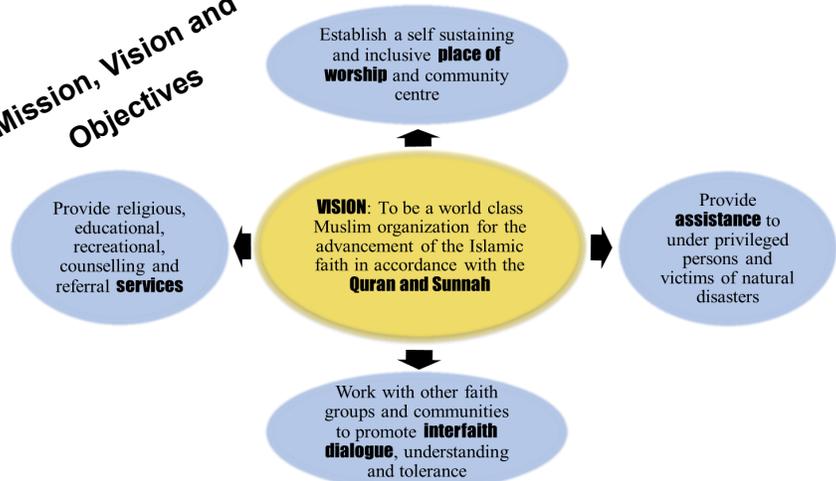
Venue: TBD

“Dawrah-e-Quran [ladies only] Summary of each Juzz”

Date: June 26, 2015 - July 10, 2015

Venue: TBD

## Mission, Vision and Objectives



## Open House of April 19

MAM held its first open house of 2015 on April 19 in order to present the state of the Association. The following updates were provided:

- Financial picture as of 3/31/2015
- Mission, Vision, and Objectives
- Zoning/construction details
- Governance structure
- MAM Volunteer base update

Alhumdolillah, it was a well attended event and some positive feedback was provided, one of which was to make the open house a quarterly event. Jazak Allahu Khairun to all who attended!

## Town Report by Zeeshan Hamid

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ

InshahAllah everyone is having a good and spiritual spring. Here are some brief happenings in the town. If you have any further questions then please do not hesitate to contact me.

- ◆ The Town has hired a legal representation to help us fight CN'S proposal. CEAA will decide by May 22nd whether to require an Environmental Assessment or not. I encourage everyone to sign the paper petition to help us raise this issue in the House.
- ◆ Milton Transit is changing its schedule to better meet GO trains.

Please check the schedule at <http://miltontransit.ca>

- ◆ Milton District Hospital expansion has officially started. Town of Milton issued a \$15 million debt to help pay part of its share.
- ◆ Milton Good Neighbours Community Cleanup day is this weekend on Saturday. Please visit <http://www.miltongoodneighboursday.ca/> to sign up. I encourage everyone to participate.
- ◆ Finally, both Main Street & Derry Road underpasses are on track to open to traffic this summer.

**ZEESHAN HAMID** is the Town Councillor for Ward 8 in Milton and can be reached via email at [zee@ward8.ca](mailto:zee@ward8.ca). You can also follow him on his blog at <http://ward8.ca>.

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### MAM Board of Directors

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