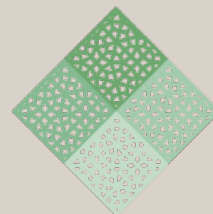


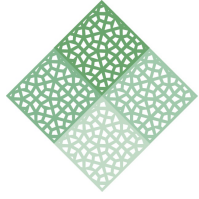
THE TESSELLATE INSTITUTE



2014 ANNUAL REPORT



TESSELLATE
INSTITUTE



TESSELLATE
INSTITUTE

www.tessellateinstitute.com
info@tessellateinstitute.com

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

2014 was a wonderfully fulfilling year for The Tessellate Institute (TTI), *al hamdulillah* (thanks be to God).

In February, a number of our short videos from the Neglected Videos project were screened at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 in Halifax, NS. After the screening, there was an engaging panel discussion with Muslim youth about issues of identity and belonging.

To continue our public education lecture series, in April we were a proud co-sponsor of an event with CBC journalist, Nazim Baksh on media representations of Muslims, as part of the Couchiching Conversations series.

Our revamped website was launched in September in conjunction with a screening of a new documentary looking back at Toronto's first mosque, established in 1961. *Mosque One: Home of Toronto's First Mosque* was screened to a packed and enthusiastic audience in downtown Toronto. The documentary, produced by filmmaker and TTI member, Tendisai Cromwell (with assistance from filmmaker Fatima Altaf) was based on our earlier oral history project of the Dundas St mosque. The evening was enhanced by a panel discussion with several of the interviewees featured in the oral history/documentary, as well as two of the 'children' of the founders (now in their fifties), Mary Karim and Eileen Spencer. Syed Badrul Hasan, one of the early members of that founding community, drove all the way from Ohio with his son to participate in the panel discussion. Audience members listened enraptured as Eileen read a letter from a long lost cousin who had made contact with her through our original Mosque One website. Moreover, there was a lively inter-generational conversation between many of the young Muslims in the audience and the early pioneers who helped establish the Muslim community in Toronto more than fifty years earlier.

In partnership with the Muslim Seniors Circle, TTI were the executive producers for a 35-minute documentary highlighting the volunteer experiences of four remarkable and dedicated Muslim seniors. With a grant from the Canadian government's New Horizons for Seniors Program, Fatima Altaf and Farhiya Ahmed (SiD productions) researched, produced and directed the documentary, entitled *Serving others: Memoirs of Muslim Seniors*. The goals of the project were to promote volunteerism as well as highlighting the life histories of Muslim seniors with extraordinary volunteer experiences. The documentary was

screened at ISNA Canada, Sayeda Khadija Centre and the Islamic Institute of Toronto to a combined audience of over 150 people. The four protagonists were present at the screenings and participated afterwards in fascinating panel discussions with the audience.

We published in October Roshan A. Jahangeer's insightful policy paper *Towards an Inclusive Secularism and a Transformative Model of Community Engagement in Quebec*. Jahangeer provided a background to the Parti Quebecois' September 2013 announcement of a "Charter of Values." She analysed the shortcomings of the Charter and provided recommendations that any new Charter should be balanced and inclusive, addressing issues of concern without aggravating tensions between different groups in Québec society. Jahangeer concluded that proper consultation is needed with all of the concerned parties and groups within Québec, particularly with those who were adversely affected by the initially proposed laws and measures contained in the Charter. We are pleased to note that the paper has been read by people currently working with Québec's new Liberal government who aim to release their own version in Spring 2015.

To end the year, in December, we were honoured to organise a book launch for author and activist, Monia Mazigh's debut novel, *Mirrors and Mirages*, hosted at the Ben McNally bookstore in downtown Toronto. *Mirrors and Mirages* is about the lives of six very different Canadian Muslim women whose paths gradually cross as the book progresses. Monia was interviewed by Pacinthe Mattar, a Producer for CBC's national current affairs radio program, *The Current*, and then answered questions from an engrossed audience of over 50 people.

Thank you to all those who have supported us this year, whether through your volunteerism, financially, or simply attending our events.

Katherine Bullock, PhD
President, The Tessellate Institute