

Press Release
Calgary Jewish-Muslim Council
December 7, 2017
“Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem”

The Calgary Jewish-Muslim Council is dedicated to creating a setting in which rabbis, imams, and religious leaders can meet to discuss issues of common concern guided by values of respect and integrity. We are committed to the following principles:

- Help in building bridges of trust and understanding between the Jewish and Muslim communities of Calgary.
- Work at the grass root level to bring ordinary Jewish and Muslim families together so that we share our common values and interests and celebrate our differences. Through personal contact barriers of suspicion and ignorance can be broken down.
- Provide a common platform for Calgary’s Jews and Muslims to discuss issues of disagreement in a setting of mutual respect, honesty and dignity.
- Reject and isolate those individuals and organizations that incite hate, violence, discrimination and racism.
- Work together to counter anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.

In light of the decision of US President Donald Trump to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel, the Jewish-Muslim Council issues the following response:

- We recognize the right of the States of Palestine and Israel to co-exist as the homeland of the Palestinian and Jewish Peoples, based upon the principles of a two-state solution.
- We recognize the holy and sacred status of Jerusalem for Christians, Jews, and Muslims, and call upon all leaders of the region to continue to maintain access for adherents of all religions to the holy sites.
- We see President Trump’s recent unilateral decision to move the US Embassy to Jerusalem as one that will exacerbate and aggravate the conflict rather than further attempts to foster peace in the Middle East. We call upon President Trump and all national leaders not to act unilaterally with regard to the status of Jerusalem and other such questions.
- We strongly implore all parties to avoid any violence in response to the new US policy.
- We believe in the freedom of expression and in the importance of open, respectful dialogue between all parties concerned with the future of the Middle East. We are committed to such open dialogue here in Calgary.
- In order to develop a better understanding of each other and to establish better channels of communication between the Jewish and Muslim communities, we call upon our members to come together for “Peace in Jerusalem Day” – a day of mutual prayer, learning and conversation about the challenges currently facing the Middle East. Details of our plans for a joint gathering will be forthcoming shortly.

In this time of challenge, we call upon Jews and Muslims as well as all people of faith to disavow those forces that seek to divide and poison us with hatred and ignorance. Rather than succumb to the temptation to raise our voices in anger, we ask you to extend your hand in the sincere hope that we can build bridges of understanding and respect in order to bring harmony and peace to our troubled world. Let us all “Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem.”