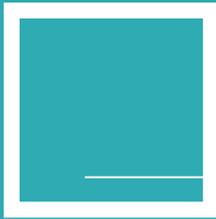




**NASIMCO Annual Report
June 2016 – May 2017**



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President's Message

Salaamun Alaykum,

Praise be to God that our first year is in the bag. I am really pleased with how things have progressed and would like to thank all the Member Jama'ats. I really appreciate the positive attitude and if we continue to work together, this will only help make NASIMCO stronger as an organization.

I would like to thank the past executive for a very smooth transition and for guiding me with patience as I was learning the ins and outs of how things were set up.

One of my goals this first year in office was to be active, get out there and try to make NASIMCO a household name. I have made an effort to personally visit as many centres as I can.

I will continue to do so in the years to come. This has given me the opportunity to meet with the executives in various communities as well as introduce myself to the grassroots and establish contacts. The hospitality I have received is something I am very grateful for. Thank you.

In an effort to continue this engagement with and between the Member Jama'ats, the mantra we have undertaken is Engage, Empower & Enhance. These core concepts highlight our direction to facilitate networking, sharing of resources and best practices as well as to expand our relief efforts. They also underpin the importance of partnership with external organizations.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to serve during this past year. May God reward you for all your services to our communities. Amen.

Mohamed A Dewji



About Us

WHO WE ARE

NASIMCO is an umbrella organization for the followers of the Shia faith in North America. Its mission is to provide a common structure and framework to meet the religious, cultural and social needs of the Shia within its area of operation.

SCOPE

NASIMCO exists to enhance social and religious excellence of Islamic Shia Ithna-asheri communities in North America.

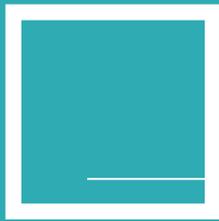
MISSION

NASIMCO will harness talents and resources available in member communities for the greater good of global humanity and our communities.

WHAT WE DO

- Assist in the establishment and running of centers where our communities reside and promote continuous improvement of member communities through sharing of best practices.
- Encourage, promote and nurture our communities to alleviate human suffering throughout the world.
- Promote and encourage innovative intra-faith and inter-faith relationships at local and national levels.
- Develop and nurture relationships with our Marja'iat, and world and regional Islamic Shia Ithna-asheri bodies.
- Provide support on issues affecting Islamic Shia Ithna-asheri communities.
- Establish and/or support Islamic institutes of higher learning that can respond to the needs of our communities.

Partnership in Action



In 2016, NASIMCO adopted a new strategic direction which pivots around the theme, Partnership in Action. NASIMCO aims to grow in relevance to member Jamaats and to become a “go-to” resource for support. This includes in areas such as media relations, dispute resolution, legal guidance and constitutional advice. NASIMCO recognizes that the needs of our communities in North America are very different today than what they used to be and very different from other parts of the world. Our Partnership in Action platform comprises of three core areas, Engage, Empower & Enhance.



Engage

- Carry out needs assessment.
- Foster greater connections
- Create more networking opportunities, interfaith and intrafaith dialogue.
- Expand participation in social justice and relief efforts.



Empower

- Family empowerment by supporting jamaats in handling dispute resolution, marital counseling and mental health.
- Faith empowerment by supporting local outreach efforts and assessing the feasibility of higher Islamic learning in North America.
- Community empowerment by offering communications training to combat negative media trends and to be a voice for Shia Muslim communities nationally.



Enhance

- Promote innovative thinking.
- Work closely with the World Federation.
- Increase engagement of NASIMCO Counsellors.
- Promote open communication, transparency and accountability.



Centre of Islamic Learning

Overview

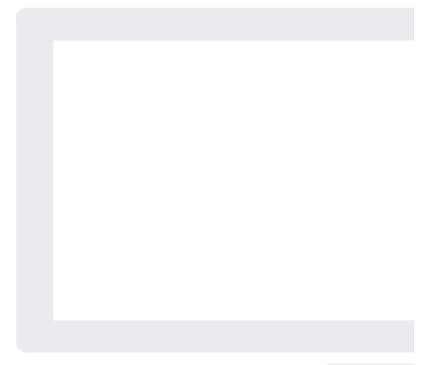
The Center of Islamic Learning's (CIL) is to work closely with NASIMCO Members to enable and facilitate Islamic Learning at all levels in the Community. The word "learning" in the title very much signifies the ethos of CIL. Traditional education focuses on teaching, not learning assuming that for every ounce of teaching there is an ounce of learning by those who are taught. Experts now believe that most of what we learn before, during, and after attending schools is learned without its being taught to us. The approach, which CIL has been engaging in will continue to be 'androgical' as opposed 'pedagogical,' offering an adult learning experience in all its endeavors.

Vision

To be a premier Center promoting Islamic Learning in North America.

Mission

To serve the North American Shia Community by promoting, encouraging, enabling and facilitating Islamic Learning at all levels.





Teacher Skills & Tools Programs

The NASIMCO Centre of Islamic Learning in association with Madrasah Centre of Excellence held their 8th, 9th and 10th Teacher Skills and Tools Programs. These took place in Edmonton, Alberta in October 2016, in Allentown, Pennsylvania in November 2016 and in Vancouver, British Columbia in January 2017.

- Apply practical ways of connecting Islam to a child's daily life.
- Communicate with presence in the classroom by using the understanding of content and delivery.
- Learn skills and tools to better manage a classroom and create effective lessons using the understanding of multiple intelligences.
- Understand Emotional Intelligence and its relevance in the classroom.
- Learning new and innovative teaching strategies that are being used in today's classroom and find ways to apply them to your madrasah classroom.

Mission

Taking a student centred approach to learning.

Vision

Unlock teacher potential to build a stronger future.

Overview

The Teacher Skills and Tools (TST) Program is designed to bridge the gap between schools and madrasah. One of the goals of this program is to expose teachers to a student-centered philosophy which promotes students to be active participants in the classroom. This in turn results in students being able to retain more information.

The TST program was developed by Salma Jaffer and Sophia Dewji, who are professional teachers and Siddika Jessa a certified self-development facilitator.



Neuro-Psychology of Learning

Helps identify different kinds of learners based on their personality types. To date, we have run the program in seven madaris.

Overview

- Identify your core needs, drives and interaction styles and its effects on how you teach.
- Understand what motivates various learners to effectively engage your students.
- Utilize student natural talents and strengths to build student confidence and maximize learning.
- Better manage a classroom by understanding the stressor that result in behavior challenges.
- Enhance lessons by applying the TEACH model to increase student learning and involvement using the knowledge of core needs and interaction styles.

Click, Chat & Connect Online Workshops

This year CIL -NASIMCO has embarked on a new venture. These online workshops are created and facilitated by two professional teachers who are working in schools today.

Their goal is to bridge the gap that exists between schools and madaris in North America to make Islamic Education more relevant and applicable to today's learner.



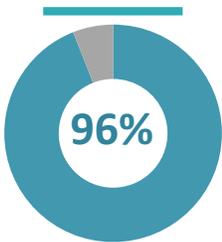
TST Success Stories

Participant Experiences

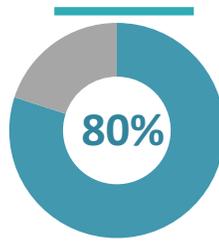
“As soon as I got back from the TST training, I implemented everything I learned. It made such a huge difference in my classroom. The kids love all the activities, as I made them feel more responsible and in charge of their work. It has also brought a more positive energy to my classroom, and I am actually having less behavioral issues in my class. I would totally recommend this training to anyone working in a field involving children.”

“Yesterday was the first day back to Sunday school after the seminar and you will be happy to learn that many of us used the tools from our seminar. My class was totally engaged as I used multiple learning styles - my class saw a short video, later they were divided into groups to brainstorm a topic covered in class and used flip charts to present. The students took turns to scribe and present and the class was vibrant and dynamic!”

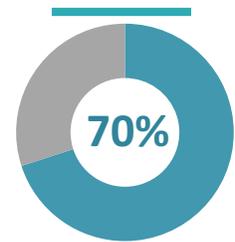
I was a very frustrated teacher. Because I was thinking, why don't they understand? But now I move myself according to their needs, I try to understand where they're coming from. Now I'm more calm, I give them more time, every child is different to the other. So that is helping me. In the long run, I think that's the main thing.



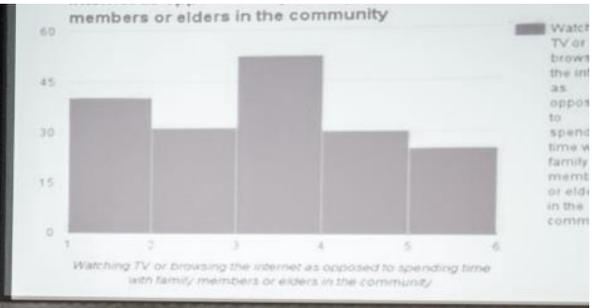
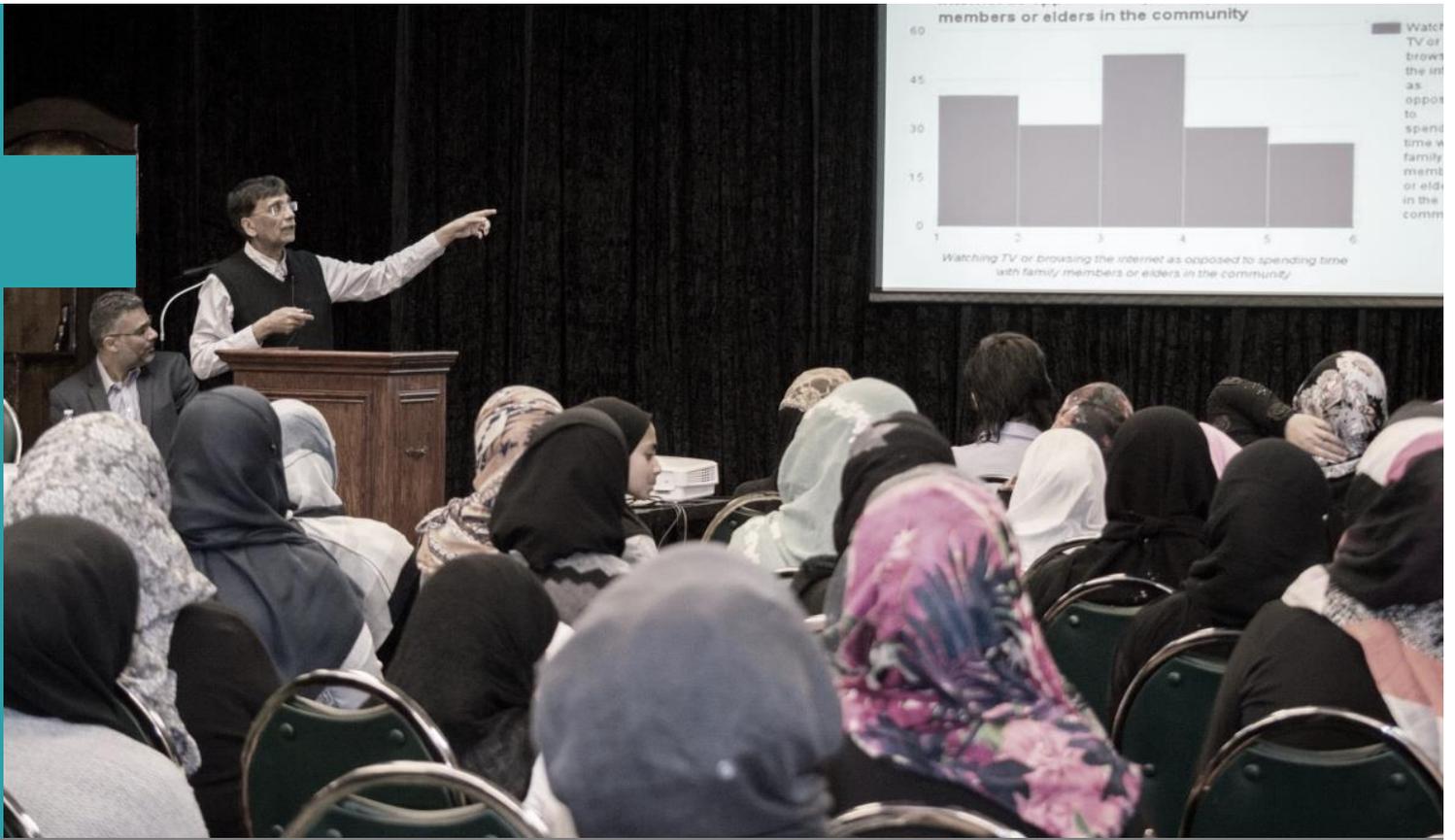
Find the TST enables teachers to make Islamic education engaging and meaningful



Better equipped to deal with challenging classroom behaviours



Agree the tools of engagement lead to increased understanding of faith



Faith Empowerment

In March 2016, members of the Vancouver community met for a three-day faith empowerment symposium, *“Connects and Disconnects of the Mimber.”* Target groups included Distinguished religious scholars, academics and community leaders from across North America.

Feedback gathered has been captured into the NASIMCO Faith Empowerment Report available on the NASIMCO website. This valuable data has also been shared with communities across North America.

Vision

The objective was to garner grassroots input and then present this to the Scholars, Academics and Community Leaders who had travelled from all over North America to analyze the data and offer solutions to enhance the mimber experience.

Background

The founder of the Awakening Project, Dr. Sibtain Panjwani, captivated the audience with eye opening research on expectations and attitudes with regards to the Madrasa, Mimber and family.

Shaykh Kumail Rajani, Head of Islamic Education, World Federation, highlighted difference between the mimber as an event opposed to the mimber as a concept. He contrasted the origins of the mimber as a small platform made for the Prophet (SAW) so people could see him from a distance to the evolution of the cyber-mimber.

through YouTube streaming. He affirmed that ultimately, it was not about the medium but the message.



Centre of Islamic Learning Action Plan

Madrassa Empowerment Action Plan

Madrassa Empowerment is a core and ongoing project of the Centre of Islamic Learning. Having offered the Neuro-Psychology of Learning and the Teacher Skills & Tools courses to almost all madaris run by our members, we are now focused on ensuring that the required training for the Tarbiyah Curriculum is delivered in time for the September 2017 launch. To date over 100 teachers have been trained and we anticipate training 100 more.

The next phase of Madrasah empowerment program is to build capacity of Madaris administrations to enable excellence at all levels in North American Madaris.

Faith Empowerment Action Plan

As a direct result of the Faith Empowerment Symposium, CIL has now embarked on creating an active network of scholars and zakarin by creating an online resource centre to enable them to share content, ask questions and discuss critical issues relating to the mimbir.

To hold an annual retreat to bring together North American Speakers and Scholars to address issues relating to the spiritual development of the Community.

Tarbiyah Curriculum

The Centre of Islamic Learning is partnering with Madressah Centres of Excellence to launch the Tarbiyah curriculum in September 2017. Over 100 teachers in Toronto have undergone training and more teacher development programs are planned.

Interfaith and Intrafaith

Our vision is to leverage existing endeavors by supporting our jamaats in engaging with local interfaith and intrafaith groups. It will also directly engage with national interfaith drops such as the Christian Muslim Dialogue and the World Parliament of religions.

In conjunction with the Mulla Asghar Memorial Library and Resource Centre CIL is planning to host a conference of interfaith activists in the Ontario area.

Think Tank and Research Centre

The Centre of Islamic Learning is working on a long-term plan to link with Shia academics in universities and form a think tank and research centre.



Statistical reports show that the North American communities are lacking Human Resources to be able to carry out community projects and engage at various levels of the community. This program serves the largest and most valuable asset of our community “Our People” that enrich our institutions to run effectively.

NASIMCO has taken a lead on the development of the Capacity Building agenda in partnership with the World Federation. The vision is to “Unlock the potential of individuals to serve the community and humanity”.

The foundation of these programs is that every person has value and is worth investing. The program seeks to encourage growth, to create positive, vibrant, value based individuals across our communities as they work and live to serve community or humanity in whatever means they can as youth, as spouses, as families, as parents and as seniors.

Key Concepts

Connecting our community members with each other.

- Spotting and developing talents in the community.
- Ensuring the developmental needs of the Families; Seniors, Women and Youth of our community are being met.
- Promoting our community’s rich heritage.
- Developing the capacity of individuals and organisations that make up our community.

Capacity Building in North America

The Capacity Building program can be tailored for target groups, for example, youths, volunteers, working groups, teachers, sub-committees, women, couples, or independent participants.

Areas that Capacity Building provides support.

1. Faith Empowerment through providing self-development support for Madaris and Alims using the Faith Empowerment platform resources.
2. Family Empowerment through providing self-development support for Families, parents, couples, seniors and youths using the Family Empowerment platform resources.
3. Community Empowerment through providing self-development support for communities using the Leadership Development Program as the delivery.

Leadership Development Program

NASIMCO in partnership with the ISIJ of Toronto hosted the Leadership Development Program (LDP) in April 2017 in Toronto.

32 participants ranging in age from 25 years to 60+ years participated in the 4-day personal journey of self-discovery and learning. The program has been enriched with leading edge content and a higher level of experiential learning.

It incorporates 18 values that are experienced by the participants through discussions, role play and reflection to enrich the learning experience. One of the cardinal rule of the program is to provide a confidential, trusting and supportive environment where participants explore and become aware of their current state in their leadership journey.

Vision

The primary aim of the Leadership Develop Program is to develop leadership capacity across Muslim communities in North America.

The overall goal for the Leadership Development (LDP) program is for individuals and leaders to achieve personal growth. This is achieved by enhancing their values and creating greater alignment between self, social relationships and the community.

Background

The LDP allows participants to realize their own leadership styles and to enhance and evolve their skills to ensure more productive and efficient working methods. The course aims to build leaders that contribute to the common good of Muslim communities as well as the broader society. The educational principles underpinning the programs use adult learning theory and require participants to fully and actively engage in the process of learning.



Success Stories

Participant Experiences

"It will awaken in you a deeper sense of purpose, and ultimately strengthen your connection to our Creator. I have walked away from the course forever transformed, and truly grateful for the gifts and tools they have given me"

"I now have a greater appreciation for the people around me and am a lot more conscious of how I interact with others"

"It was not what I expected, but exactly what I needed. If you have ever felt the nagging feeling that there is more out there for you; more for you to do, more for you to be, then this is the course for you."

Az-Zahra Camp

The 2017 Az-Zahra Camp took place in Ontario at the Ecology Retreat Centre. Guest speakers included Masuma Jaffer of UK. The theme was 'Solidifying yourself through the Holy Qur'an.' Participants embarked on a lifelong journey where they learned to engage with the Qur'an, strengthen their faith and achieve closeness to Allah (SWA).





Youth Leadership Retreat

The 7th Annual NASIMCO Youth Leadership Retreat took place in Florida in September, 2016. Participants identified issues and topics they are passionate about ranging from mental health and stigma to building a welcoming atmosphere in communities. The retreat ended with participants building an action plan. This inspired participants to go home and do their part to ignite meaningful change.

Vision

Youths are the future leaders of our community that will enrich our community's future and increase the potential of our youth to serve the community and humanity.

Background

NASIMCO's Youth Retreats create a space for dialogue and self-reflection and inspire youths to become socially conscious and confident ripples of change in their local and global communities.

Action Plan

The 2017 retreat will take place in the Canadian Rockies. The retreat will be focused on not only building social and political leadership within the community but in society as well.

The retreat will focus on three spheres: developing your inner-self, building your connection with others and nurturing an inclusive community & society.

Our communities are requested to demonstrate their support by:

- Actively encouraging 2-4 youth to attend the 2017 Retreat as their local representatives.
- Providing financial sponsorship for attendee's camp fees and flights as an incentive.
- Identifying how the communities will support the youth in implementing any ideas when they return home.



Secretariat

Scholarships & Training

- 9 Community Service and Academic Achievement scholarships were awarded in 2016-17. The awards aim to encourage the youth of North American communities to excel in their academic achievements and also to reward them for their voluntary services in their respective communities.
- 25+ people participated in the Jaffari Circle of Care 10-week Core Concepts training on how to care for individuals in palliative care, chronically ill, and their care givers.

Inter-faith & Intra-faith

- Funding one university Chaplaincy in New York and one hospital chaplaincy in Vancouver.
- Funded 5 interfaith programs in 2016 with Hussein Islamic Centre in Orlando, Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamat of Los Angeles, Hussein Association of Manitoba and Islamic Shia Ithna Asheri Association of Edmonton.

Grants & Funding

- Providing 11 Alim grants.
- Provided funding for 5 capital grants projects including New York, Edmonton & Winnipeg
- Sponsored Umoja Games in New York in July 2016 and the Sunshine Sports Festival in December in Orlando, Florida.

Action Plan

- Launch a new brand for NASIMCO in 2017.
- Enhance and update Policy & Procedures.
- Fundraising for relief projects.
- Regular social media updates & communication to subscribers.
- Coordinating quarterly Presidential meetings.
- Creating content for new website.

Where do **you** see us in 10 years?

World Federation Liaison

NASIMCO attended the World Federation Exco meeting in Reunion Island in December 2016 and the Triennial Conference in Dar e salaam in May in 2017.

Contributing to Project North Star worldwide survey and successfully made North America the largest number of surveys submitted.



NASIMCO Book Drive

The NASIMCO head office has several enriching books in their collection. Upon request, these are being sent to our member Jamaats at no cost to support them in their tabligh initiatives through our online order form available at www.nasimco.org. NASIMCO also successfully distributed Shaykh Salim Bhimji's book on Salat Ghufayla.



Canada 150 Celebrations

Canada celebrates its 150th birthday in 2017. The celebrations and festivities also come at a time when "Islamophobia" from the general public is at an all-time high due to recent events from around the world. At a time of unprecedented political, economic and social division, NASIMCO encourages its members to participate in an effort to demonstrate our pride as Canadian Muslims.

Vision

The NASIMCO Canada 150 Campaign is an integral part of NASIMCO's mission to harness talent and resources available in member communities for the greater good of global humanity and our communities.

Partnership

NASIMCO is working in partnership with Canadian-Muslim Vote to coordinate flag raising ceremonies across Canada.

NASIMCO CANADA 150 is a nationwide effort made up of three core initiatives.

1. **Flag Campaign:** Raise a Canadian flag at your mosque or institution.
2. **Nominate a Community Builder:** NASIMCO is accepting nominations for outstanding individuals for their contributions to their main stream communities.
3. **NASIMCO Communities building community:** NASIMCO is encouraging member Jamaats to take their membership out to volunteer in a local service agency.

Our Team

Sidika

Khoja

In-house graphic designer, office coordinator and project liaison officer.



Mohamad

Mohsin

Khimji

Handles NASIMCO's relief projects and financial accounts



Shaheen

Sajan

Project coordinator and communications lead





Community Development & Relief

NASIMCO's Humanitarian Projects in Canada



**Contributed \$20,000
CDN to the Ramadhan
Campaign Against
Hunger in Canada**



**Provided \$10,000 CDN to
those affected by the raging
fire in Fort McMurray,
Canada**

NASIMCO encourages and promotes communities to help alleviate human suffering throughout the world.

This reflects NASIMCO's mission which is to harness talents and resources available within its member communities for the greater good and global humanity.

NASIMCO's International Humanitarian Projects

600

Sponsored 600 orphans in Iraq with Al-Ayn Social Care Foundation

Provided monthly financial assistance to 500 needy Sadat widows with Alimaan Charitable Trust - Najafi House in India.

500

818

Provided Iftaar meals to 818 families in Tanzania with Bilal Muslim Mission in the month of Ramadhan.

Provided Iftaar meals to 481 families in Kenya with Bilal Muslim Mission in the month of Ramadhan.

481

200

Assisted over 200 Syrian newcomers in Canada at a Dental Hygiene Clinic in conjunction with ISIJ of Toronto.



Qum Camp

13 people from across North America took part in a very successful Qum camp in 2016. A huge thank you to our chaperone Sis. Tanveer Pirmohamed of Orlando for assisting the group and getting them back safe and sound.





Advocacy

Mohamed A. Dewji, President of NASIMCO, signs National Council of Canadian Muslims Charter for inclusive communities.

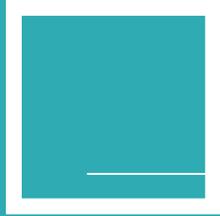
Amongst other things, the charter affirms that any form of racism and discrimination including Islamophobia has no place in Canadian society.

NASIMCO is committed to do its part in fostering inclusive communities to promote Canada's value of respect and dignity of all.

NASIMCO wrote letters to US and Canadian officials in response to acts of Islamophobia that were experienced and reported by our Jamaat members.



Community Visits



New York Jamaat - SIJNY



London, Ontario - Ahlul Bait Islamic Centre



Allentown Jamaat - SIJPA



Surrey, BC Jamaat - Fatimia Community Services Society

Visited

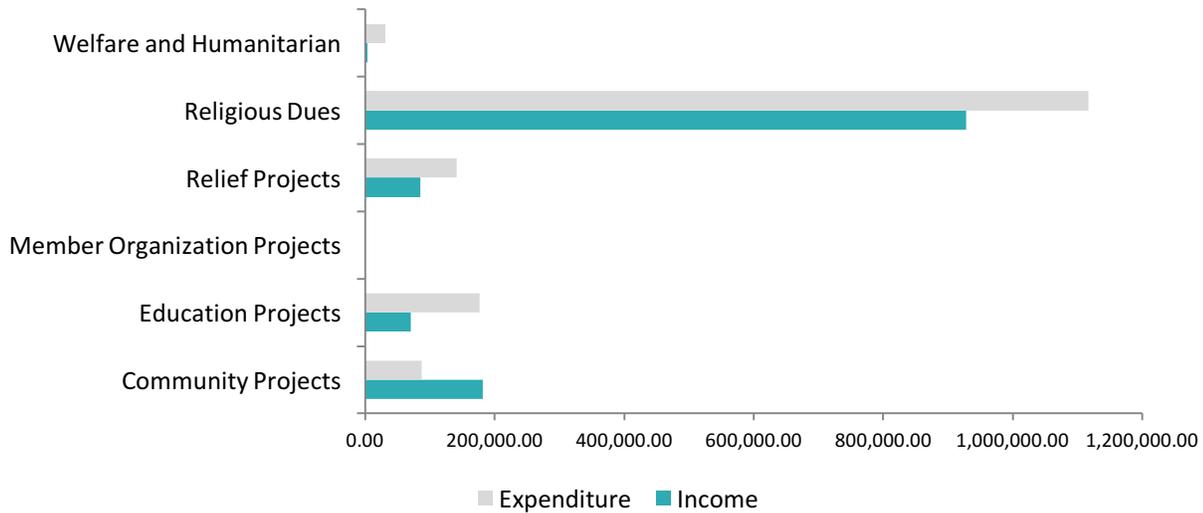
New York Jamaat – SIJNY
Allentown Jamaat – SIJPA
London, Ontario Jamaat – ABIC
Toronto Jamaat – ISIJ
Aza-e-Hussein

Edmonton Jamaat – ISIA
Winnipeg Jamaat
Orlando Jamaat – HIC
Fatimia Community Services
New Jersey Jamaat – MFI
COEJ
Australia Federation

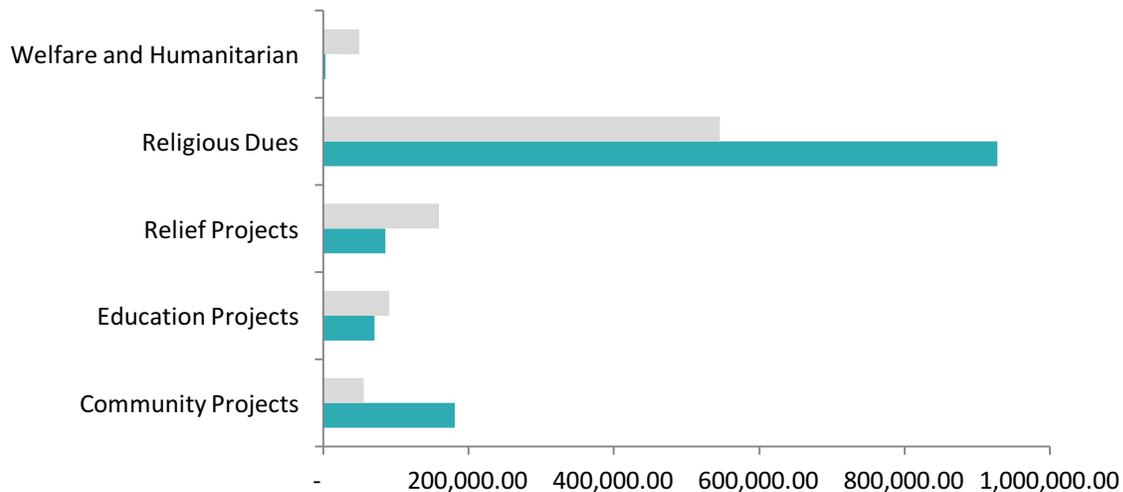


Finances

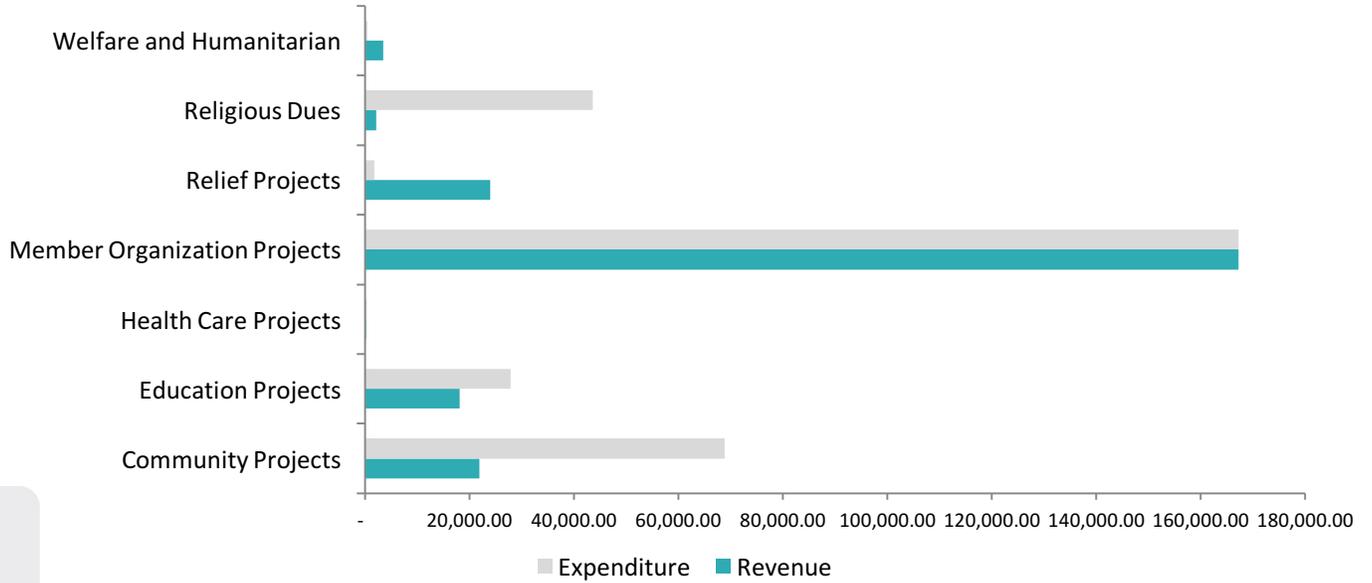
2016 Income & Expenditure - Canada



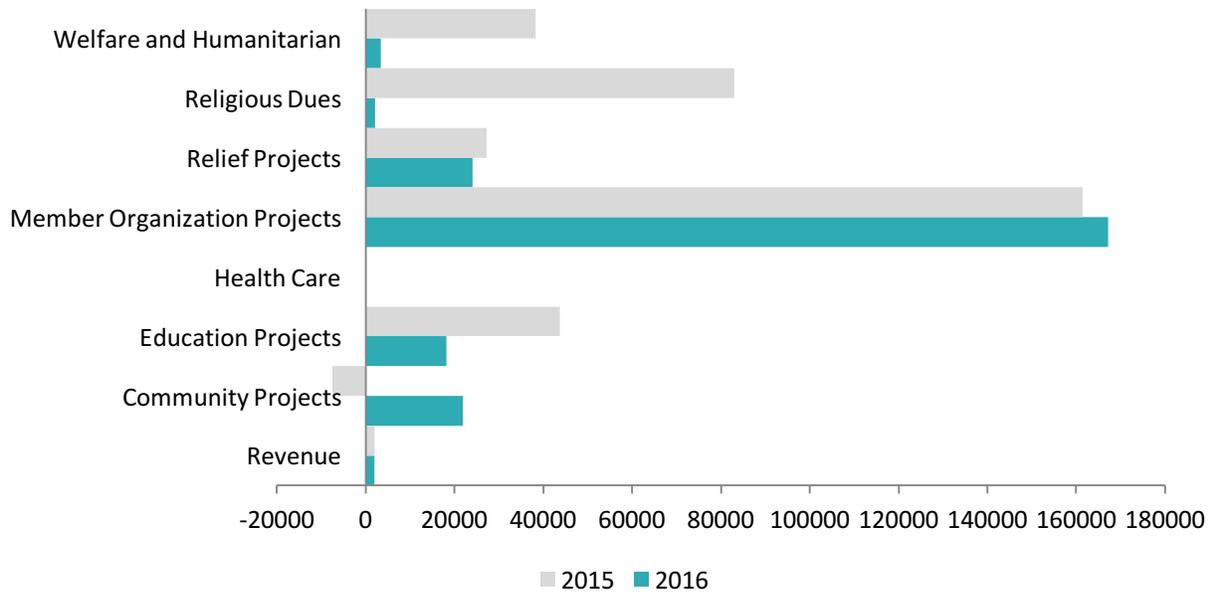
2016 Income & Expenditure - US



2015 & 2016 Revenue Comparison - US



2015 & 2016 Revenue Comparison - Canada



Executive Council



Mohamed A. Dewji
President
Vancouver, BC



Sukaina Sumar-Ebrahim
Vice President
Toronto, ON



Siddika Jessa
Hon. Secretary General
Vancouver, BC



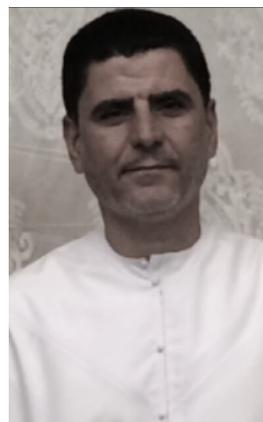
Ali Raza Hemani
Hon. Treasurer
Toronto, ON



Ally Hemani
Tier 5 Councillor
Toronto, ON



Dr. Mohsin Jaffer
Executive Councillor
Miami, FL



Kazim Mehdi
Executive Councillor
Minneapolis, MN



Zahra Aziz
Executive Councillor
Toronto, ON



Sadique Jaffer
Tier 3 Councillor
Orlando, FL



Dr. Hasnain Walji
Executive Councillor
Los Angeles, CA



Mazahir Ali
Tier 2 Councillor
Miami, FL



Mustafa Karim
Executive Councillor
Somerset, NJ