
JUNE 23, 2016 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Technical Support

Please contact Lucy Buchanan-Parker, at projects@amsssa.org or 604-718-2784.
Housekeeping

1. Downloading PowerPoint Presentations
2. Accessing the Chat box
Submission Questions for the Q&A Session

- Type your questions in the Chat Box
- Tweet using #AMSSAevents
- Email to events@amsssa.org
Join the Conversation on Twitter

• Use #AMSSAevents to follow the conversation on Twitter and connect with other webinar participants.
• AMSSA can be found on Twitter @amssssabc
What is AMSSA?

- A provincial association of organizations focused on immigrant settlement, integration and language, as well as diversity and inclusion.
- Contracted by IRCC to support a broad range of immigrant service providers and stakeholders in BC and the Province of BC to provide the Safe Harbour: *Respect for All* program.
Multifaith Calendars
BUILD AWARENESS

TAKE ACTION

INCREASE UNDERSTANDING
Interested in diversity & inclusion training for your workplace?

Have you taken Safe Harbour in the past?

Get in touch with us at safeharbour@amssa.org; 604.718.2780 or 1.888.355.5560
Welcome & Overview of Agenda and Goals

Katie Rosenberger
Facilitator
Engaging across religious differences: a dialogue-driven approach

Dr. Robert Daum
Simon Fraser University (SFU)
ENGAGING ACROSS RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES

ROBERT DAUM, PhD
Challenges for “interfaith bridging”...

Questioning assumptions, terms of reference

• Power & perspective, time and place
• Words
• Narrative contexts
• Comparisons
• Communities
• Individuals
Taking dialogue seriously...

Why use “dialogue” to bridge faiths and cultures?

• More than conversation
• Deeper listening
• “Cultural humility”
• Stories
• Collaboration
Examples, Research, Case Studies...

- Interfaith dialogue
- Multi-faith “summits”
- Exchanges
- “Scriptural reasoning”
- Affinity projects & workshops
- Diversity Dialogue Initiative (UBC)
- Diversity & Innovation (SFU Centre for Dialogue)
Islam and Interfaith

Shawkat Hasan
BC Muslim Association (BCMA)
السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

مرحبا

ISLAM AND INTERFAITH
PRESENTED BY SHAWKAT HASAN
COVERED TOPICS

▪ Islam – What is it?
▪ Who is the Muslim Population
▪ The Fundamental beliefs of Islam, practices and holidays
▪ Diversity within the Muslim Population
▪ Diversity within Islam.
COVERED TOPICS

- Respect for Muslim Religious practices / important practices
- Muslims in Canada
- Misconception of Islam and Terror
- Help/Assistance being misunderstood
- Interfaith bridging
ISLAM – WHAT IS IT?

- Abraham and his son Ismail are the forefather of Islam.
- The world of Islam / Arabic means Peace or submission
- The greeting word used by Muslim around the world and by those speaking Arabic is “As Salaam Alaikum,” which means peace be upon you.
WHO IS THE MUSLIM POPULATION?

- The Muslim population today is over 1.3 billion, most of them live in Asia and Africa.

- 1/3 of the Muslims are Arabs and all recite the book Qur’an in Arabic.
THE FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS
OF ISLAM, PRACTICES AND
HOLIDAYS

- Islam has five pillars.

1 – Believe that there is only one God and Mohammed is his messenger.

2 – Pray 5 times a day, early morning, noon, afternoon (asr), sunset and early at night (Isha)
3 - Fast the month of Ramadan. No food or water goes into the body and no sexual behavior all day long from early morning before sunrise to sunset of that day.
THE FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS OF ISLAM, PRACTICES AND HOLIDAYS

4 – Give alms equal to 2.5 percent of the wealth to the poor

5 - Pilgrimage once in a lifetime to Makka. (the house of Abraham)
There are two religious holidays in Islam.

- Eid Ul Fitr, is the first day after Ramadan when Muslims are free to eat.
- Eid Ul Adha is the last day of pilgrimage when people sacrifice by offering animal meat to the poor.
DIVERSITY WITHIN THE MUSLIM POPULATION

- Islam has two branches, the Sunny which are about 90% of Muslim population. They believe in Al Shoura (democratic).

- The second one are the Shea’ who believe that the leadership should be within the descendants of the Prophet.
DIVERSITY WITHIN THE MUSLIM POPULATION

- Diversity within Islam.

- Islam today is the same Islam introduced 1400 years ago.
RESPECT FOR MUSLIM RELIGIOUS PRACTICES / IMPORTANT PRACTICES

▪ Muslims have to be clean when they pray and should turn the face towards Makkah (the house of Abraham)

▪ Read and memorize verses from the Qur’an to recite during praying.
RESPECT FOR MUSLIM RELIGIOUS PRACTICES / IMPORTANT PRACTICES

- Eat Halal food, no pork meat. Muslims should not drink alcohol and should not gain profits from banking.
- Adultery is forbidden.
Among the East Indians who arrived to Canada last century was Muslims. The first Mosque built was in Calgary more than sixty years ago.

There are more than one million Muslims in Canada.
MISCONCEPTION OF ISLAM AND TERROR.

▪ When a Muslim committed a crime then it is terrorism but when others committed mass killing then it is a mental health case..

▪ Muslim women have neither say at home nor freedom of choice for her outfit.
MISCONCEPTION OF ISLAM AND TERROR.

- There is a misunderstanding and confusion between culture and faith.
- Honor killing is a culture and Islam forbids such act.
- Hijab and niqap are cultural tradition known throughout the history.
HELP/ASSISTANCE BEING MISUNDERSTOOD

- Since the news of accepting Syrian refugees into Canada became official, Muslims organizations in BC joined the ISS of BC to help in the settlement process and to provide emergency assistance.
HELP/ASSISTANCE BEING MISUNDERSTOOD

- The Muslim community established a distribution centre to provide all household needs for the refugees, two food banks one in Surrey and another in Burnaby. There is a financial aid account for emergency cases.
INTERFAITH BRIDGING

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INTERFAITH BRIDGING

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INTERFAITH BRIDGING

- Struggles with interfaith bridging
- Our community has been reaching out to all faith centres and we are having success.
- Tips on how better to bridge faiths
INTERFAITH BRIDGING

- All faiths advocate peace, justice, tolerance, compassion, respect, honesty and being conscious of the environment.

- We can be there together.
RMCS Interfaith Bridging: Fostering Harmony in Diversity

Parm Grewal
Richmond Multicultural Community Services (RMCS)
RMCS Interfaith Bridging: Fostering Harmony in Diversity

June 23, 2016
Who is RMCS?

• RMCS has been serving Richmond for over 30 years.

• Our vision is for a harmonious and inclusive society that values equality and diversity. At RMCS our mission is to foster intercultural harmony through leadership, collaboration, and quality service delivery.
Who is RMCS?

- RMCS provides settlement, employment and language services to newcomers as well as antiracism and diversity programs including being the LIPS secretariat for Richmond.
Diversity

Inclusivity

Harmony

Equality

30+ Years

RMCS
RICHMOND MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY SERVICES
The Changing Faces of Richmond

• 58% of the City’s population is immigrants

• Two-thirds of these immigrants have moved to Canada after 1991

• 65% of Richmond’s population is visible minorities
The Changing Faces of Richmond

• The City of Richmond has the largest commuter population; 30,000 residents work outside of the City and 61,000 come to Richmond from other communities for work.
The Changing Faces of Richmond

• Schools are closing as there are less children entering schools

• Development trends are moving towards condos, townhouses and high rises from single family homes
The Changing Faces of Richmond

• This means less children and families are meeting people while playing in their yards as well neighbourhood playgrounds and spaces; people are spending more time commuting.
Why RMCS chose to engage in Interfaith Bridging

• Newcomers are expressing that they are having a difficult time meeting people.

• Newcomers are also saying they are attending places of worship more frequently in Canada than in their countries of origin. The reason provided for this is to form connections and to meet people.
Why RMCS chose to engage in Interfaith Bridging

• Clients, volunteers and members of the community were saying they were not learning about others cultures, beliefs and values
How Has RMCS Engaged in Interfaith Bridging

• Tours of places of worship such as a Sikh Temple, Hindu Temple, Mosque, Church, Buddhist Temple and Synagogue with presentations about the faith; some served a traditional meal as well
How Has RMCS Engaged in Interfaith Bridging

• Dialogues and presentations with panelists representing various faiths with a focus on the similarities between faiths

• Drama performances on interfaith experiences with audience engagement
Tour of India Cultural Centre
Interactive Playback Theatre
Benefits of Interfaith Bridging on Settlement

• Deeper understanding of neighbours and others in the community

• Less stereotypes, myths and misunderstandings about other faiths
Benefits of Interfaith Bridging on Settlement

• Improved relationships with places of worship to access potential clients through networking and marketing

• Improved and more accurate information for newcomers about the settlement process
Challenges and Struggles of Interfaith Bridging

• Some places of worship believe their role is only to be a space for prayer and are reluctant to become involved in this type of work
Challenges and Struggles of Interfaith Bridging

• Faith is a very personal thing and information and dialogue on this matter must be delivered in a very respectful and delicate way
Diversity in Interfaith Bridging

• RMCS initially focused on collaborating with three venues on the Highway to Heaven (No. 5 Road) as a result of proximity to one another and received some criticism for choosing non-Christian faiths.
Diversity in Interfaith Bridging

• A component of this project was anti-racism and diversity education and there was a sense amongst the planning committee that focusing on and educating attendees about non-Christian faiths maybe beneficial in addressing this essential component.
Diversity in Interfaith Bridging

• There was an idea raised during planning that dialogue about faith amongst diverse communities is needed.
Diversity in Interfaith Bridging

- Some congregations are multilingual and multicultural creating a unique settlement experience and community connection.
• Other faiths and congregations are monocultural and speak in one language which reduces intercultural interactions and understanding.
Tips on How to Better Bridge Gaps and Increase Understanding

• Engage as many faiths as possible
• Create unique ways of engaging with faith communities and the target audience
• Focus on similarities rather than differences
Panel Discussion

Katie Rosenberger
Facilitator
Q&A with Speakers

• Type your questions in the Chat Box
• Tweet using #AMSSAevents
• Email to events@amsssa.org
Concluding Remarks

Katie Rosenberger  
*Facilitator*
• Please fill out the online evaluation form

• Sign up for Settlement Net:
  http://www.amsssa.org/settlement-net/

Thank You!