

September 17, 2015

Dear _____;

As the election campaign heads into a decisive period, we, the undersigned, representatives of Arab organizations, Muslims Organizations and individuals from the Muslim and Arab communities across Canada, are writing to seek your clear position on matters which are important to us and of prime concern to the majority of the voters from the Arab and Muslim communities in Canada.

We are hopeful that the principles of democracy, universal human rights, equality and justice will be at the core of your policies as Prime Minister of Canada.

Hence we want to be assured, in clear terms that you, if in power or sharing power:

- will, as soon as possible, repeal Bill C-51 and any similar bills and laws resulting from them.
- will, as soon as possible, repeal articles in Bill C-24 that imply or result in different levels of citizenship and/or represent any form of discrimination between Canadians and any similar bills and laws resulting from them.
- will change the archaic Canadian electoral system to a proportional representation system and repeal the "Fair Elections" act.
- will seriously and equally address all forms of racism (including Islamophobia and Antisemitism) and treat them and all hate speech and crimes motivated by prejudice as hate crimes.
- will make it a criminal offense to accuse any person or group of terrorism without adequate evidence acceptable by a Canadian court or law, in an open and fair trial.
- will base Canada's trade & economic support to other countries on the said country's respect of democracy, universal principles of Human Rights, Justice and the rule of law.
- will respect, support and defend governments that come to power through a democratic process and that apply the rule of law, have an independent judicial process and respect Human Rights; and will not tolerate regimes that seize power through undemocratic means.
- will actively advocate for international law to be applied everywhere around the world.
- will legalize pursuing foreign nationals, including officials and politicians, suspected of committing crimes against humanity in their own countries or against another people, in Canadian courts.

- will employ all available means, including political and economic means, to free Canadian Citizens or immigrants to Canada who are wrongly accused or indicted in other countries based on politically motivated charges.

We are confident that the majority of our communities will rally behind you on October 19th if you unambiguously support our aspirations spelled out above.

We hope to receive your response by Tuesday, September 22nd, to be able to share it with our community in gatherings that will take place later that week.

Please accept our best regards.

Signed by:

Association des musulmans et des arabes pour la laïcité (AMAL-Québec), Haroun Bouazzi - coprésident
Canadian Arab Federation, Mohamed Boudjenane - member of the Steering Committee
Canadian Muslim Forum, Samer Majzoub - President
Centre Communautaire Musulman de Montreal, Houssam Badran - Vice Président
Centre Islamique Badr, Yacine Ben Hadj - Président
Centre Kawtar de Laval (CKL), Nasser Ouadria -Président
Egyptian Canadian Coalition for Democracy, Ehab Lotayef - Chair
Fédération des Canadiens Musulmans, Aziza Blili - Présidente
Islamic Society of North America - Canada, Khadija Saidi - Board member & Western Canada rep.
Muslim Political Engagement Group (MPEG), Ahmad Amr
Regroupement des Algériens du Canada (RAC), Rachid Boudjarane - Président
Regroupement des Marocains au Canada (RMC), Lahcen Lbaissi - Président
Women in Dauaa, Fatma Taha - Treasurer

and prominent members from the Arab and Muslim communities:

Deena Abo Elfottouh, Toronto
Ehab El-Komi, Ottawa
Farina Siddiqui, Mississauga
Mohamed S. Kamel, Brossard
Mostafa Elhoushi, Calgary
Samaa Elibyari, Canadian Council of Muslim Women - Montréal
Shawkat Hassan, Vancouver
Ziyad Mohamed, Mississauga