



July 9, 2021

Public Health Agency of Canada

Re: Islamic Social Services Association (ISSA) application to Intersectoral Action Fund (IAF)

The National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC) strongly supports ISSA's application to the IAF, to address the impact of hate and Islamophobia on Canadian Muslims. The growing violence directed towards Canadian Muslims requires a strategic approach. This application is a commitment to address the racism and discrimination that is felt by many.

Japanese Canadians are very familiar with the hate, discrimination, and violations of human rights that Canadian Muslims are experiencing. The NAJC fought for Redress for the forcible uprooting, dispossession, internment and exile of Japanese Canadians in World War II and the Government of Canada acknowledged the wrongdoings on September 22, 1988.

The NAJC has a deep connection with ISSA. Terumi Kuwada, a Past President of the NAJC, has been an active volunteer of ISSA, for over 12 years, including a term as a member of the Board of Directors of ISSA. Currently Terumi sits on the Advisory Council of ISSA.

ISSA has demonstrated through their programs and activities, that they have the expertise, knowledge, resources, skills, etc. to conduct projects that:

- Are culturally compatible and spiritually sensitive,
- Offer sector specific professional development,
- Address and build resistance to Islamophobia within organizational cultures across varied sectors that serve the public,
- Advocate and offer spiritually infused counselling and supports including system navigation for Canadian Muslims struggling with family, discrimination, and social challenges.

The need for action is critical to address the social determinates of health and wellbeing. Education is a key to change. The recent events of hate and violence directed at many of our citizens of all backgrounds is a call for justice and safety for all.

The NAJC stands together with ISSA, in their quest to address hate, violence and Islamophobia. The NAJC recommends that ISSA be granted funding for their project.

In peace and solidarity,

Lorene Oikawa
President