

ALLAMA AZMI IN CANADA

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Islam is a new religion in Canada. Up until 1990, the presence of Ahl-e-Sunnah wal Jamaah was missing in Canada. The person who has made the most contribution in changing the landscape of Islam in Canada was Qaid-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani Siddiqui Rahmatullahi Alaih. After a number of visits, he successfully consolidated Sunni Muslims into a recognizable community mainly by his presence at the annual Milaad-un-Nabi conferences held in Toronto.

The result of this activity was the formation of the Canadian branch of the World Islamic Mission and then the subsequent establishment of several Sunni organizations and mosques across Canada, in cities such as Montreal, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver.

Muffakir-e-Azam Allama Qamaruzzaman Azmi first visited Canada in 1999. He has since delivered several keynote lectures in which his masterful oration has inspired Muslims to establish a community based on the proper understanding of Islam. Through his participation in various conferences he continues to address the challenges Muslims face in West. One of his most famous statements he mentioned: "the challenge we face as a community in Canada is to save the next generation."

Being a scholar who has dedicated his entire life to the education of our young people in order to safeguard Islam, his presence in Canada continues to inspire Canadian Muslims to establish Islam based on the acquiring of knowledge. Muffakir-e-Azam once said: "the proper establishment of Islam is based on whether we can impart the knowledge of our forefathers to the next generation".

Since the demise of Qaid-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat in 2003, Muffakir-e-Azam currently holds the position of Chairman of World Islamic Mission Canada. Under his leadership, this leading Sunni

organization continues to play the dominant role of establishing the Ahl-e-Sunnah wal Jamaah here in Canada. This organization is also the first to launch a Hifz and Alim Programme for the training of young Canadian Muslims.

This organization was also able to acquire a large 11 acre land in Toronto and will soon establish the first purpose built Ahl-e-Sunnah Islamic Centre in Canada. Muffakir-e-Azam is leading the building of this great centre through his support, supervision and guidance.

Canadian Muslims from coast to coast to coast, look forward to the continued presence of Muffakir-e-Azam Allama Qamaruzzaman Azmi here in Canada where he has already left a legacy which only a scholar of his magnanimity and humility can hope to achieve.

We all pray to Allah Subhaanahu wa Talaa for his continued good health. Ameen.

