



# Diversity, Race Relations and Inclusivity Award Nomination Form

## NOMINEE INFORMATION

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| Name of organization: Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration (MRCSSI)  |                            |
| Business Address: Suite 312, 111 Waterloo St.   |                            |
| City: London, ON  | Postal code: N6B 2M4       |
| Name(s) of contact people (including position titles):<br>Mohammed Baobaid, Executive Director<br>Mavis Lau, Office Manager   |                            |
| Business Telephone: 519-672-6000  | Business Fax: 519-672-6200 |
| Business E-mail: admin@mrcssi.com   |                            |
| Category: (check one)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Small business/small labour (49 or fewer employees/members)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Corporations/large business/large labour (50 or more employees/members)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Institutions (public or private)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/community services (including Not-for-Profits), education and training<br><input type="checkbox"/> Youth/young adult groups or organizations |                            |

## INITIATIVE INFORMATION (attach additional sheets or supporting material as required)

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| Program initiative:<br>Muslim Family Safety Program   |
| Date of implementation:<br>January 2009   |
| Key department(s) or committees involved:<br>Direct services department of MRCSSI   |
| Key people involved:<br>Mohammed Baobaid, Eugene Tremblay, Hassna Nassir, Mavis Lau, Sahar Atalla   |
| Description of initiative:<br>A large part of MRCSSI success can be attributed to their ability to build strong working relationships with both mainstream service providers and community organizations. This collaboration has made such a significant impact on family safety that in a period of 3 years, no Muslim child entered into the care of child protection services. Their focus is on collaboration between mainstream service providers and community needs and act as a link to make sure that social services are adapted to meet the needs of families and individuals in the community. When clients contact MRCSSI, a needs assessment is conducted with them to determine the services needed and MRCSSI will facilitate referrals to needed services, help the client with system navigation, advocate for the client by helping other service providers understand the needs of the client and MRCSSI will offer counselling and support to help families overcome issues.   |
| How has the initiative contributed to the promotion of diversity, anti-racism, inclusivity and human rights in London and promoting London as a welcoming city?<br>This initiative has had a positive impact within London on many fronts. Service providers are now better equipped to assist immigrants, refugees and citizens of London because MRCSSI is able to provide training and case consultations to guide front line workers who gain a better understanding of the diverse client needs and backgrounds. Service providers can provide more effective and efficient services that have better outcomes for the clients. MRCSSI has assisted victims of crime and abuse through advocacy for the individual client and their families. The work at MRCSSI has provided a safe place for Londoners to come to and ask for help. Since MRCSSI is not a religious institution, they are able to help people from all sects of Islam, Arab (including Christian Arabs) and many others. Clients can ask for help on issues that are normally considered taboo in their culture and will maintain their human rights and the rights of those who cannot defend themselves. |

What short or long-term impact has/will the initiative have on the promotion of diversity, anti-racism, inclusivity and human rights in London and promoting London as a welcoming city?

The short-term impacts are the immediate outcomes from helping each client with their issues and helping them to achieve a safer life here in London. Through understanding the different cultures of the clients and acting as bridge builders to the mainstream service community, MRCSSI has been able to address the root causes of violence in the home and help families rebuild healthier lives in London. The long-term impacts are system level changes in how issues affecting cultural communities are approached. The work at MRCSSI gives voices to the under served and embraces diversity and human rights. The model has brought the work in London to the international stage as this game changing model is attracting attention worldwide. The work at MRCSSI allows people a safe place to ask for help where they are understood and MRCSSI has always advocated for the rights of every single person in a family.

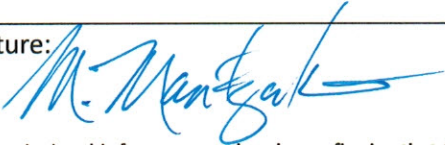
What is the potential for expansion and/or inspiration for replication of the initiative?

This initiative has already undergone a pilot expansion funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation to Ottawa, Kingston and York regions with great success. Within Kingston, the model of collaborative service has also attracted the partnership of the Latin community to work alongside the Islamic community and Children's Aid Society. Within York region, CAS there has partnered with the South Asian community to work together. The next regions interested in this initiative are Kitchener/Waterloo, Hamilton and Windsor.

How can receiving this Award be used to further promote diversity, anti-racism, inclusivity and human rights in London and to further promote London as a welcoming city?

This award can help highlight and promote the collaborative model at MRCSSI and show the support their work had from the City of London. It will ultimately promote joint efforts between agencies to create and foster a partnership to ensure residents within London receive seamless and effective services that promote diversity. Everyone should have a voice in how their services should work for them. To promote diversity, anti-racism, inclusivity and human rights in London we all need to be invested partners working together to bring change.

#### NOMINATOR INFORMATION

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|----------------------------|--|
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| City: London               | Postal code: N6E-1N7   |
| Telephone: 5192817275      | Fax:   |
| E-mail: meni@rel8.ca       | Signature:         |
| Date: September 30, 2015   | Note: By signing this form you are hereby confirming that the Nominee has consented to the nomination. |

**Submissions must be received by September 30 to:**

London Diversity and Race Relations Advisory Committee  
c/o Committee Secretary, City Clerk's Office  
City of London  
300 Dufferin Avenue, PO Box 5035  
London, ON N6A 4L9

Phone: 519-661-2500 Ext. 5417

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NOTICE OF COLLECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

**Please be advised that all nominations submitted for the Diversity, Race Relations and Inclusivity Award become part of the public record. The nominations will be published on a public agenda and made available electronically through the City of London public internet website. The personal information collected on this form is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act 2001, as amended, and will be used to administer the Diversity, Race Relations and Inclusivity Award program. Questions about this collection should be addressed to the City Clerk at 300 Dufferin Avenue, London, Ontario N6A 4L9 Tel: 661-2500 Ext. 4937**