



CANADIAN MUSLIM PUBLIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

IMPACT REPORT

2025

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Assalam Alaikom and Peace be upon you all,

This has been a difficult year for our community. The pain and frustration we've collectively carried due to the genocide unfolding in Gaza have been overwhelming at times. And yet, despite the weight of it all, our community stood up. You showed up, you organized, you made your voices heard through our CMPAC campaigns. For that, I want to extend my deepest thanks.

Because of your grassroots work as a community, we were able to do what may have seemed impossible just four years ago: we pushed Gaza onto the agenda of the Canadian federal election. Together, we made it clear that silence in the face of

injustice is not an option, and that our community will not sit on the sidelines while humanitarian laws are violated and lives are destroyed.

As we look ahead, our work is far from over. In the year to come, CMPAC is committed to ending Canada's complicity in the genocide in Gaza and building international pressure for justice in Palestine. At home, we will continue fighting for our civil liberties and challenging the deep institutional Islamophobia that pervades our systems of governance.

But we cannot do this alone. If we are to take the next step, and move from pressure to policy, from protest to political power, we need your continued support and engagement. It is time to hold our government accountable and to engage them directly, ensuring our demands are heard and addressed. The path forward will require all of us.

Thank you for standing with CMPAC. Thank you for standing for justice.

In solidarity,

Dr Yaser Haddara
CMPAC Board Chair

1 | ABOUT CMPAC



The Canadian Muslim Public Affairs Council (CMPAC) fights structural Islamophobia by mobilizing communities, engaging decision makers, and influencing public policy. We are a non-profit organization that works through community engagement, advocacy, and political lobbying.

Our work is research backed and community driven. We equip community members to advocate for structural change. We take on policy challenges often overlooked in mainstream discourse, and we are in it for the long haul, rooted in community and committed to justice.

- Research & Policy
- Grassroots Capacity Building
- Lobbying & Advocacy

Our Vision, Mission, and Strategic Approach

Vision: A Canada where Muslim communities are politically active, structurally protected from Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian racism, and meaningfully represented in shaping a just, equitable, and inclusive society.

Mission: Transform Canadian society by empowering Muslim voices, addressing policy inequities, and fostering systemic change.

Approach: Integration of rigorous research, grassroots community outreach, and political lobbying to advance structural transformation.

Between 2022 and 2025 CMPAC has published more than 20 evidence-based briefs, led the nationwide MuslimsVote.ca civic-engagement drive, and anchored coalitions that secured measurable reforms on civil-liberties, foreign-policy and anti-racism files.



2 | HISTORICAL CONTEXT & FOUNDING



CMPAC emerged in 2021 when a cohort of Muslim policy researchers and community organizers converged around two acute gaps:

- **Policy Gap:** The political landscape dictated a stronger need for more Muslim organizations that would systematically translate Muslim community concerns into legislative language.
- **Narrative Gap:** Media conversations about Muslims were rarely by Muslims.

CMPAC incorporated federally in early 2022 and opened its first office in Oakville, Ontario

3 | OUR WORK

3.1 POLICY, ADVOCACY, & RESEARCH

CMPAC works to transform Canadian public policy through values-driven advocacy, rigorous research, and strategic community engagement. We center Muslim voices in legislative debates, bridging grassroots concerns with policy solutions across three core pillars: Structural Islamophobia, Justice for Palestine, and Civil Liberties.

Policy Grounded in Community and Expertise

Our work is informed by legal analysis, community consultation, and collaboration with civil society. Between 2023–2025, we published over 20 evidence-based submissions addressing Islamophobia in financial systems, immigration gaps, academic freedom, and national security. We regularly intervene in Parliament and Senate committees and have shaped key bills such as C-70, C-63, and C-20.





Strategic Focus Areas

- 1. Structural Islamophobia:** CMPAC's submissions to the Financial Action Task Force and Public Safety Canada highlight how counter-terror financing harms Muslim charities. We call for transparency, accountability, and consultation before applying financial restrictions.
- 2. Justice for Palestine:** In a rapidly shifting political landscape, CMPAC has become a leading national voice on Canada's foreign policy regarding Palestine. Our work includes legal analyses of Canada's obligations under international law, submissions to the United Nations, and a comprehensive political advocacy strategy. We respond to government inaction and policy inconsistencies on Gaza, settler-colonial violence, and arms exports, grounding our interventions in human rights, anti-racism, and international legal frameworks.
- 3. Civil Liberties:** We analyze and challenge overreach in foreign interference laws, protest restrictions, surveillance, and campus speech. CMPAC co-leads key coalitions working on online harms, national security reform, and police accountability.

3.2 GRASSROOTS CAPACITY-BUILDING

Constituency Advocacy

CMPAC has built a strong, community-led advocacy model that empowers Canadian Muslims to directly engage with their elected representatives. For nearly two years, we have supported ongoing grassroots engagement in close to 35 ridings across the country. Through regular bi-weekly outreach, trained volunteers meet with MPs to educate them on our community's perspectives and policy priorities. This work fosters meaningful, ongoing dialogue between community members and their elected representatives, while also strengthening political literacy and civic confidence at the local level.

MuslimsVote Campaign: A national civic engagement campaign from coast to coast

The Muslims Vote campaign, spearheaded by the Canadian Muslim Public Affairs Council (CMPAC), is a national initiative aimed at empowering Canadian Muslims to vote based on principles and conscience rather than party loyalty or fear. Launched through MuslimsVote.ca, the campaign focuses on mobilizing the Muslim community around issues such as justice in Palestine, civil liberties, and human rights.





3.3 COALITION-BASED POLICY ADVOCACY

CMPAC has played a leading role in national coalitions focused on civil liberties, racial justice, foreign policy, and structural Islamophobia, ensuring that Muslim communities are represented in policy spaces and help shape national advocacy priorities. CMPAC has worked with coalitions such as the Canada-Israel Arms Embargo Coalition, the Palestine Action Network, the Online Harms Network (Bill C-63), the national strategy group on Bill C-20, and the Anti-Palestinian Racism Policy Table, as well as the CAAARI roundtable series. These coalitions address issues ranging from immigration and foreign policy to national security and online regulation.

CMPAC's coalition work includes sustained lobbying of federal decision-makers through policy briefs, advocacy toolkits, petitions, and joint submissions, alongside direct meetings with MPs and institutions. Grounded in legal research and community engagement, this ensures Muslim perspectives remain central to national debates. Coalition-based advocacy strengthens CMPAC's ability to respond to legislation, amplify intersectional demands, and advance long-term systemic change toward a more just and accountable policy landscape in Canada.

3.4 DIRECT LOBBYING

CMPAC's approach to public policy is grounded in transformative justice, rigorous research, and the lived experiences of our communities. Rather than limiting our advocacy to traditional lobbying, we engage in strategic, sustained policy engagement that challenges systemic harm and advances equity.

While CMPAC is in the early stages of developing a direct lobbying program, we play a visible and influential role in high-level coalitions, policy tables, and advocacy campaigns. Our coalition-based model blends legal research, community mobilization, and targeted political engagement to shape national conversations on civil liberties, foreign policy, structural Islamophobia, and racial equity.

As part of our growth strategy, CMPAC is building the infrastructure needed for consistent, principled, and community-rooted lobbying, ensuring that Canadian Muslim perspectives shape legislative debates from within Parliament Hill and beyond.



3.5 MOBILIZATION & CAMPAIGNS

Over the past six months, CMPAC has played a leading role in advancing grassroots advocacy and civil liberties based activism across Canada. Through coordinated national campaigns, coalition advocacy, and direct public engagement, CMPAC's grassroots and advocacy teams mobilized tens of thousands of Canadians to participate in democratic processes to hold decision-makers accountable. In total, more than 40,000 emails were sent to elected officials, government departments, and public institutions through CMPAC-led actions, alongside letter-writing initiatives, call-in campaigns, and national days of action.

These campaigns addressed urgent domestic and international issues, including the protection of Palestinian human rights, opposition to Canadian complicity in international law violations, and the defense of Charter-protected freedoms. CMPAC focused on principled, rights-based engagement grounded in international law, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and democratic accountability.





BILL C-9: THE COMBATTING HATE ACT



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Human Rights, International Law and Accountability Campaigns:

1. Nakba Day: Call for Action on Gaza
2. Press MPs to Cut Ties with Israel
3. Opposition to Netanyahu's Gaza Takeover Plan
4. "Call It a Genocide" Campaign
5. Arms Embargo Now Campaign
6. Cancel the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement (CIFTA)
7. Global and Gaza Freedom Flotilla Campaigns
8. Investigation of IDF Soldiers Touring Canada
9. Opposition to Normalization of Genocide at Munk Debates
10. Investigation of IDF Soldiers Touring Canada
11. Opposition to Netanyahu's Gaza Takeover Plan (secondary overlap)
12. Cancel the Canada-Israel Davis Cup Match
13. Opposition to Normalization of Genocide at Munk Debates
14. Opposition to Bill C-9 (Combatting Hate Act)
15. National Phone Zap Against Bill C-9
16. Support for the No More Loopholes Act (Bills C-233 / C-9 context)
17. Support Mohamad Fakhri Campaign
18. Gaza TRV Advocacy Toolkit Launch
19. Joint Letter on Gaza TRV Failures
20. Global and Gaza Freedom Flotilla Campaigns (secondary overlap)



#Mobilize4Gaza

COMMUNITY ACTION TOOLKIT LAUNCH



MOBILIZE FOR GAZA

In August, CMPAC launched the #Mobilize4Gaza campaign in response to growing community demand for accessible, structured pathways to engage in advocacy for Palestinian liberation. As global awareness and support for Palestine continued to increase, many community members expressed feeling overwhelmed, uncertain about where to begin, or unsure how to translate concern into meaningful action.

To address this gap, CMPAC developed and released a Community Action Toolkit designed to support political learning while equipping individuals and grassroots groups with practical, creative, and locally adaptable methods of engagement. The toolkit was created to demystify advocacy, lower barriers to participation, and empower communities to take sustained action in their own cities.

The toolkit is structured around three core pillars:

1. Political Education & Narrative Building

Providing foundational context on the Palestinian struggle and offering guidance on countering misinformation, shaping public discourse, and engaging in conversations.

2. Direct Action & Advocacy

Outlining concrete steps for engagement, including grassroots organizing, political pressure tactics, and coordinated community actions that support accountability and policy change.

3. Creative Media, Art & Storytelling

Encouraging the use of visual media, storytelling, and cultural expression as tools for awareness-raising, narrative shift, and community connection.



CMPAC Statement on the Gaza Ceasefire Agreement

4 | MEDIA & NARRATIVE INFLUENCE

4.1 OP EDS AND MEDIA FEATURES

CMPAC has contributed to public discourse through appearances, interviews, features and published work in leading Canadian media outlets including the Toronto Star, CBC, CTV News, and The Globe and Mail.

Whether through op-eds, interviews, or expert commentary, CMPAC's media engagement positions Muslim voices not just as participants, but as expert sources shaping national conversations on Islamophobia, civil liberties, and Canada's global role

These media contributions serve not only to inform the public but also to advocate for policy grounded in human rights and justice.



4.2 POLICY & POWER PODCAST: ELEVATING CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS

Policy & Power is CMPAC's flagship podcast platform, launched in 2025 to elevate rigorous, values-driven dialogue at the intersection of Canadian policy, global human rights, and the lived experiences of Muslim communities. More than a media initiative, the podcast functions as a public forum that interrogates power structures, challenges institutional narratives, and advances the moral and legal imperatives guiding CMPAC's advocacy.

The series features in-depth conversations with policymakers, legal experts, human-rights advocates, and global leaders. A notable highlight includes an exclusive interview with **Ambassador Ebrahim Rasool**, situating the Palestinian struggle within the global history of apartheid, resistance, and international law.

Featured Episodes

1. Beyond the Ballot featuring Mohamad Fakih and Khaled Al Qazzaz
2. Freedom of Expression Under Fire featuring Rabbi David Mivasair, Tim McSorley and Dr. Yaser Haddara
3. Exclusive Interview with Ambassador Ebrahim Rasool with Ginella Massa and Khaled Al Qazzaz
4. Breaking the Siege on Gaza featuring Yipeng Ge
5. Canada's Arms to Israel: The Truth Behind the Embargo featuring Mohamad Fakih, Khaled Al Qazzaz, Rachel Small, MP Heather McPherson
6. The Islamophobia Surge — Empty Promises or Real Action? Featuring Amira Elghawaby and Khaled Al Qazzaz
7. The Political Muslim Podcast - Analyzing Political Advocacy for Gaza with Sami Hamdi
8. The Political Muslim Podcast - Political Activist Nokha Dakroub

4.3 EDUCATIONAL EVENTS & AWARENESS TOURS

CMPAC's educational events and tours function as an extension of its policy advocacy and narrative work, creating structured spaces for public learning, dialogue, and engagement with decision-makers. These initiatives are designed to deepen political literacy, contextualize current policy debates, and situate community experiences within broader legal, historical, and ethical frameworks.

A. EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

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1. "Life in Gaza" A Film Screening Tour (Ottawa, Montreal, Mississauga, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton) featuring Dr. Mads Gilbert and Jamal ElShayyal.
2. Educational event featuring academic and historian Dr. Yakoob Ahmed, fostering dialogue on contemporary political developments through an Islamic intellectual and historical lens.
3. "Strengthening Solidarity Across the Charity Sector Conference" - Fostering collaboration and addressing the structural and systemic challenges that affect the charitable sector, particularly the barriers faced by Muslim charities under counter-terrorism financing policies.
4. Arms Embargo Now – Town Hall and Strategy Session.



POLITICS CORNER: COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS ON BILL C-9

As part of its broader mobilization against Bill C-9, CMPAC convened a series of community-based political discussions designed to increase public understanding of the legislation and its implications for civil liberties. CMPAC hosted a Political dialogue bringing together community members to engage in structured discussion on Bill C-9. The gathering provided space to unpack the bill's legal and political implications, particularly its potential impact on freedom of expression, protest rights, and religious practice. Through facilitated conversation, participants shared concerns, asked questions, and strengthened collective understanding of how proposed legislative changes could affect Charter-protected rights.





B. LIVE VIRTUAL EVENTS

CMPAC continued to expand its public education efforts through structured webinars and digital forums designed to deepen understanding of policy developments, strengthen advocacy capacity, and situate ongoing mobilization within broader strategic and ethical frameworks.

1. Webinar: Bill C-9 Legal Implications and Civil Liberties Concerns featuring Tim McSorley and Khaled AlQazzaz.
2. CMPAC Political Advocacy Workshop featuring former MPP Sarah Jama, Khaled Al-Qazzaz, Executive Director of CMPAC, and Fawzy Manaa, CMPAC GTA Lead
3. Webinar: Defining Success in Advocacy During Prolonged Crisis featuring Dr. Wael Haddara and Bakir Alazawi
4. Gaza Power Hour: Global Solidarity and Mobilization featuring prominent speakers, including Sheikh Omar Suleiman, South African Politician Naledi Pandor, Rabbi Linda Holtzman, Eyad Amawi, Flotilla Activists Huwaida Arraf, Dr. Zaheera Soomar, Hannah Claire Smith, as well as Human Rights Advocate Ismahan Abdullahi, and Omar Shakir.
5. Elections Night Live hosted by Ginella Massa.

5 | IMPACT

Since its founding, CMPAC has grown into one of Canada’s leading Muslim public affairs organizations translating grassroots priorities into national policy conversations, coalition leadership, and civic action. The 2025 period reflects the scale and depth of CMPAC’s evolving impact across multiple domains.

A. MuslimsVote 2025: Historic Voter Mobilization

The 2025 federal election marked a milestone for Muslim civic participation, anchored by CMPAC’s MuslimsVote campaign:

- **Voter Engagement:** Over 70,000 Muslim voters engaged with the platform, generating 500,000+ page interactions for riding-level candidate recommendations.
- **Volunteer Mobilization:** More than 1,000 volunteers led outreach efforts in 70+ mosques and community hubs nationwide.
- **Electoral Impact:** MuslimsVote endorsed candidates in nearly 50 ridings, 22 of whom were successfully elected—reflecting a 73% success rate.

This achievement demonstrated the community’s growing political capacity to organize, advocate, and influence electoral outcomes based on principled, policy-centered platforms.





B. Policy & Legislative Interventions

CMPAC has positioned itself as a credible, research-driven policy actor, shaping national legislative debates on core issues affecting Canadian Muslims:

- **15+ Formal Policy Submissions** to government and parliamentary bodies between 2023–2025.
- **Key Legislative Engagements:** CMPAC contributed policy briefs, expert submissions, and committee testimony on legislation such as Bills C-70 (foreign interference), C-63 (online harms), and C-20 (RCMP review).
- **Foreign Policy & Gaza Advocacy:** CMPAC led legal analyses and public policy critiques of Canada's obligations under international law with respect to Gaza, Israeli war crimes, arms exports, and settler-colonial violence.



C. Coalition Leadership

CMPAC has emerged as a central coalition-builder, ensuring that Canadian Muslim voices remain present and influential in cross-sectoral advocacy efforts:

- Active leadership roles in **over 10 coalitions** coordinating joint lobbying, policy briefs, public campaigns, and coalition advocacy meetings with federal decision-makers.
- Strengthened partnerships with **20+ legal, academic, faith, and civil society organizations** to advance intersectional policy change.

D. Narrative Shift & Media Visibility

CMPAC has strategically intervened in media and public discourse to reframe conversations about Islamophobia, civil liberties, and foreign policy:

- Published op-eds, interviews, and features across major media outlets: *Toronto Star*, *CBC*, *CTV*, *Globe and Mail*, *The Hill*, *OMNI News*, and *Saada News*.
- Elevated Muslim voices as **expert commentators**, not merely subjects of coverage.



E. Community Education & Public Engagement

CMPAC continues to prioritize grassroots capacity building as a key driver of sustainable change:

- Present in over **100 mosques** across Canada
- Hosted events educational tours from **Vancouver to Montreal**
- Trained over **1000 community members** in constituency advocacy, enabling direct engagement with elected officials.
- Equipped grassroots networks with advocacy toolkits, petitions, MP letter-writing campaigns, and public awareness resources.
- Organized community town halls, webinars, and public education events on foreign policy, civil rights, and legislative literacy.



6 | PARTNERSHIPS & ALLIANCES

CMPAC partners with **over 30 organizations** to broaden intersectional advocacy. CMPAC has actively participated in a wide range of national coalitions, policy tables, and advocacy campaigns. These partnerships are central to our work: they amplify our reach, strengthen our advocacy, and ensure Canadian Muslim voices are represented in intersectional human rights efforts. Whether calling for an arms embargo, countering online harms, or challenging anti-Palestinian racism, we have joined forces with both grassroots and institutional allies to advance meaningful change.

- Arab Canadian Lawyers Association (ACLA)
- Arab Canadian Vote
- Amnesty International Canada
- BC Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA)
- Coalition Against Anti-Asian Racism in Institutions (CAAARI)
- Canadian Council of Muslim Women (CCMV)
- Canadian Council of Imams (CCI)
- Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC)
- Canadian Muslim Lawyers Association (CMLA)
- Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)
- Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (CJPME)
- CCLA (Canadian Civil Liberties Association)
- Centre for Free Expression (TMU)
- HIKMA
- Palestinian Youth Movement
- Justice for All Canada
- Centre for Law and Democracy (CLD)
- Canadian Muslim Healthcare Network (CMHN)
- Coalition Against Anti-Asian Racism in Institutions (CAAARI)
- Free Expression Canada
- Human Rights Watch (HRW)
- Independent Jewish Voices (IJV)
- International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group (ICLMG)
- Oxfam Canada
- National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM)
- National Muslim Action Fund (NMAF)
- Righting Relations Canada
- SHE Associates
- Stop the Genocide
- The Canadian Muslim Vote
- United Church of Canada
- World Beyond War
- Palestinian Students & Scholars at Risk

7 | LOOKING FORWARD

As we move forward, CMPAC is focused on deepening impact, expanding reach, and building long-term power within Canadian Muslim communities. Our next chapter will focus on three interconnected priorities:

Expanding Public Education & Policy Influence

We will build on the momentum of our Policy & Power podcast and expand CMPAC's public education initiatives through op-eds, digital toolkits, and strategic campaigns to equip our communities with the knowledge and language to shape public policy from the ground up. Our research will continue to address gaps in legislation and public discourse, particularly around Islamophobia, civil liberties, and Canada's foreign policy on the issues that affect the Canadian-Muslim community.





Scaling Direct Lobbying Infrastructure

CMPAC is working to build permanent capacity for direct constituency-level lobbying. This includes training community members to meet with their local MPs, organizing coordinated advocacy, and developing issue-based briefing materials that can be used in both grassroots and parliamentary settings. Our goal is to normalize Muslim civic presence in federal lobbying and shape a culture of proactive, informed, and sustained engagement.



Strengthening Grassroots Capacity

Following the success of the MuslimsVote campaign, we will continue to invest in the infrastructure needed to organize beyond the ballot box. This includes strengthening our volunteer network, expanding the MuslimsVote blog as a civic literacy platform, and hosting political education sessions across Canada. We are also committed to engaging mosques, youth, and community centres as hubs for civic engagement.

CMPAC remains committed to principled and collaborative advocacy. Whether through coalition work, capacity building, or direct pressure on decision-makers, we will continue to ensure that Canadian Muslim voices are not only heard but lead in meaningful systematic change.



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