CANADIAN ARAB INSTITUTE 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



CANADIAN ARAB INSTITUTE INSTITUT CANADO-ARABE

An emerging community A unique voice

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A Great Start And A Positive Outlook



Raja Khouri President and Co-founder Canadian Arab Institute

Early in the year, in a published letter, I reflected on a productive foundational year and envisaged a 2013 in which the Canadian Arab Institute would "materialize and take shape." Thanks to the tireless support of many wonderful individuals, it has.

We have come a long way in such a short time span. We now have office space and staff, have hosted four summer interns, established multiple communication channels and attained charitable registration. We have a distinguished advisory board and were honoured to host an illustrious group of honorary chairs at our inaugural gala. Each step was carefully planned and executed to build a sound and sustainable foundation for this organization. Our professional standards are high and we have even higher aspirations.

On the activities front, our two biggest events of the year were the hugely popular Professional Development Conference for Canadian Arab Youth, and our sold-out inaugural gala, *A New Conversation*, which took place at the Royal Ontario Museum alongside the highly-acclaimed Mesopotamia Exhibit (which CAI was a Community Partner in promoting).

The gala brought together a diverse audience of ambassadors, politicians, dignitaries, media personalities, business people, artists, and professional Arabs and non-Arabs alike. Much more than a lavish party supported by many corporate sponsors, it was an introduction to a new face of Canadian Arabs, and an invitation to join a "new conversation" about the community's place in this country. We are very grateful for the assistance and patronage we received from our sponsors and supporters, and we are humbled by the caliber of individuals and institutions who participated.

We also hosted a professional development conference which provided amazing opportunities for networking, mentorship and leadership development. The event drew more than 40 established Canadian Arab professionals, and over 200 participants.

In our communications we produced several research reports, a policy brief, and published a commentary in the Globe and Mail. We celebrated the end of a great first year with the launch of our Canadian Arabs to Watch initiative. Through it we recognize the achievements of Canadian Arabs who are making their mark, contributing in a special way to our society.

Our 2014 agenda is impressive. We are planning a multi-year research project, policy papers, conferences, a lecture series, a youth development program, a rewards and recognition program, and a cultural event that will highlight Canadian Arab artistic talent. 2014 will bring out the best in our organization. We are here to educate, recruit, cultivate, advance, and develop. Our community is the key to our success. As a new organization we need your support to thrive. I can't wait to meet and work with many more Canadian Arab community members who will undoubtedly make 2014 a year to remember.

Wishing everyone a healthy and successful year.

a message from the board Our Mission



Brady Wood Interim Chair, Board of Directors Canadian Arab Institute

The mission of the Canadian Arab Institute is deeply tied to our collective identity as Canadians. The heart of the matter is that we are advocating for equality for all in Canada, and celebrating the unique and remarkable people who make up the Canadian Arab diaspora.

Growing up in Canada I came to admire the image of our country as a rich tapestry; a great enterprise of diverse peoples, who through collective efforts could make the world a better place. This may seem a little idealistic, but I know our Board is committed to helping to realize this vision by focusing on what we all have in common, and by highlighting how great accomplishments by wonderful Canadian Arab citizens make Canada a better place for all.

This year has been a great demonstration of what we can achieve together. As this report details, we held world-class events like our inaugural gala, *A New Conversation*, with representatives from local, provincial, and federal governments, and prominent attendees including our speaker the Honourable Bill Graham. We partnered with world class cultural institutions, as was the case with the Royal Ontario Museum's renowned Mesopotamia exhibit. We also held notable events like our well-attended Professional Development Conference for Canadian Arab Youth, and other important events on economics and foreign policy. Regarding the latter, we are also grateful to the Rotman School of Management, who acted as generous hosts for many of our events, and have encouraged us in our efforts.

Our events and lectures have been very impactful. Through them we have established a prominent place on the national stage, and a voice in a new conversation about diversity, equality, the economy, multiculturalism, and citizenship. That said, we need to constantly reinforce our seat at the table, and broaden our reach so that our mission is recognized. This is not the work of a few, but will require the collective efforts of our community of likeminded people with a singular focus.

To-date we have been extremely lucky to have a great deal of support from major donors, corporate sponsors, and individuals making incremental gifts. We have also benefited from the many individuals who have donated their time, effort and intellect. But for our initiative to continue to thrive we need to grow our ranks and broaden the scope of our contributors. Join us and make a show of support, either by volunteering or helping out, whether it be on a committee or in planning an event, or otherwise by making a donation to the Institute or its programming. Each contribution, no matter how small, makes an impact and contributes to the wave of activity and advocacy we are generating together.

In closing, the Board extends its thanks to all who have supported us. Your efforts have made this a remarkable first year of programming and activity. I would like to thank our volunteer Board for their unwavering commitment to our mission, and thank the CAI's small management team -- particularly Raja, for his leadership as our president, and Rania for her work overseeing operations and logistics. We look forward to 2014 and hope that you will lend your support!

About CAI

WHO WE ARE

The Canadian Arab Institute (CAI) is a charitable, non-partisan policy and community development think tank committed to Canadian ideals of freedom, democracy, human rights, gender equity and the rule of law.

OUR HISTORY

CAI was founded in 2011 by a steering committee of community leaders, academics, professionals and activists from many faiths and with roots from various parts of the Arab world. Our aim was to start a new discourse about the contributions of Canadian Arabs, and to offer a unique perspective on public policy issues.

WHAT WE DO

CAI articulates a Canadian Arab narrative that engages Canadian institutions and the public at the policy, cultural and civic levels.

MISSION

Our mission is to promote Canadian interests by articulating the potential of Canadian Arabs and advancing their contributions to society.

POLICY & RESEARCH

CAI conducts studies and produces research-based public policy papers that provide insight and recommendations for the benefit of policy makers, service providers, the media and civil society. Our interests include the social, economic, political, cultural and civic spheres.

EDUCATION

Part of our work aims to educate Canadians about Canadian Arab culture, heritage, and contributions to society. We produce publications, panels, conferences and a lecture series, providing perspective on Canadian domestic and international interests.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

We engage in activities that draw on existing and cultivate emerging intellectual and professional talent in the community. This includes professional development conferences, internships, mentorships, and initiatives that highlight role models such as the Canadian Arabs to Watch program.

Why CAI

Most Canadians know little about the Canadian Arab community. Few are aware that it is a large and growing population, the second fastest-growing new immigrant population in Canada. Discussions relating to Canadian Arabs are often negative and focus on events taking place elsewhere. The contributions of the Canadian Arab community to our society in fields as diverse as business, law, medicine, trade, immigration, human rights, social justice, and the arts are mostly unheard of to the average Canadian. The Canadian Arab institute was created to change that and to begin a new conversation.

Central to our mission is participating in the public discourse by generating new research on a wide range of critical policy issues. Our aim is to have the Canadian Arab voice heard at the national, provincial and municipal levels on Canada's economic, social and cultural interests and to make visible the many contributions of Canadian Arabs. Our mission also includes assisting the Canadian Arab community to meet the challenges of full integration into Canadian society. Our programs aim not only to identify barriers but also to provide innovative ways to overcome them. For example, Canadian Arab youth often face obstacles in entering the job market and succeeding in their careers. The Canadian Arab Institute's youth development programs are designed to help young professionals realize their full potential and make meaningful contributions to their communities.

Our vision is for a Canadian society that is inclusive and respectful of all.

The Canadian Arab Community

IDENTIFYING CANADIAN ARABS

The term 'Canadian Arab' applies to citizens who emigrated, or are descendants of immigrants from the following countries:

RAIN
IOROS
OUTI
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DAN
/AIT
noros outi pt Q DAN



HIGH IMMIGRATION FROM ARAB COUNTRIES CONTINUES

According to data acquired from Citizenship and Immigration Canada, in 2010, Arab immigration to Canada reached an all-time high, with the arrival of 34,657 citizens of Arab countries. Arab immigrants represented 12.4% of the total immigration to Canada, second only to the Philippines (13.0%) and, for the first time, ahead of China and India (at 10.8% each). In 2011, Arab immigration dropped slightly to 12.25% of total immigration, remaining in second place.

Immigration data between 1960 and 2011 shows that more than half of Arab immigrants came to Canada in the 11 years between 2000 and 2011, and more than 75% came in the 20 years between 1991 and 2011.

750,925 Total Canadian Arab population according to 2011 census In 2010, Canada welcomed a record

34,657 immigrants from Arab countries



Also in 2010, Arabs citizens accounted for the second highest immigration to Canada, ahead of China and India for the first time

TOP ARAB SOURCE COUNTRIES BETWEEN 1960-2011

LEBANON	24%	⋔ ፟፟፟፟፟፟፟፟፟፟፟፟፟፟፟፟፟፟፟፟፟፟፟፟፟፟፟፟፟፟፟፟፟፟፟፟
EGYPT	14%	ተ ቀተቀተቀተቀተቀ
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IRAQ	11%	ስ ትስትስትስትስት
Somalia	7%	ስ ትስት ስ
JORDAN	6%	ทํ♠ํทํ♠ํทํ♠
SYRIA	6%	ทิล์ทิล์ทิล์
TUNISIA	3%	†††
SUDAN	3%	†††

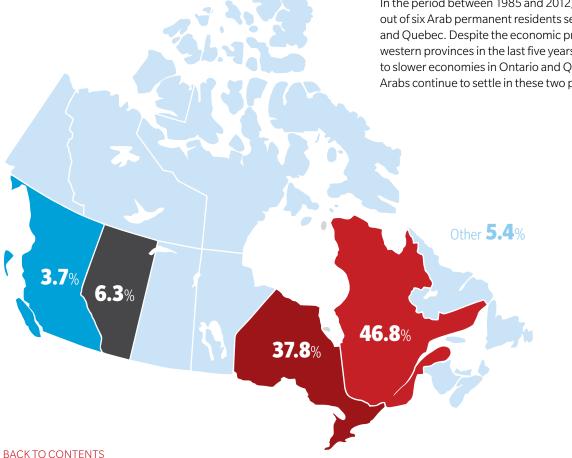
73% of total Arab Immigration from these 5 countries



98% of total Arab immigration from these 10 countries

ARAB SETTLEMENT PATTERNS

In the period between 1985 and 2012, roughly five out of six Arab permanent residents settled in Ontario and Quebec. Despite the economic prosperity in the western provinces in the last five years, compared to slower economies in Ontario and Quebec, most Arabs continue to settle in these two provinces.



Events

Inaugural Gala: A New Conversation

OCTOBER 30, 2013 ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM



"Let us have a new beginning without the baggage of the past. Let us have a new conversation."

CAI's Inaugural Gala was held in order to raise awareness and funds for the Canadian Arab Institute. The purpose of the event was to invite Canada to join a new conversation about Canadian Arab identity.

GALA HIGHLIGHTS

A New Conversation Gala was held at the Royal Ontario Museum alongside the highly-acclaimed Mesopotamia Exhibit on October 30th 2013. The gala was co-chaired by Judith Ramirez and Lisa Assaf and featured Keynote Speaker and Former Minister and Liberal Interim Leader Bill Graham. CBC broadcaster Suhana Meharchand acted as MC and brought great energy to the event. The evening's entertainment was electric and included performances from Al-Asala Dabke group, Soprano Allison Angelo, Mohammad Abussa on the oud , and George Sawa with qanoun improvisations. A live auction featured art by Charles Pachter, Beverley Jenkins, Loubna Moussa, Mejuri jewelry and Air Canada business class tickets to anywhere in the world. Before the night's end our guests enjoyed a special guided tour of the Mesopotamia Exhibit introduced by its curator Dr. Clemens Reichel.

CO-CHAIRS



Lisa Assaf



Judith Ramirez

COMMITTEE

Mohammad Abusaa	
Omar Alghabra	
Fares Badr	
Lina Duque	
Tina Edan	
Hanadi Loubani	
Rana Mougharbel	
Lara Zahabi-Bekdash	



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Salah Bachir

Sylvia Bashevkin









Sam Bouji

Rita Davies











Barbara Hall









Senator Nancy Ruth,OC

Charles Pachter, OC

Ratna Omidvar, OC





Alexa McDonough, OC

GALA SPONSORS

Our gala would not have been possible without the support of our generous sponsors and donors. On behalf of the Canadian Arab Institute and our extended community, thank you so much for believing in our event and organization.

Anonymous Gold Donor Bill and Najat Tarrabain Bronze Donor Special thanks to PCI-Your TELUS Dealer



DIGNITARIES AND HONOURED GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

We were honoured to host an impressive group of dignitaries and special guests at our Gala.

H.E Dr. Abdulrahman Al Hussaini Ambassador of Iraq

Kamal Al Solaylee award-winning author of Intolerable: a Memoir of Extremes

Mohammad Al Zaibak Royal Ontario Museum Trustee and Member of Royal Patrons Circle

The Hon. Chris Alexander Minister, Citizenship and Immigration Canada

The Honourable Jean Augustine Ontario Fairness Commissioner

Salah Bachir President, Cineplex Media

Andrea Cohen Barrack CEO, Trillium Foundation

Dr. Sylvia Bashevkin Author and Political Science Professor

Rahul Bhardwaj President, Toronto Community Foundation Sam Bouji Chairman and CEO, Global Family of Companies

H.E. Smail Benamara Ambassador of Algeria, Dean of the Arab League Council of Ambassadors to Canada

MP Olivia Chow Trinity-Spadina

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MPP Catherine Fife Kitchener-Waterloo

Aida Graff Vice President of the Arab Community Centre of Toronto

The Hon. Bill Graham former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defence

Shoheb Gwaduri Business Development Manager, The Aga Khan Museum

Barbara Hall Chief Commissioner, Ontario Human Rights Commission

Jehad Hamadeh CEO, Sora Construction

Jamelie Hassan renowned visual artist

Sheherazade Hirji President, Ismaili Council for Ontario

The Hon. Dr. Eric Hoskins Ontario Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Employment MPP Mitzie Hunter Scarborough-Guildwood

Jennifer A. Jeffs President, Canadian International Council

Mohamed Lachemi Provost, Ryerson University

Ilana Landsberg-Lewis Executive Director of the Stephen Lewis Foundation

Susan McIsaac CEO, United Way of Greater Toronto

Keith Neuman Executive Director, The Environics Institute for Survey Research

Ratna Omidvar President, Maytree Foundation

Dan Rahimi Vice President, Royal Ontario Museum

Dr. Clemens Reichel Curator of the Mesopotamia Exhibit, Royal Ontario Museum

Alnasir Samji

Member of the Board of Directors, Torstar Corporation

John Ralston Saul President, PEN International

The Hon. Nancy Ruth Senator

Lorraine Segato Singer-songwriter and Co-founder of The Parachute Club

Mamdouh Shoukri President, York University

The Hon. Charles Sousa Ontario Minister of Finance

John Stackhouse Editor in Chief, Globe and Mail

MPP Monique Taylor Hamilton-Mountain

John Tory Chair, Greater Toronto Civic Action Alliance, Former Leader of the Progressive

Ric Young President E.Y.E The Social Projects Studio

Conservative Party of Ontario

A Dinner Honouring Roger Martin

DECEMBER 17, 2013



Roger Martin is Premier's Chair in Productivity & Competitiveness and Academic Director of the Martin Prosperity Institute at the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto. As dean from 1998 to 2013 Professor Martin led a phenomenal expansion and transformation of the Rotman School of Management, and supported efforts to enhance Rotman's presence in the Middle East and a Canadian understanding of business opportunities in the region.

To honor Professor Martin's body of work and efforts which have brought new opportunities for collaboration with the Middle East, CAI held a dinner in his honor. From left to right: Brady Wood, CAI Interim Chair, Raja Khouri, CAI President & Co-founder, Meric Gertler, President of the UofT, Walid Hejazi, CAI Director, Professor Roger Martin, Dean, Rotman School of Management, UofT 1998 – 2013, Mohammad Al Zaibak, President & CEO, CDM Information Inc.

Conferences

CAI hosted two conferences in 2013 at University of Toronto campuses. The conferences featured high profile speakers from the Arab community and fostered dialogue over key issues facing Canadian Arabs.

ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS IMPLICATIONS OF THE ARAB SPRING

ROTMAN SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO JANUARY 15, 2013

- Arab Spring Update via H.E. Wael Ahmed Kamal Aboul-Magd, Egyptian Ambassador to Canada.
- The Arab Spring and prospects for economic growth via Dr. Bessma Momani, University of Waterloo/BSIA/CIGI
- Commercial Relations with the Middle East via Brigette Walenius, Deputy Director, DFAIT
- Panel Discussion: Canadian Business Opportunities in the Middle East

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR CANADIAN ARAB YOUTH

VICTORIA COLLEGE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO SEPTEMBER 21, 2013

The conference provided a forum for discussion of challenges facing Canadian Arab youth in the marketplace and the professional development of youth's skills through networking and mentoring by established Canadian Arab professionals. Over 40 professionals from different fields spoke across 10 panels, and over 200 participants were engaged in the conference's resounding success.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE for Canadian Arab Youth

Marie Henein One of Canada Top Criminal Lawyers

Omar Alghabra

Former MP and

Leading Activis

Bessma Moman

Commentation

A.J. Saudin Celebrated Act

Degrassi: The Next Generation

itical Scientis thos and

Sept. 21 2013

University of Toronto Victoria College, Northrop Frye Hall For secondary, post-secondary, and grads

Featuring: Dave Merheie



CanadianArabInstitute.org Limited seating - register soon! \$15 until Sept. 13: \$20 after lunch included

Navigating employment & getting ahead Topics: Networking & Mentorship Challenges young Canadian Arabs face Breakout Sessions: Academia, Medicine, Media, Business, Law, Finance, Arts, Politics and more!

Publications

REPORTS

ARAB IMMIGRATION TO CANADA HITS RECORD HIGH

Report on Arab immigration patterns to Canada 1960-2012 March 2013

NUMBER OF ARAB STUDENTS IN CANADA SPIKES

Report on number of Arab students in Canada reaching an all-time high in 2010 April 2013

FIVE IN SIX ARAB IMMIGRANTS SETTLE IN ONTARIO AND QUEBEC

Report on settlement patterns of Arab immigrants to Canada December 2013

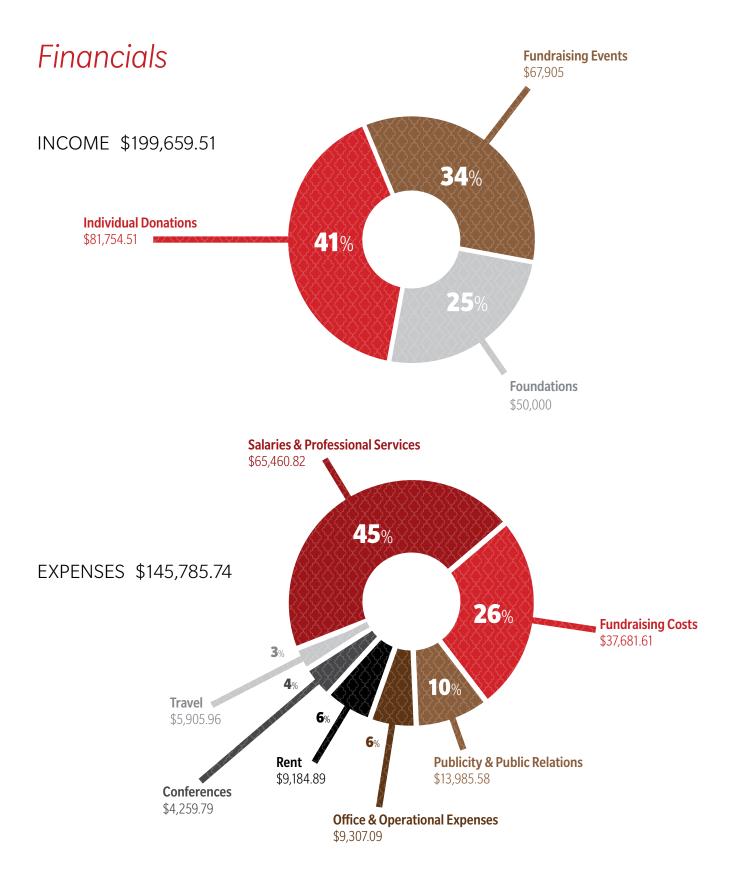
POLICY BRIEFS

CANADA'S ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Policy brief examining Canada's trade policies with an assessment of the impact on trade of economic and political developments in the Middle East April 2013

COMMENTARIES

RETHINK THIS CHARTER, S'IL VOUS PLAIT The Globe and Mail Oct. 30 2013



SUPPORTERS

Many influential people and organizations came together to make our inaugural year a resounding success. We would like to acknowledge and thank them for their tireless efforts.

PRINTING PARTNER COMMITTEE **Bay Tree Foundation** Adam Graphics Anne Marie Ceballo Mohamad Al Zaibak Anonymous (1) Saba Abbas Omar Alghabr Suhail Abulsameed Theodore Abdo **IT PARTNER** Jehad Aliweiwi Mohammad Abusaa Suhail Abualsameed Fares Badr Samer Andary (S2H) Mohammad & Najla Al Zaibak Alaa Aqha Mohamed Boudjenane Omar Alghabra Aseel Al Baba Lara El Zahabi-Bekdash Fares Badr Karim Azm Gabriel Fahel Zahra Binbrek Dina Bayoumi Karim Azm Andrew Francis Ziad Bouri Nancy Bayoumi **Richard Delisle** Wafaa Hasan Brenda Dinnick Dana Ben Halim Mariam Hamaoui Jareer J. Khouri Lara El Zahabi Tina Edan Shahd Orfali Ahmed Khalifa Gabriel Fahel Dina Eissa Raja Khouri Nabil Harfoush Amal El Tatawy Bessma Momani Samir Jabbour Kareem El-Assal Rana Mougharbel Wasim Jarrah Rama Habrawi Ziad Said Adel Kanso Mariam Hamaoui Suhail Sameed Ahmed Khalifa Helen Harris Abdullah Snobar Karen Mock Ola Hassan Dave Welbourn Sam Mokbel Nadine Hussein **Diana Younes** Henry Moller Suzanne Karajaberlian John Monahan Eman Khairalla Rana Mougharbel **Michele Larmet** Ramzi Ohan Gihan Lattif Andrew Pringle Anne Marie Judith Ramirez Rana Mougharbel Nancy Ruth Samir Mourani Wassef Sawaf Noor Musa Anthony Scolaro Maymar Naman Mamdouh Shoukri Zein Odeh

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Amanda Sadowski

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Primnent visual artist, writer, lecturer and activist

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The Canadian Arab Institute is a registered Canadian charitable organization #849531488RR0001



Sign-up to our bulletin to receive updates and announcements about CAI's programs and activities.



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