

**TITLE: MUSLIM YOUTH CANADA OR MY CANADA PROJECT****DURATION:** April 2009 - June 2011**FUNDED BY:** Citizenship and Immigration Canada's Multiculturalism Program

With direct involvement of Muslim youth, financial support from the Government of Canada's Multiculturalism Program and under the direction of the Canadian Council of Muslim Women (CCMW), the purpose of the MY CANADA Project is to develop a coordinated strategy that will provide opportunities for Muslim youth to strengthen their Canadian Muslim identities and increase their participation in the civic life of their communities. The MY CANADA Project will not be delivering social services but rather educational materials and web tools that serve to open up new spaces for a particular kind of dialogue on what it means to be Canadian Muslims.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- Strengthen the plural identities of Muslim youth in Canada
- Increase the participation of Canadian Muslim youth in the civic life of their communities

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES:**

- An increase in the civic participation of Muslim youth in Canada
- Provide alternative ways for Muslim youth to find self-fulfillment
- The participants will gain leadership skills
- The participants will understand how to use the rule of law more effectively in Canada
- The participants will learn new strategies to combat radicalization of Muslim youth
- The participants will gain a greater understanding of the scope and breadth of the use of Web 2.0 and new media in use for and by Muslim youth to engage them in the educational, cultural, social, economic, and civic life of Canada.
- Muslim youth will gain a sense of belonging and identification with Canada
- Participants will develop stronger self-confidence, and more effective written and oral communication skills.

**ACTIVITIES:**

- 50 toolkits produced as a result of the Forum, will be provided for the youth in order to help them deliver the appropriate messages during the public sessions they will lead.
- A web based media site will be developed by the youth on the already existing website of the CCMW as an aid in delivering messages that counter the literalist and narrow view of Islam.
- At the end of the project there will be a compendium of stories and experiences by Muslim youth about their identities and what helps them navigate and cope with some of the problems within Canadian society.
- As a result of the steering committee meetings, a guidebook will be developed for the youth, establishing a proper work plan for the future stages of the project.
- Included with the toolkit, participants will receive 50 videos (one each) produced as a result of the Forum that will act as a training guide to develop approaches and strategies to combat radicalization.
- Throughout the evaluation process, surveys will be administered and delivered to all participants.
- The strategic planning forum will include 100 youth participants, primarily from communities with a high concentration of Muslim youth at the secondary and post-secondary levels. The communities include Toronto, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Montreal, Calgary, Vancouver, Waterloo, London, Niagara, Windsor, Edmonton, and the Maritimes.
- There will be 17 public sessions at educational institutions, held by the youth mentors who have attended the Strategic Planning Forum in Toronto. Leaders at the sessions will mainly include students, teachers, principals, but may also be attended by elected officials, and social service providers. Participants will include Muslim youth from the local community.
- In order to involve youth from the beginning of the project a steering committee will be developed comprised of CCMW members, representatives of the partner organizations, and youth themselves between 16-25

years old. This committee will meet to discuss and develop a roadmap that will be used to guide every stage of this project.