



Praise be to Allah, [Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala] Peace & Blessing be upon Muhammad, Allah's Messenger

ANNUAL REPORT (2013-14)

IMAM ILYAS SIDYOT

The Islamic Association of Saskatchewan Saskatoon Inc.



In the Name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful

Asslamu 'Alykum wa'rahamtullahi wa'barakahtu,

With the Grace and Mercy of Allah (**Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala**) we have completed a whole year at the Islamic Association of Saskatchewan [Saskatoon] Inc. This report will outline the major achievements of the 2013-2014 terms..

Many activities took place this year. I would like to express my deep appreciation to the volunteers who made all the programs a great success and for the time and energy they spent for the service of the community, May Allah (**Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala**) reward them all.

Special Thanks to the Board of Directors and Shura members of “Prairie Muslim Association” for their support in organizing events and keeping the community together (May Allah reward them all in abundance).

Special thanks go to a number of brothers who helped me produce the work and achieve the goals. Saleem Qureshi, Muhammad Yasir (Lahore) , Yaqoob Chodhry, Saeed Iqbal, Mohammad Hashim, Mohammad Yousaf, Kamal, Talha, Razi shoeb, Dr. Shoeb, Sa'eed, Anus, Tasin Adnan Imran Mogul Ashraf khurram Hanif Mateen Ejaz, and many other who made many of the programs successful.

We had many successful events such as the Hajj Quiz, Special reception for Hajis of Saskatoon, Seerah Quiz and the Imams conference.

I pray to Allah (**Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala**) to accept my humble effort and make it for me the source of his forgiveness & Mercy. I pray to Allah (**Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala**) for His guidance and help in building a community that works for His pleasure, a community where the members care for each other, a community that strives to live in peace with each other, and within the Saskatoon community.

“I only intend reform as much as I am able; and my success [in the task] can only come from Allah “Azza Wa Jalla.”in him I trust and unto Him I return.”(Surat Hud 11:88)

Jazak Allahu Khairan to all of you for putting your trust in me.



Imam Ilyas Sidyot ,

The Islamic Association of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon Inc.

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1. INTRODUCTION:

As we embark on the start of a new year, we reflect on our immediate past, feel encouraged by the fruit of our efforts, enriched by hard lessons learned, and eager to forge ahead with optimism and enthusiasm. We thank Allah (**Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala**) for the many blessings he has bestowed upon us. The following is just a brief list of highlights and accomplishments I have achieved from March 2013 to February 2014 by the grace of Allah.

2. PRAYERS

2.1 Five Daily Prayers

Alhamdulillah I led the 5 daily prayers regularly throughout the year, except when it was not possible to lead due to an illness or other community related service outside the masjid.

2.2 Jumah Prayers

I led the Jumah Prayers throughout the year. Various topics were covered including the ones requested by the IAS board and the community members.

2.3 Funeral (Janazah) Prayers

In addition to leading the Funeral (Janazah) Prayers, I met with the family members of the deceased at the time of the demise of their loved ones, provided them with full guidance with respect to the entire burial procedure and Islamic guidelines, and ensured that the washing and final burial was performed in a timely fashion in conjunction with Acadia McKague's Funeral Centre. In addition, I was asked to make Dua for the deceased brothers and/or sisters and for those who were seriously ill. Alhamdulillah I led the Janazah Prayer on the following dates:

	Day	Month
Year 2013	30	July
	23	October
	29	October
	5	November
	24	November
	29 (North Battleford)	November
	18	December

Year 2014	8 (2 individuals)	January
	10	January

On Behalf of the IAS Board, community and myself, I would like to thank Br. Hassan Bhutta, Br. Ibrahim, Br. Salah, Hafiz Zubair, Sr. Muneera, Sr. Shahina Malik, Humaira Sidyot and Sr. Nasreen Afridi for their extensive help with the Washing and Burial procedures at the IAS at short notice. Jazak Allahu Khairan.

2.4 Taraweeh Prayers

Taraweeh Prayers were held throughout the month of Ramadhan Alhamdulillah. The prayers were led by me along with some Huffaz of our community Hafiz Altaf and Hafiz Mo'aad. May Allah reward them all. Due to the time constraints in the summer months, we tried very hard to finish in a timely fashion.

Tahajjud Prayers were held daily during the last portion of Ramadan. During this time, students from the Hifz class were given the opportunity to lead some of the prayers.

2.5 Eid Prayers

Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha Prayers were held at the Credit Union Center to accommodate the increasing number of Muslims in Saskatoon. On both Eids, we started the Eid Takbir at least 30 minutes prior to the Eid Prayer. In addition, I helped many families arrange their Qurbani / Udhiyah in Saskatoon, Alhamdulillah.

3. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

3.1. Full-Time Hifz Classes

The full time HIFZ class was introduced in September 2012 with full support from the IAS Board and constant demand from the parents. Alhamdulillah we are now in the Second year. Insha Allah with the help of Allah SWT we will see the first batch of graduates from the IAS full time Hifz program very soon.

Alhamdulillah we have 22 students in the class. Depending on the individual student capabilities, we hope to see the first graduates in early 2014 and in 2015.

3.2 Talk after Isha

Various topics were covered throughout the year after Isha either in the form of a hadith or different books.

Main books covered include:

- Mishkaat ul Masaabeeh (currently in progress for several weeks)
- Hajj (short)
- Ramadhan (short)
- Explanation of verses Hajj and story of Ibraheem (A.S.) & virtues of Qurbani
- Virtues of Muharram

3.3. Study Circles (Halaqas)

The following Halaqas were conducted:

- Sunday: West Side Masjid. Throughout the year [After Magrib & Isha]
- Sunday: Mount Royal Collegiate (Adult Quran & Islamic study Classes 11am to 1 pm - organised by the Bangladeshi community)
- Friday: Conducted special Halaqas for 3 months time, on the topic “Inheritors of the Prophet”

3.4. Quiz Competitions

- Hifz -ul- Quran competition was conducted in the month of Ramadan. Approximately 45 students participated and prizes were awarded after Eid-ul-Fitr Prayer.
- Quiz on Seerah of Ibrahim (A.S.) and Hajj 14th October 2013
- Quiz on Seerah of our beloved Nabi (ﷺ) – Dec 25, 2013 (approx.. over 80 participants) *Special thanks to Br. Talha Anzar, Br.Tasin Desin, Br.Anas Ashraf, Br.Yaqub Chowdhry, Br.Razi and Br. Saeed Iqbal who have made every effort to make this event successful.

3.5 Ramadan Preparation

- An effort was made at the beginning of Ramadan & Eid ul Adha to keep the community united
- Ramadhan: Taraweeh, Qiyam Al-Layl (2:45 – 3:30 am) and Daily Hadith after Fajr was a big success. A large number of brothers/sisters participated in this daily Alhamdulillah.
- Ramadhan Prayer / Iftaar Schedule were made with the help of Br.Saleem Qureshi and Br.Mu’atasim in advance of Ramadhan.
- Daily Session before Iftar – benefits of Dua before Iftar, how to make Dua and the blessed moments before Iftar.

3.6 Sessions

- Reception for the Saskatoon Hujaaj on November 29, 2013 at the IAS (Haaji's – those who went for Hajj 2013)
 - Hujaaj shared their experience and motivated others to go on this amazing journey. The Haaji's distributed Zamzam and Dates. This was followed by a small dinner.

3.6 Lectures by Invited Guests

Various Imams/Shaikhs were invited to speak on different topics.

- Shaikh Shabir Ally from Toronto (Nov 8-10, 2013)
 - Lectures were given on Ashurah and the Seerah of the Prophet (ﷺ) at both the IAS and the west masjid (PMA)
 - Open House for Non-Muslims at IAS on Nov 9, 2013
- Shaikh Saleem Nawab from U.K. (Dec 25-29, 2013)
 - Dec 26, 2013 – Divine Directives from Surah Maryam
 - Dec 27, 2013 – The Life of Jesus in light of the Quran
 - Dec 28, 2013 – The Radiant Lamp, the Prophet (ﷺ)
- Imam's Conference (Jan 30 – Feb 1, 2013)
 - The following Imam's visited us:
 - Shaikh Yusuf Badat (Islamic Foundation of Toronto)
 - Shaikh Asim Rashid (BCMA Director, Vancouver)
 - Shaikh Husni (Winnipeg)
 - Shaikh Mustafa (Regina)
 - Shaikh Shujaat (Vancouver)
 - ✓ Jan 30, 2013 – Lecture – Increasing Connection with Allah SWT (IAS and PMA)
 - ✓ Jan 31, 2013 – Shaykh Yusuf Badat with SMS Students
 - ✓ Jan 31, 2013 – Friday Khutbah IAS – Shaykh Yusuf Badat, Second Jumah Khubah IAS – Shaykh Husni, Friday Khutbah PMA – Shaykh Asim Rashid.
 - ✓ Jan 31, 2013 – Dinner @ IAS with visiting Imams and guests from the Saskatoon Correctional Service, Police Chief, City Counselors etc. Lecture: Moonsighting in Canada.
 - ✓ Feb 1, 2013 – Lectures – Fajr and Maghrib Prayer times in Canada; Role of Women in Islam; and Islamic Financing

3.7 Website

- On my website, www.imamilyas.com I post informative Articles and updates daily and I have gotten various phone calls from people who have come across the website and refer to it on a daily basis, Alhamdulillah.
- I have gotten over 200 emails pertaining to queries from many people. I answer these questions myself, along with the help of the experts in this field.

4. COMMUNITY SERVICES

4.1 *Visits to IAS*

Important Visits to the IAS by Non-Muslim Groups:

Mar 14, 2013	Saskatoon Correctional Centre Chaplin Group
April 3, 2013	Red willow Center Saskatoon
April 9, 2013	Saint Marks Catholic School (Grades 7-8)
April 16, 2013	Bishop Donald Bolen from Catholic Pastoral Center & Group
May 12 2013	Rev. Dr. Deborah Tanasiecuk Regional Chaplain, Prairies
May 22 2013	Social service, open-door, & principal of Mount Royal Colligate.
Nov 28, 2013	Mount Royal Collegiate (Grade 12)
Dec 2013	Bedford Road Collegiate
Jan 14, 2014	Spiritual Care class at St. Paul's Hospital

4.2 *Invited as a Guest Speaker*

Invited Presentations given to the following groups:

Jun 15, 2013	Valley United Church
Oct 26, 2013	407-Kucey Cres
Oct 31, 2013	Mount Royal Collegiate
Nov 13 2013	Islamic Association of Lloydminster
Nov 17, 2013	Royal University Hospital, Spiritual and Cultural Care.
Nov 22, 2013	Islamic Association of Lloydminster
Dec 9, 2013	Frances Morrison Library, Panel discussion "What role faith has in a healthy pluralistic society"
Dec 10, 2013	City Centre Church, Christian/Muslim interconnections

Dec 16, 2013

St. Paul's Hospital, Spiritual and Cultural Care

Dec 30 – Jan 5, 2014

Islamic Centre of New Brunswick, Saint John.

4.3 Nikkah Services

Twenty two (22) marriages were performed in the year 2013/14. Islamic Sharia rituals were performed and everything has been legally documented.

4.4 Islamic Counselling

Members of the community were provided with counselling services on the following dates:

	Day	Month
Year 2013	9	April
	8	June
	18	August
	10	November
	12	December
	13	January
Year 2014		

4.5 Marital Disputes

Marital Disputes were addressed on the following dates:

	Day	Month
Year 2013	17	April
	19	April
	11	June
	21	June
	15	August
	19	October
	14	November
	22	December

4.6 Inauguration Ceremonies

- Family visits include new born baby azan/Iqama, Tahneek and inauguration of new homes and businesses.
- Over 12 visits at RUH for congratulating families on their new born and making Dua for them, upon their request

4.7 New Comers to Saskatoon

- Helped many international students and new families in adjusting to Saskatoon.

5. CONCLUSION

I wish to thank all of the community members of Saskatoon and IAS Board for a wonderful year. Special thanks to president of IAS and religious affair Director for all their support. Insha Allah this New Year will prove to be rather exciting as I am planning to continue with some of the programs held in the past year with certain modifications.



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www.imamilyas.com