



**NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF CANADIAN MUSLIMS**

Your Voice. Your Future.

August 31, 2016

BY MAIL & E-MAIL: justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau PC, MP
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister:

Re: RCMP uniform accommodation and Government official terminology change

On behalf of the National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM), we would like to thank the Government of Canada for two recent announcements that have not gone unnoticed by many Canadians.

First, we appreciate the recent announcement that the RCMP will be permitting women who choose to wear the hijab to serve in the force.

Second, we welcome the government-wide decision to adopt the term “Daesh” when referring to the terrorist organization commonly referred to as ISIS or ISIL.

We believe that the decision by the RCMP, as Canada’s national police service, represents a natural evolution for Canadian policing. We hope this example will be emulated by other police services across the country. As you know, the Canadian Muslim population is growing and this decision will also help reflect the richness and diversity of our country as well as open up career options for minority women.

We further applaud the government for showing leadership in determining that Daesh is the most accurate and appropriate term to describe the terrorist group that calls itself the Islamic State. We believe this decision will have an important impact in ensuring that this gang of criminals is not provided the legitimacy it craves by referring to it as “Islamic” or as a “State”. This decision also helps to counter the terror group’s false narratives, and further helps to distance our communities from its barbarous actions. This is vital to promoting social cohesion in Canada.

At our organization, we remain committed to supporting the government in its review of the national security portfolio. We agree with the Minister of Public Safety that an overhaul is necessary in order to ensure that civil liberties and security are not treated as a zero sum game. To that end, a summary of the recommendations by the NCCM and others was sent to the Public Safety minister on March 10, 2016. We attach those same recommendations to this letter. We hope that these will inform the government's anticipated consultations on *the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2015*.

NCCM urges you to take an approach that demonstrates a commitment to protect national security by upholding human rights and rejecting the false dichotomy of rights or security.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Government of Canada and providing the NCCM's expertise on the pressing issues facing our country.

Yours sincerely,



Ihsaan Gardee
Executive Director



Kashif A. Ahmed, J.D.
Board Chair

CC: The Honourable Ralph Goodale PC, MP
Minister of Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness