



THE MOSAIC DISPATCH

SUMMER 2009

MAPPING CANADA'S SUDANESE DIASPORA

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In early June, the Mosaic Institute began work on a major research project in collaboration with the Sudan Task Force at Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT). At DFAIT's request, Mosaic is developing a "smart map" of the Sudanese diaspora in Canada.

Canada spends almost \$200 million annually in Sudan.

Equipped with a greater understanding not only of the demographics of the Sudanese diaspora across Canada, but also with an in-depth analysis of the specialized knowledge and policy priorities of its membership, DFAIT anticipates that this "smart map" will help its officials to make the decisions they must grapple with daily.

Mosaic has retained Mahgoub Khair as the lead researcher on the project. Mr. Khair immigrated to Canada from Saudi Arabia just over two years ago. He lived and worked as an economic development consultant in Saudi Arabia for almost twenty years after a successful career at home in Sudan. Mr. Khair is assisted by Mosaic's Program and Research Associate, Mike Morden. Together they are embarking on a series of consultations that will take them to other Canadian prov-

inces and to Sudanese-Canadian communities across Ontario. Along with a review of statistics and academic writing, and the use of survey instruments, these consultations are expected to reveal a growing and diversified diaspora with the capacity to greatly enhance the quality of Canada's contribution to peace and development throughout Sudan.

"The Mosaic Institute is extremely pleased to have been asked to undertake this research for the Department of Foreign Affairs. We believe it points to the department's recognition of the potential for Canada's Sudanese diaspora to inform and enrich Canada's policies towards Sudan," said John Monahan, Mosaic's Executive Director. He further expressed Mosaic's expectation that the approach being used in developing this "smart map" can later be applied to research related to other diaspora communities in Canada.

This project continues Mosaic's involvement with issues pertaining to Sudan. In 2008, it collaborated with the Centre for the Study of Human Rights at New York's Columbia University to develop a post-conflict development strategy for Darfur and co-hosted a conference at the

American University of Cairo to share the results of that research (See *The Mosaic Dispatch*, Winter 2008).

The current project for DFAIT is expected to wrap up in early fall, at which time Mosaic will publish its "Smart Map" report.



Mr. Mahgoub Khair, Project Lead.

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Mosaic Institute: What We Do

The Mosaic Institute is an action-oriented think tank that harnesses the connections, knowledge and resources of Canada's ethnocultural communities to advance Canadian solutions and promote peace and development in conflict-ridden or under-developed parts of the world.

A VISIT WITH... CHARLES S. COFFEY, O.C.

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ADVISORY COUNCIL, THE MOSAIC INSTITUTE

What led to your involvement with the Mosaic Institute?

I had worked with Vahan on the Magna International/Red Cross/RBC project in Louisiana following Katrina, plus he and I share a common interest in the creation of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Vahan and others associated with Mosaic also knew of my passion for and commitment to global diversity.

Why do you think the work of the Mosaic Institute is important?

I believe Carol Goar of the Toronto Star captured the essence of this question in her "Globalizing the Canadian way" story about the Mosaic Institute on March 23, 2007. In part she wrote: "One of the most liberating discoveries immigrants make when they come to Canada is that old enmities don't matter here. They can talk to people they shunned in their homeland. They can work and socialize with people their forebears spurned. They can reach across ethnic, racial and religious divides that once seemed unbridgeable. If an Armenian like himself (Vahan Kololian) could get along with Turks in Canada, maybe they could help facilitate a dialogue in their ancestral lands. If Christians and Muslims could be friends here, maybe they could pass on what they'd learned."

What skills, knowledge and experience do you bring to Mosaic's Advisory Council?

For most of my adult life I have been involved in communities and community-building across our great country. Community leadership is a passion for me—through my work at RBC, the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, Aboriginal Human Resource Council, the National Committee of Aga Khan Foundation Canada and the Canadian Centre for Diversity (CCD), I have made it my business to reach out to people in all walks of life, understand cultures, forge relationships, build bridges and speak up about issues that need a stronger voice and action plan.

I take great pride that the six-part speakers' series – Building Bridges in Canada: New Perspectives on People and Peace is being presented jointly by the Mosaic Institute and the CCD.

What do you consider the most pressing foreign policy challenges and opportunities facing Canada right now?

Given the complex nature of our national and international environment, Canada's emphasis on prosperity and employment, the protection of our security as part of a sound global framework, and the promotion of Canadian values and culture are key priorities, challenges and

opportunities.

At the same time, there is a pressing need for an integrated approach in which diplomacy, security and sustainable development can work in tandem to support Canadian goals.

What possible role do you see for the Mosaic Institute in crafting appropriate responses to those challenges and opportunities?

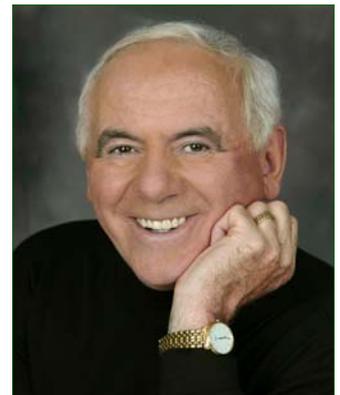
Mosaic seeks to help solve problems, rather than simply study them. We are committed to improving Canada's foreign policy-making process by encouraging the participation of "citizen experts" from around the world who now call Canada their home. Our role includes helping to identify and promote such expertise, and helping to translate it into practical advice and concrete action. We also broker dialogues between or within communities beset by longstanding conflicts, and help them to refocus their energies towards enhancing Canada's contribution to global peace and development.

Where would you like to see the Mosaic Institute in five years?

Mosaic can be a model to the world. By tapping our diversity advantage, we get input from multi-sector groups, we

"A Visit With..."

is a recurring feature of the *Mosaic Dispatch* in which members and friends the Mosaic Institute discuss their perspectives on Mosaic's vision and work.



Charles S. Coffey, O.C.
Member of the Mosaic Institute's
Board of Directors and Advisory
Council

establish circles of influence, we pursue partnerships, we get information into the right channels and hands, we make Mosaic a well-known and respected commodity and we measure what we do.

Ultimately, we hope that our leadership work finds its way into the minds of government decision-makers, and pervade Canada's foreign policy. We also hope that Canadians far and wide will seek out Mosaic as a safe and trusted source for concrete knowledge, support and action.

DIASPORA DIGEST: “MAKING PEACE PERSONAL” IN THE MIDDLE EAST

On June 3rd, the Mosaic Institute and the Canadian Centre for Diversity played host to a panel entitled “Making Peace Personal” at the University of Toronto’s Munk Centre. Evan Solomon, of CBC News, moderated the evening’s discussion.

This was the third installment in the five-part speakers’ series entitled *Building Bridges in Canada: New Perspectives on People and Peace*. The series is seeking to foster greater mutual understanding and a joint commitment to peacebuilding between the business and community leadership of Toronto’s Arab community and the city’s Jewish diaspora.

The panel was comprised of individuals from organizations that use ordinary experiences to foster peacebuilding. *Seeds of Peace*, a U.S.-

based charitable organization, brings together youth from conflict areas at a summer camp in Maine. The Toronto-based *Canadian International Scientific Exchange Program* (CISEPO) promotes exchanges between medical students and healthcare professionals, and delivers community health programs across the Middle East.

Janet Wallach, the President Emeritus of Seeds of Peace, discussed the challenge of building trust between their teenaged campers. She reported that they are typically terrified on the first night they arrive at camp because they are literally sleeping beside their “enemy.” As time unfolds, participants begin to communicate their grievances with each other and to cultivate friendships through team-building activities.

There is a similar spirit of

cooperation underlying the work of CISEPO. In 1995, the late King Hussein of Jordan asked Toronto’s Dr. Arnold Noyek to start a public health initiative where Arab and Israeli health professionals could learn and work together. Since then, CISEPO has grown in many directions, and is now an award-winning organization delivering health-related training and life-changing medical services to people of all faiths and cultures throughout the Middle East.

Although both organizations are from the grassroots, they both also cooperate with regional governments whose citizens participate in their peacebuilding programs so as to reduce the likelihood that such citizens will suffer reprisals.

The key lesson from June 3rd was that fostering peace is

MOSAIC WELCOMES SUMMER INTERNS

This summer, the Mosaic Institute welcomed its first interns to its head office.

Maya Fernandez is entering her second year at Guelph University in the Criminal Justice and Public Policy program. She is the recipient of the Canadian Merit Scholarship Loran Award, which funds four years of undergraduate study and summer work experiences.

Mike Morden has a Masters

degree in Political Science from the University of Toronto (U of T), and will begin a PhD there in September focusing on ethnic conflict resolution and reconciliation in divided societies.

Maya and Mike have been involved in all aspects of Mosaic’s work. As Maya noted, “This has been a complete introduction to the world of public policy.”

Mike continues his involve-

ment with Mosaic this fall when he becomes the Coordinator of the first student chapter of the Institute, “UofMosaic Toronto”, now a registered student club at the U of T’s St. George campus.

Executive Director John Monahan reports that “the contributions of Mike and Maya to our work have been stellar, and we hope to expand the role of interns at Mosaic going forward.”

DIASPORA DIGEST

The Mosaic Institute works to bring together Canadian diaspora communities whose countries of origin have conflict. Each edition of the Mosaic Dispatch focuses on one of the dialogues in which the Mosaic Institute has been active.

everybody’s responsibility, and is not solely the purview of governments. Seeds of Peace and CISEPO challenge us all to examine our own lives to identify those means within our own control that can be used to build bridges between people and communities.

The next session of “Building Bridges in Canada” will be held on Wednesday, September 16. A panel of leading scholars from Canada, the US and the UK will join moderator Margaret MacMillan to provide a “snapshot” of the current opportunities for peace in the Middle East.



Mosaic Institute interns, Maya Fernandez and Mike Morden

For information on becoming a Mosaic intern, please write to: info@mosaicinstitute.ca

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Please send any comments or suggestions to "info@mosaicinstitute.ca".

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H A R N E S S I N G C A N A D A ' S D I V E R S I T Y F O R P E A C E A N D D E V E L O P M E N T A B R O A D

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Getting it Done

The Mosaic Institute is seeing fresh attitudes and new hope for the resolution of old conflicts reflected in the words and behaviours of many of the ethnocultural communities with which it works.

This seems to reflect a larger trend in geopolitics. Whether it is Bill Clinton visiting North Korea and opening a channel previously closed to dialogue, or Barack Obama pledging to build a new relationship with Iran, a new era of pragmatism may be replacing the ideology-driven era of the past.

We hope that this same spirit of pragmatism will soon bring

Israel and Palestine back to the negotiating table to carve out a workable and peaceful solution to their ongoing dispute. The failure to do so would provide fodder to the extremists who thrive when diplomacy fails.

Our "Building Bridges in Canada" speakers' series, focused on the Middle East, is one attempt to engage Arab and Jewish Canadians in constructive dialogue. To date, we feel we have done a respectable job of bringing folks together to be challenged by stimulating and informative speakers. Ultimate success, however, will be measured in the elimination of silos still separating

these communities, and in the emergence of a new, pragmatic focus on peacebuilding. If nothing else, the series has reminded us that we have great potential to contribute to the cause of peace in the Middle East, both as Canadians and as members of interested diaspora communities.

As we prepare for the fall sessions of the Speaker Series, we are hopeful that this new era of pragmatism – a simple commitment to "getting it done" – will be adopted by nations and diaspora communities who can bring peace to the Middle East.



Vahan Kololian
Chairman,
The Mosaic Institute

Opportunities with the Mosaic Institute

Mosaic is currently welcoming internship applications by current postsecondary students and recent graduates.

In addition, Mosaic offers many volunteer opportunities for people of all ages.

For more information, please write to: info@mosaicinstitute.ca