

## City Mayor celebrates community and diversity at annual Stampede Breakfast

**July 8, 2011 – Calgary, AB** – For over 26 years, the Calgary Ismaili Muslim Community has celebrated Calgary's heritage and western traditions with their annual Stampede pancake breakfast, tying it to the needs of the larger community of Calgary. "The Stampede Breakfast is a great opportunity to show our hospitality and the pride we take in being Calgarians. It is also an opportunity to show our commitment to the community of Calgary," President Mohamud Zaver of the Calgary Ismaili Muslim Community says.

In the second year of its multi-year partnership with United Way of Calgary and Area, this year's breakfast will once again be raising funds to support the High School Achievement project which consists of an online Back to School Navigator and a High School Bursary Fund.

According to Zaver, "the Ismaili community is passionate about helping youth develop the skills and knowledge they need to reach their full potential. This year's theme 'Imagine my Potential,' celebrates and recognizes the powerful role early childhood education plays in building the foundation necessary for youth to succeed."

The High School Bursary Fund and On-Line Back to School Navigator were established to support youth in navigating and accessing education, with the ultimate means of completing their education and building a solid foundation towards lifelong success.

United Way President Ruth Ramsden-Wood highlighted the importance of the project funds from the breakfast will support, and referred back to research completed by United Way and released in the form of a formal report with recommendations surrounding vulnerable youth and what can be done to remove barriers for this particular population. "From our research we know that one of the most significant ways we can support our city's youth is to make it easier for them to stay in school and return to school. This partnership is a big step in the right direction."

"This is our second year working with United Way and we have already seen the impact that we have made in the community," adds Zaver. "Together, we have been able to bring awareness to this issue and help instigate change so youth have the opportunity to live healthy and fulfilling lives."

Ramsden-Wood added that the Ismaili Muslim Community is a model community in its capacity to come together and create positive and lasting change, in thanking them for the partnership and the work the Community's volunteers have undertaken in support of United Way.

Jeff Selby, of Calgary law-firm Parlee McLaws, a gold level sponsor of this year's breakfast, said it is important to support community-based work. "The partnership between the United Way and the Calgary Ismaili Community, and its program aimed at our young people, reflects what is truly great about this city. It is imperative that we all fully support this philanthropic undertaking, toward effecting positive change by early intervention."

**Media interviews and photographic opportunities with the President of United Way and the President of the Ismaili Muslim Community, will be available at the breakfast event - Saturday, July 9 with a formal program commencing at 8 am. It will be held at the Ismaili Muslim Community's Jamatkhana and Centre (1128 – 45th Avenue N.E.). The float, which won best cultural entry at the Calgary Stampede Parade, will be showcased at the breakfast event.**

For more information on United Way's work in the community log onto [www.calgaryunitedway.org](http://www.calgaryunitedway.org)



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