



Dear Manitoba educators,

In the spring of 2022, the Manitoba Islamic Association (MIA) released its report, "Friendly Manitoba: Community Experiences with Islamophobia." One of the report's key findings was the prevalence of Islamophobic experiences in educational settings. Accordingly, 43% of the research participants reported having encountered Islamophobia within Manitoba classrooms.

Motivated by these results, we have crafted a virtual toolkit to equip Manitoba educators with the essential resources to address Islamophobia in their school communities. This toolkit goes beyond merely addressing the issue; it also aims to enhance educators' understanding of the faith and culture of Muslim students, their families. Importantly, it has been tailored to be practical and applicable in Manitoba classrooms, following a Culturally Relative Pedagogy approach while being deeply rooted in the Anti-bias, Anti-racist (ABAR) framework.

The toolkit encompasses a wide array of components, including:

- a) An educator's reading list featuring recommended readings on Islam, Islamophobia, and Inclusive pedagogy.
- b) Five lesson plans that celebrate diversity and highlight the Muslim identity.
- c) English Literature suggestions featuring Muslim protagonists, appropriate for K-12 students.
- d) Virtual resources shedding light on Islam and the experiences of Muslim women.
- e) Resources related to Ramadan and Eid celebrations, including creative craft ideas.
- f) Community resources, ranging from Islamic NGOs to halal stores in Manitoba, providing support for educators when addressing the needs of their Muslim students and their support system both within and beyond the classroom.
- g) Additional resources that delve into the topics of Islamophobia and Inclusive Education.

The Manitoba Islamic Association is further offering two workshops intending to eradicate Islamophobia within Manitoba classrooms. The first workshop, "Celebrating Diversity; Towards Inclusive Education: Supporting Muslim Students," focuses on the Islamic faith, delivering valuable insights for educators and school staff on effectively supporting Muslim students, their families and caregivers. In contrast, the second workshop, "Celebrating Diversity; Towards Inclusive Education: From Theory to Praxis," delves into the phenomenon of Islamophobia and provides practical recommendations and resources for creating an inclusive learning environment. We extend a special invitation to Muslim educators interested in receiving training to implement these workshops within their school communities independently. Please refer to the attached visual for contact details if you wish to participate.

To access the toolkit, please follow this link: [Embracing Diversity in Manitoba Education – Educational K-12 Toolkit \(miaonline.org\)](https://www.miaonline.org/Embracing-Diversity-in-Manitoba-Education-Educational-K-12-Toolkit)

In the coming weeks, the Manitoba Islamic Association plans an independent launch event, during which we will present the toolkit to the broader community. If you are interested in attending our virtual launch or have any inquiries regarding the toolkit, please do not hesitate to contact us at evdoxia.sotiriadou@miaonline.org.



We remain committed to fostering an inclusive, diverse, and equitable educational environment in Manitoba, and we thank you for your dedication to this important cause.

Sincerely,

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