

Media Contacts

Muslim Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (MANAL)

Phone: 709-754-7526

Email: manal@manal.ca

Gobhina Nagarajah (Event Organizer)

Email: gobhina.n@gmail.com

St. John's Muslims "gratefully welcome" fellow Canadians who wish to show solidarity during Friday prayers

In conjunction with similar events across the country, an event in support of the Muslim community in St. John's will be taking place on Friday, February 3, 2017. The event, created via Facebook and called [Human Shield - Protect our Mosques St. John's, NL](#) invites people to gather and form a protective circle around the local Masjid Al-Noor mosque during Friday prayers, as a symbol of support and solidarity for the Muslim community.

To date, over 1000 people have confirmed that they are attending.

The local Muslim community, represented by the Muslim Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (MANAL), has welcomed this event with open arms.

"As Muslim Canadians living in Newfoundland and Labrador, we gratefully welcome the kind support and solidarity of the members of our broader community. It is consoling to know that our pain is sincerely shared across the province, our home, and beyond. In this context, we greatly appreciate the community gathering to form a human shield around our local mosque this Friday early afternoon," said a spokesperson for MANAL.

Gobhina Nagarajah and Remzi Cej, who initially created and are working with MANAL to organize the event, say that "this event was created so that the St. John's community could express solidarity with, and love for, their Muslim neighbours, friends, colleagues and family. This past Sunday marked one of the most horrific acts of hatred experienced in modern Canada's history. Six unsuspecting Muslim men were shot to death while finishing their evening prayers in a Quebec City mosque. They were targeted because they were Muslim. Now is a time to be vigilant, fight hatred and Islamophobia, and put meaning behind the words 'inclusivity' and 'diversity'."

As people gather to show their support on Friday, the community kindly asks that as supporters arrive, they park their vehicles in the neighboring areas, or wherever parking is allowed, as they would like to prioritize their small parking lot for the congregation. Alternatively, in order to minimize the need for parking space, the community suggests that people consider using alternative ways of commuting, like taking public buses, carpooling, or arranging someone to drop them off.

Friday's Schedule

12:15- Supporters may begin to gather outside the mosque (due to limited capacity, the inside of the mosque will be reserved for the congregation only, with the exception of some women and small children being allowed into the lady's prayer hall, space permitting)

1:00- Brief greeting and thank you at the main entrance from Dr. Mansoor Pirzada, President of MANAL

1:10- Friday sermon and prayer begins (during this time supporters are requested to remain silent as they form the human shield, and arrangements will be made for the sermon to be heard outside)

1:35- A funeral prayer for victims of the Quebec City incident

1:45- Congregation will start to leave the mosque to go back to their respective schools and workplaces (during this time supporters are asked to cooperate with mosque volunteers to minimize congestion)