

Sakeenah Canada To Open First Transitional Shelter for Muslim Women and Children in Newfoundland and Labrador

This also marks Sakeenah Canada's ninth transitional home across Canada.

ST. JOHN'S - APRIL 23, 2024 – Sakeenah Canada is proud to announce the opening of its ninth transitional home, but the first of its kind in Newfoundland and Labrador. The St. John's shelter will provide a safe and accessible housing option for vulnerable Muslim women and children facing domestic violence and homelessness in the area.

[The province of Newfoundland and Labrador reports](#) that of the 217,900 women over the age of 15 residing in Newfoundland and Labrador, approximately 108,950 (1 in 2) will experience at least one incident of sexual or physical violence throughout their lifetime.

“The gap in services available to Muslim women and children in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador is something that needs our attention,” said Nazish Tayab, Executive Director at Sakeenah Canada. “With the growing number of immigrant and Muslim families in the area, the need for culturally and religiously sensitive programming is crucial. Residents of our St. John's home will have access to essential services and shelter, as well as access to remote caseworkers offering services in different languages.”

Sakeenah Canada was founded to fill a gap in the system; Muslim women were looking for refuge and safety but mainstream shelters have done little to address their religious and cultural needs. Beyond the transitional shelter program, Sakeenah Canada offers remote casework and mental health services nationwide, and since inception has helped over 17,000 people.

Sakeenah Canada is proud to do the work we do, but it would not be possible without the support of our community. An honourable mention to our partners: the Northpine Foundation, Human Concern International, and AMAL Youth and Family Centre for working with us to bring this important project to fruition. Through the establishment of the St. John's home, we hope to offer a safe place for progressive independence by becoming a stepping stone for Muslim women and their families as they work towards becoming thriving members of our community.

About Sakeenah Canada

Sakeenah Canada, a national charitable organization, was founded in 2018 in response to a gap in culturally and religiously sensitive services available for women and children facing domestic violence and homelessness. Since then, our services have expanded to include mental health therapy and counseling. Sakeenah has also started The People's Market, a food program that helps combat food insecurity, and has become the first licensed foster care agency for Muslim children in all of North America. We currently operate nine transitional homes across Canada: Toronto, Brampton, London, Montreal, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Regina, and St. John's - including the first long-term housing program for Muslim women and children in Canada in Windsor, Ontario.

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