



Mayor Rick Chrest

Phone (204)729-2202 or 2201, Fax (204)729-0975, Email mayor@brandon.ca
City Hall - 410 - 9th Street, Brandon, Manitoba R7A 6A2

March 24, 2017

Reference letter to Canada Revenue Agency with respect to The Brandon Islamic Centre

To whom it may concern:

I am pleased to provide a letter of reference with respect to an application by the Brandon Islamic Centre to seek charitable status. In my view, this organization is a local, cultural and religious organization, which may raise funds to enhance the culture of their Islamic faith and members, along with participation in other charitable activities that they may undertake to contribute to the overall good of our community.

I have met with the leadership of this organization from time to time and have attended their cultural events. I must say they are a very respectable organization who are doing a marvelous service for our community, principally in helping to welcome and settle people of Muslim background to our City. Brandon has become an extremely multicultural city over the past decade having welcomed more than 7200 new foreign residents of many faiths and cultures. Organizations such as the Brandon Islamic Centre greatly enhance our ability to attract and welcome new people to our workforce, as investors in our community and as professionals in our health care sector, our University, our Community College and in many industries and businesses.

I would also like to clarify some misunderstanding about the Brandon Islamic Centre referenced in the City of Brandon's Cemetery Masterplan as a "stakeholder". Of course, in our context, the City regularly consults with citizens, organizations, special interest groups, etc. with respect to numerous planning or programming considerations for which we would commonly classify these groups as "stakeholders". In this specific instance, the Islamic Centre provided helpful advice and consultation with respect to the expansion of our cemetery, particularly with regard to our developing a section that will accommodate the cultural needs of the burial of Muslim people. They have absolutely no ownership, partnership or shareholder position in the cemetery in any other sense other than as individual residents and taxpayers of the municipality, owner of the cemetery.

If you require further elaboration or more information about this matter or this organization, I would be happy to accommodate.

Sincerely,

Rick Chrest
Mayor, City of Brandon

RC/pm