



# Knox United Church

*United by God's Love & Justice, Affirmed in a Community of Diversity*

5 December 2023

City of Brandon  
Attention: Mayor Jeff Fawcett  
410-9th Street  
Brandon, MB R7A 6A2

Dear Mayor Fawcett,

I write on behalf of the Brandon Islamic Centre Inc. in support of their application for the extension of the City of Brandon water and sewer services to their planned development at the SE corner of 1st Street and Patricia Avenue.

The Brandon Islamic Centre is an essential asset to the religious diversity of Brandon and the Westman region. It is a vital community of faith that sustains our Muslim sisters and brothers - a growing population here. I have attended meetings and prayer services at the current location on 10th Street. They outgrew that location years ago; the current plan is long overdue. I am aware that they hold regular prayer services and offer religious education for children, youth, and adults.

Our Brandon Refugee Committee members work closely with the Islamic community in our work to provide support and sponsorship for refugees and newcomers. Both current and past presidents of *BIC* and its members have provided vital support as our community has organized to assist in creating a home for these new Canadians. The Islamic Centre serves as a spiritual and cultural oasis for these families, and I have first-hand experience of seeing what a difference the *BIC* makes in their lives. *BIC* members have been actively partnering with us to provide clothing, household items, transportation, and counselling as refugee families arrive.

Several international students from Brandon University and the Assiniboine Community College self-identify as Muslim and actively participate at the Islamic Centre. The Centre is also involved in promoting religious education about Islam with its neighbours in the Westman region, and they have hosted multiple religious communities at their weekend events.

It is my privilege to write on behalf of the Brandon Islamic Centre Inc., and my community hopes their application will be granted.

Respectfully,

Rev. Craig S. Miller, Minister

cc: Mark Allard, Ron Bowels, Dr. Abidullah, Brandon Islamic Centre Inc.

451 18th Street, Brandon, MB R7A 5A9 - [knoxchurch@wcgwave.ca](mailto:knoxchurch@wcgwave.ca) - 204.727.6975  
[www.knoxunitedbrandon.ca](http://www.knoxunitedbrandon.ca) - [craigatknox@wcgwave.ca](mailto:craigatknox@wcgwave.ca)