

Joe Ball  
48 Kirkham Cres. Brandon Manitoba R7A 6J3

To: His Worship, Jeff Fawcett, Mayor of Brandon  
RE: Brandon Islamic Centre Development & Planning

Dear Mr. Fawcett,

I am writing in support of the recent application from the Brandon Islamic Centre for the extension of city water and sewer services for their planned development at the South East corner of 1<sup>st</sup> St. and Patricia Ave.

Although the lot falls within the bounds of the RM of Cornwallis, the Islamic Centre serves the needs of a wide and growing community of Muslim residents in our city and indeed in the Westman region. The rapid growth of our city over the last twenty years has brought people here from around the world, and many are members of the Islamic community, or Ummah. This community has long outgrown their current location on 10<sup>th</sup> St.

As someone working in the health care sector here in Brandon, I have often turned to the membership of the Brandon Islamic Centre to provide assistance with both the Spiritual and the material needs of patients in my care. I know something of their commitment to community, not only to the Islamic community, but to our entire community here in Westman. Their members are our doctors, our teachers, our co-workers and our neighbours.

The Islamic Centre now count among their number hundreds of adult members, and many more too young for formal membership. With Brandon University, ACC, and the Regional Health Centre, we see a regular influx of students, faculty, and health care professionals who rely on the Brandon Islamic Centre not only for religious services, but also for community connections as newcomers to our region.

With some specific dietary needs inherent in the faith, the Brandon Islamic Centre plan to build into the new facility a hall and a commercial kitchen. This would be used to prepare dishes for various festivals and would meet the needs for community gatherings. Aside from a space for worship, the hall would be used to host receptions, weddings, and funerals within the community. Given the relative youth of the membership, they are hoping to be able to house on site a daycare to meet the needs of young families.

The Islamic Community is one faith, but gathered from a wide range of nations. The multi-cultural nature of this community means that the Brandon Islamic Centre would also be able to serve as a host site for a range of cultural festivities, such as the Winter Festival, which showcase multicultural Brandon.

I believe that the development of this property, enabled by the extension of water and sewer services from our city, would bring real benefit to all of us here in Brandon. It is for that reason I write in support of their application for this extension of City services.

Thank you for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Joe Ball