



Multicultural  
Council of  
Saskatchewan

---

*From Many Peoples Strength*

## **2016 MCoS Multicultural Honours**

### **2016 Betty Szuchewycz Award**

#### ***Faeeza Moolla***

Faeeza immigrated to Regina from South Africa 18 years ago to start her newcomer journey. She used her experience of growing up in a country rife with apartheid restrictions, to engage in multiculturalism and build bridges across cultures and faiths.

To achieve the stream of Cultural Continuity, Faeeza arrived in Regina and immediately sought out people of common cultural and religious backgrounds to feel at home. She volunteered for activities within her community, ranging from potlucks to religious festivals to children's and family activities, with the sole purpose of giving new people a home. She has helped families in times of need, be it victims of fire, orphans left unsupported, or families in need. Faeeza has assisted with events like the Multicultural Bazaar in 2015 to raise awareness of the diversity within the Muslim community. It attracted a large and varied audience.

To carry out the stream of Celebration of Diversity, Faeeza focused on building bridges with other community groups and organizations. She used her connections as a representative of the Islamic Association of Saskatchewan to continuously reach out. She has been actively involved in the Regina Multifaith Forum. She involved herself in events and programs like the Multifaith Fair, the planning committee for an Earth Day presentation at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, a Peace Rally with Regina Peace Council and World Religion Day. Faeeza also spearheaded the Oneness Compassion Mosaic project with community members, youth groups, and the Pasqua Hospital's artist in residence to create a mosaic which hangs in Pasqua Hospital.

Faeza naturally gravitated to work on the stream of Anti-racism. Growing up in South Africa, Faeza challenged racial inequality, fighting against the tyrannical apartheid regime until the free elections in 1994. Here in Saskatchewan, she joined Muslims for Peace and Justice, serving as a member, secretary and, vice-president, and president over the course of ten years. Her mission was to facilitate open discussions about systematic racism. After September 11, 2001, Faeza felt inspired to take action, as a representative of Muslims for Peace and Justice, by actively monitoring the media. She felt it was important to reach out to as many people as she could to dispel stereotypes of Muslims.

In order to facilitate intercultural connections, Faeza implemented a joint Eid Program for community and Government organizations, which was very successful, receiving several accolades. Representing the various organizations she is involved with, Faeza has volunteered on a City Council planning committee and with the Regina Multifaith Forum. Since 2011, she has served as a liaison between Islamic Association of Saskatchewan and media outlets, when comments are needed on different subjects relating to Islam. Since 2014, Faeza has assisted in projects with Regina Food Bank and launched a national Give 30 campaign in Saskatchewan. She initiated a give-back event from the Muslim community for Souls Harbour.

Faeza is a long standing member of the Islamic Association of Saskatchewan and serves as a volunteer bridging gaps and overcoming differences. She also serves as a member on the Islamic History Month Canada Board, allowing her to highlight the benefits of integration to strengthen the community as a whole, without giving up who you are and what you believe. Most recently, being part of the City's core committee involving Regina Open Door Society and other organizations, she has been actively involved in assisting the Syrian Refugees transition to Canadian life. In Faeza's own words: "I believe integration is an important tool of taking the best from everyone and highlighting the different flavours and nuances which make up our unique Canadian society. I believe it's important to assist newcomers to actively integrate."

Due to her significant contributions to the five streams of multicultural work in Saskatchewan, Faeza was invited to be one of 150 community builders in Regina to participate in a national conversation on the future of Canada.