

CANADIAN MUSLIM *WOMEN WHO INSPIRE*

RABIA KHEDR through her work and personal example, promotes a remarkable image of Muslim women in Canada.

She is the mother of four young children, a community activist and leader. As principal consultant of her company, *diversityworx*, she advocates for the social inclusion of minority women and people with disabilities and advises organizations looking to become inclusive and accessible. Rabia is a frequent speaker at events and conferences discussing access and equity issues, Islamophobia and ableism. She also sits on myriad committees of universities, government and non-profit organizations. Among these is the Canadian Association of Muslims with Disabilities (CAMD), an organization that she founded. As a result of her work at CAMD and her ability to articulate the concerns of marginalized groups, mosques and Islamic centres are giving the issue of disability more attention. Rabia hopes that this will lead to more access and support within the community for Muslims with disabilities, and also to the provision of more cultural and spiritual services sensitive to those with disabilities.

Rabia is a community activist in her home town of Mississauga, where she chairs the city's Accessibility Advisory Committee. Recognizing that some traditional women or those with physical differences require alternatives to mainstream programming, she has helped the city develop and offer women-only activities. Additionally, Rabia engages in multi-faith dialogue around disability issues, heightening people's sensitivity to Muslim families and those with disabilities. She is, for example, a frequent



speaker at the Reena Foundation, a Jewish organization providing services to people with disabilities from diverse communities.

Rabia is a well respected community leader, one who is always approachable and forever encouraging women to take on projects that interest them. She leads by example and attracts like-minded women to join her in her efforts. The principles of equality and human rights guide her work. She is a truly admirable Muslim Canadian, responsible for shifting stereotypes about Muslim women, women of colour and people with disabilities.

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