



CCMW

P.O. Box 154, Gananoque, ON K7G 2T7
Tel: (613) 382-2847
www.ccmw.com

Canadian Council of Muslim Women
Conseil canadien des femmes musulmanes

For Immediate Release

Canadian Council of Muslim Women Releases a Comparative Primer on Muslim and Canadian Family Laws

Ottawa, November 17, 2006 – The Canadian Council of Muslim Women (CCMW), will launch the first publication of its kind in Canada, **Muslim and Canadian Family Law: A Comparative Primer**, at its national conference this Saturday, November 18, in Ottawa.

The **Primer** is designed to provide information comparing Muslim and Canadian family laws to a range of audiences, including Muslim women, lawyers, social service providers, students, and the judiciary. The commitment to produce the publication came from the Council's involvement in the campaign to eliminate religious arbitration in family law under Ontario's *Arbitration Act*.

CCMW has also produced easy to use booklets based on the information in the **Primer** for wide distribution across Canada. Booklets are available on the topics of marriage, divorce, domestic contracts, custody and child support, spousal support and division of property, and inheritance.

“This is a critical tool for Muslim women and the legal profession; it should go a long way to help the reader understand the differences between Muslim and Canadian family laws,” explained Professor Lynda Clarke, author of the Muslim family law section of the **Primer**. “I commend CCMW for commissioning this much needed piece of work.” Dr. Clarke is Professor of Religious Studies at Concordia University and has written extensively about women in Islam. Pam Cross, family law practitioner and activist, is the author of the Canadian family law section.

The **Primer** and booklets will be available at the Council's conference, **Canadian Muslim Women at the Crossroads: from Integration to Segregation?**, which is taking place this Saturday, November 18, in Ottawa. For more information about the **Primer**, booklets and the conference, visit the CCMW website at www.ccmw.com.

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Media contacts: Alia Hogben, Executive Director, 613-382-2847, hogben@kingston.net.
Nuzhat Jafri, National Board Member, 416-487-8037, nuzhat.jafri@rogers.com.