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## FOR IMMEDIATE Release

### Muslim-Canadians Mobilize to Mark International Day of Persons with Disabilities with Sermons on Dec. 4: A First in Faith

CAM-D, the Canadian Association of Muslims with Disabilities, receives endorsements from leading Muslim organizations to heighten awareness about disability rights and obligations in the Islamic tradition. CAIR-CAN, Canadian Council of Imams, ICNA Canada, ISNA Canada, MAC and CIC are nationally recognized organizations representing numerous centres who have committed to asking their members to focus on disability on Dec. 4.

“CAIR-CAN is proud to endorse the Canadian Association of Muslims with Disabilities (CAM-D) International Day of Persons with Disabilities Friday sermon initiative. This project, slated for Friday, December 4, 2009 aims to encourage Muslim faith leaders to speak to their congregations on and about the contribution of Muslims with disabilities and the Islamic tradition of disability rights in their weekly sermon,” explains Ihsaan Gardee, Executive Director of CAIR-CAN.

“We as a community have lagged behind on supporting this most valuable group of fellow Muslims, it is time we include our disabled brothers and sisters by acknowledging them, recognizing their strengths and validating their concerns,” remarks Shahina Siddiqui, President of the Winnipeg based Islamic Social Services Association (ISSA) and member of CAM-D’s National Advisory Board.

CAM-D’s special advisor and Deputy Secretary-General of ISNA Canada, Sheikh Abdalla Idris Ali states, “I am personally appealing to you to provide an annual minimum of \$1,000 from your zakat fund

payable to CAM-D as we facilitate access for people with disabilities to learn about Islam and establish long-term services to support Muslims with disabilities who do not have families to assist them.”

“We are hoping to reach a broad spectrum of the community to heighten awareness about accessibility and shift attitudes about people with disabilities. We don’t believe there has been a coordinated effort like this in a faith community. This will be an annual initiative that we anticipate will gain momentum,” comments Rabia Khedr, CAM-D’s Executive Director.

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