PAOC APDC
THE PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES OF CANADA
LES ASSEMBLÉES DE LA PENTECÔTE DU CANADA

mission canada
BECAUSE WE MUST
PARCE QUE NOUS DEVONS

Walking an

EMMAUS ROAD

journey with

MUSLIMS IN CANADA



PAOC THE PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES OF CANADA
APDC LES ASSEMBLÉES DE LA PENTECÔTE DU CANADA

mission canada
BECAUSE WE MUST
PARCE QUE NOUS DEVONS

Walking an EMMAUS ROAD Journey with MUSLIMS in Canada©

has been produced by **The PAOC's Mission Canada Cultural Ministries Priority** to highlight the need for befriending and reaching cross-culturally in our nation. It is produced with the profound *agape'* love of Christ that motivates us to follow Jesus and be obedient to His command, *"Go, make disciples of all nations ('ta ethne' – every ethnicity/language group)..."* Matthew 28:19 (ESV). And we're motivated to take Emmaus Road journeys with those searching in the same way Jesus did in Luke 24, opening Scripture with compassion and grace explaining in all the Scriptures concerning Jesus so that their hearts burn within them!

Neighbours & NEWCOMERS NET WORK

Neighbours & Newcomers Network (NNNetwork)

is the ministry group within Mission Canada for those working in culturally sensitive areas wherein a protected online identity is advantageous not only for the worker but even more for those that we are working with. **NNNetwork workers** reach cross-culturally into the missional gaps in our nation of first-generation newcomers to Canada along with the following second and third generations. We deploy workers into the midst of our culturally diverse communities throughout Canada, reaching in religious groups who will otherwise not seek spiritual guidance from a local church. We seek to go be among, full of grace and truth, just like Jesus. **Scan this QR code to learn more:**

WHO IS NNNETWORK?

© PAOC MISSION CANADA, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

ISLAM

FAST FACTS

FOUNDING:
Islam began in 7th-century Arabia with the Prophet Muhammad, whose teachings spread first in Mecca and Medina. Its early community formed around the belief that Muhammad received God's revelation through the angel Gabriel.

HOLY TEXTS:
The central scripture of Islam is the Qur'an, believed by Muslims to be the literal word of God. Muslims also recognize earlier revealed texts, including the Torah, Psalms, and Gospel, though the Qur'an is viewed as the final and complete revelation. The Qur'an is followed by the Hadiths (traditions) and the Sira (the life of Muhammad) as authoritative texts.

THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE:
Belief in one God, Allah, and emphasizes radical submission to God's will. Core practice is often summarized by the Five Pillars: faith, prayer, charity, fasting during Ramadan, and pilgrimage to Mecca.

MUSLIM POPULATIONS

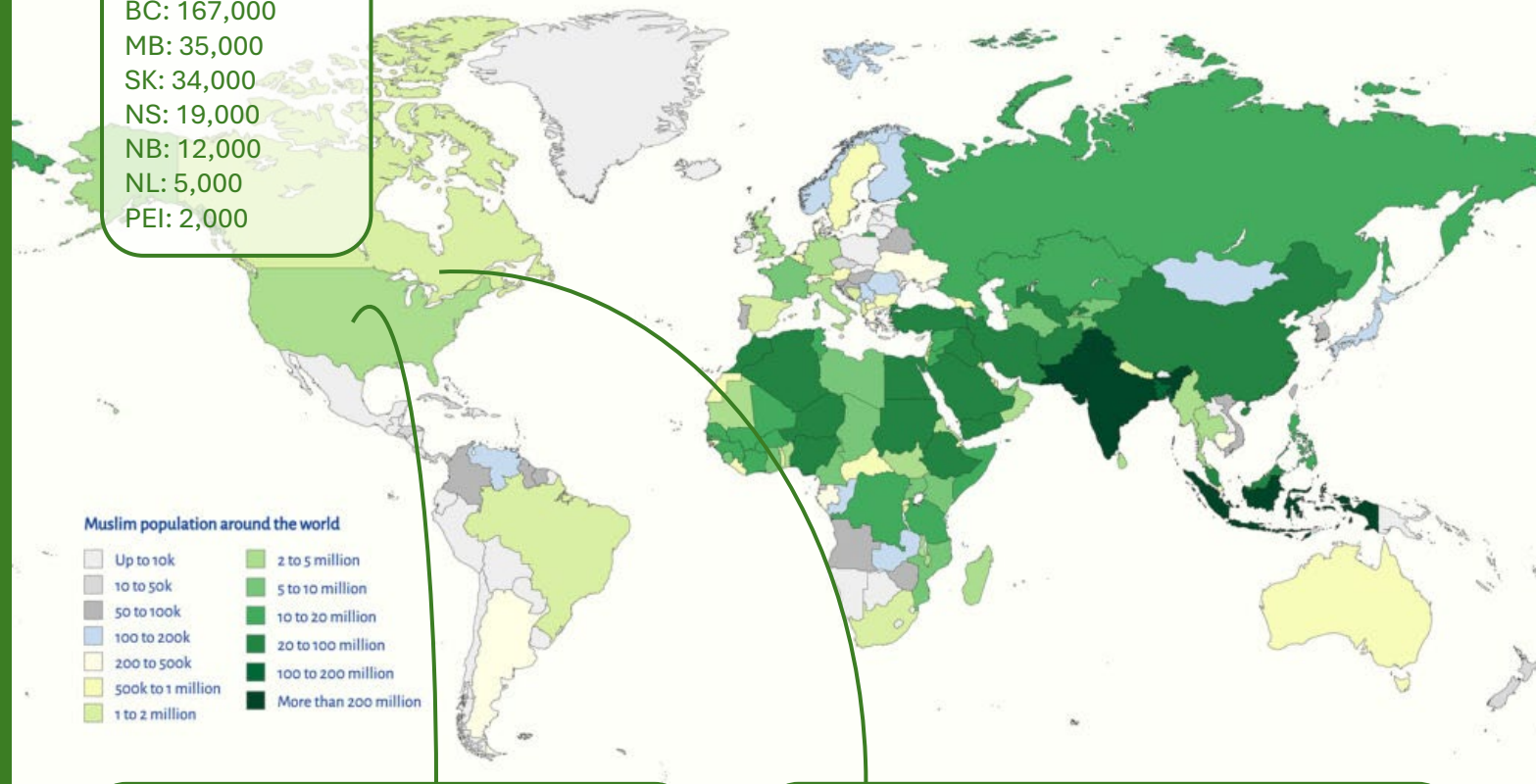
TOTAL ESTIMATED WORLD POPULATION (2026): 2.1 billion

Ontario: 1,255,000
Quebec: 560,000
Alberta: 269,000
BC: 167,000
MB: 35,000
SK: 34,000
NS: 19,000
NB: 12,000
NL: 5,000
PEI: 2,000

Indonesia: 242,700,000
Pakistan: 240,760,000
India: 200,000,000

Bangladesh: 150,800,000
Nigeria: 97,000,000
Egypt: 90,000,000

Turkey: 84,400,000
Iran: 82,500,000
China: 50,000,000



USA: 4.5M, 1.3% of the population

CANADA: 2.4m, 6% of the population

INTRODUCTION

Today, perhaps more than at any other time in history, Christians and Muslims regularly cross paths in everyday life — in Canada and throughout much of the world. Advances in transportation, digital communication, and global connectivity have made the 21st century an age of constant engagement, where people from varied religious and cultural backgrounds meet and interact as part of daily life.

And this is good news for Canadian Christians who are intent on fulfilling the Father's heart, Jesus' command, and the Spirit's promptings:

- I will make you a blessing to all the nations
- You will be my witnesses, in your Jerusalems, in your Judeas and Samarias, and even to those at - and from - the ends of the earth
- *"Go, make disciples of every nation* (Greek = *ethne*, or ethnic group), *baptizing them … teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age,"* Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV).

Why is this significant especially with Muslims worldwide?
Muslim ethnic groups represent 52% of the worlds most unreached and under-reached peoples (JoshuaProject.net).

And God is bringing them to Canada!

While they come to Canada for their own reasons, Paul, by the Spirit, tells us in Acts 17:26-27, that God is bringing them to Canada so that they will hear the gospel… so that you and I will be His witnesses among them!

WE'RE NOT STARTING "IN A VACUUM"…



Muslims have been in the news almost daily for more than 25 years, so none of us starts an Emmaus Road Journey with a Muslim in a vacuum or from scratch, since both politicians and media has been feeding us many portrayals of Muslims. Too often that image is quite negative producing at least suspicion if not outright fear. While, for many, the insights shared in other Emmaus Road Journeys regarding Hindus, Buddhists and Sikhs may be new for us, with Muslims that's just not so.

Yet as the people of God, filled with the Spirit of God, we have a different heart and mind: And we are called to grow in His heart and vision for all peoples, including Muslims. And part of our growth is in the truth that sets us from fear which binds and restrains us from sharing God's liberating and love filled message of Jesus Christ effectively with Muslims!

© PAOC MISSION CANADA, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

What Muslims Believe

Islamic doctrines are often summed up in these six tenets:

1. **Belief in one God (Allah):** Muslims believe God is absolutely one, unique, and without partners.
2. **Belief in angels:** Angels are created beings who obey God and carry out His commands.
3. **Belief in revealed books:** Muslims believe God sent scriptures such as the Torah, Psalms, Gospel, and Qur'an, with the Qur'an as the final revelation.*
4. **Belief in prophets:** Muslims believe God sent prophets to guide humanity, including Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad.
5. **Belief in the Day of Judgment:** Every person will be judged by God for their deeds.
6. **Belief in divine decree:** Muslims believe Allah's knowledge and authority (his Will) cover all things, including all events in human life, even our thoughts, motives and actions.

* Regarding revealed books, it's helpful and vital to note that Muslims' believe a) our scriptures have been corrupted and are thus untrustworthy, and b) that they use their Hadiths (traditions), the Sira (life of the prophet), and Fiqh (Islamic jurisprudence) to establish Sharia (Islamic law) to guide their lives.

What Muslims Practice

Islamic practices are often referred to as the Five Pillars:

1. **SHAHADA** — The declaration of faith that "There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is His (final) messenger."
2. **SALAH** — The ritual prayer performed five times a day. Muslims also practice Du'a, similar to our informal, personal, intimate prayers.
3. **ZAKAT** — Obligatory almsgiving, usually a set portion of one's wealth given to those in need.
4. **SAWM** — Fasting during the month of Ramadan all the daylight hours, even from drinking water. Muslims break their daily fast after the sun has gone down.
5. **HAJJ** — The pilgrimage to Mecca, required once in a lifetime for those who are able in a specific month.

6th? What about **JIHAD?**

Many Muslims both ancient and modern have contended that Jihad is also a pillar of practice, though they vary widely on what it means and how it's conducted.

© PAOC MISSION CANADA, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

WHAT MUSLIMS CELEBRATE: EIDs = FESTIVALS

Eid ul Fitr – Festival at the end of Ramadan

Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan, the month of fasting, and is celebrated with special prayers, meals, gifts, charity, and visits with family and neighbours. Its significance is both spiritual and social: Muslims thank God for helping them complete the fast, and the holiday reinforces community, generosity, and reconciliation after a month of self-discipline.



Eid al-Adha is the "Festival of Sacrifice"

This feast, two months after Ramadan and at the end of the Hajj, commemorates Abraham's willingness to obey God in the sacrifice narrative; it includes special prayers and, in many communities, the ritual sacrifice of an animal with meat shared among family, friends, and the poor. Socially, it is one of the strongest communal moments of the year, emphasizing obedience to God, care for the needy, family connection, and shared celebration across the Muslim world.



A DOCTRINAL COMPARISON & CONTRAST

ISLAMIC TENETS / PILLARS	DESCRIPTION	CHRISTIAN BELIEFS & PRACTICES	DESCRIPTION
God / Allah	One God, absolute oneness.	**God**	One God in Trinity.
Angels	Created beings who serve God.	**Angels**	Created beings who serve God.
Scripture	Qur'an as final revelation.	**Scripture**	Bible as final, authoritative Word.
Prophets	God sent prophets, including Muhammad as the final.	**Jesus Christ**	Unique eternal Son of God, Saviour and Lord.
Judgment	All people face final judgment before Allah.	**Judgment**	Christ will judge the living and the dead.
Divine decree or Will	God's will governs all things.	**Providence**	God sovereignly rules and sustains all things.
Shahada	Confession of faith.	**Faith in Christ**	Personal trust in Jesus for salvation.
Salah	Five daily ritual prayers; Du'a personal prayers.	**Prayer**	Regular personal and corporate prayer.
Zakat	Required almsgiving.	**Giving**	Voluntary tithes and generosity.
Sawm	Fasting all the days of the month of Ramadan.	**Fasting**	Optional spiritual discipline.
Hajj	Pilgrimage to Mecca if able (health and finances).	**Corporate worship**	Church attendance and communion.

SALVATION IN ISLAM VS. CHRISTIAN FAITH

?

How do Muslims look at the issue of "salvation?" Do they have assurance they'll reach paradise? And, what's the difference?

© PAOC MISSION CANADA, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED



SUBMISSION > TAWBAH > MERCY > PARADISE

A CHRISTIAN MIGHT ASK, *"How can I be saved?"* **MUSLIMS OFTEN ASK,** *"How can faithfully submit to Allah and receive His mercy?"*

To connect well with Muslims, we need to understand their patterns of thinking, especially regarding what we'd call the path to salvation. From the above, you'll see that our questions and what informs them differs. Here's a quick take on Muslim thinking in this regard:

In Islam, the central concern is often submission to God (Allah), forgiveness, judgment, and entry into paradise, rather than "salvation" in the specifically Christian sense of being saved from sin through Christ. Key ideas in Islamic teaching include:

- **SUBMISSION TO GOD:** The word Islam itself means "submission" or "surrender" to God's will. A faithful Muslim seeks to obey God through belief and practice.
- **FAITH AND DEEDS:** Salvation is commonly understood as involving both correct belief (iman) and righteous actions. This includes belief in one God, prophets, angels, scripture, the Day of Judgment, and moral living (prayer, charity, fasting, etc.).
- **DIVINE MERCY:** Muslims strongly emphasize God's mercy. Many Muslims would say that no one enters Paradise purely by their own merit, but by God's mercy and forgiveness.
- **JUDGMENT DAY:** Islam teaches a final judgment in which a person's deeds are weighed. Good deeds, repentance, and God's mercy are all significant.
- **REPENTANCE:** A person can turn directly to God for forgiveness (tawbah). There is no priesthood or intermediary required.

Now what about "ASSURANCE?" Can a Muslim know for sure they're going to paradise? While some Islamic scholars disagree, the majority take a position of humility and uncertainty, e.g. *"I hope by Allah's mercy to enter Paradise, but only God knows my final destiny."* Many Muslims are, in fact, quite fearful of Allah, judgment, and this question.

© PAOC MISSION CANADA, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Walking an EMMAUS ROAD Journey with Muslims:

Believers in Jesus can engage Muslims through simple practices with profound impact. These are culturally relevant by being genuine, low/no pressure, life-sharing and loving. Your active, persistent friendship is the bridge for the good news of Jesus!



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS:

Find common ground between Muslim beliefs and practices and ours (there's lots!). Appreciate their moral discipline, striving for peace and to please God. Listen before sharing. Ask lots of questions. Seek to understand their story, family background, their beliefs and why they believe them. Build trust; your friendship builds trust and is the bridge to the good news of Jesus!

CULTURAL LEARNING:

Muslim cultures are often ancient with a rich heritage. If they are newcomers to Canada or have a recent immigrant history, ask them about their journey here. Learn from them and on your own of their national and ethnic background. The more you know, the more you can understand, appreciate and adapt. Being culturally sensitive is being like, and a good ambassador for, Jesus.

SHARE COMPASSIONATELY, PATIENTLY, CONSISTENTLY:

First, pray. Depend on the Holy Spirit rather than persuasive techniques or high-pressure apologetics. Listen deeply and respectfully, and then when sharing, use relational, story-based sharing such as parables and the testimony of your own faith journey. Emphasize the assurance of your salvation, something Muslims lack and desire.

Explain concepts patiently avoiding theological jargon. Emphasize God's love, grace, forgiveness, and personal relationship, even though this will challenge their Islamic beliefs. Let the Holy Spirit use your life witness and words. Highlight Jesus as *Al Masih*, the Messiah, as He is called in the Qur'an, even though they don't know what that means. Share the prophecies about the Messiah and how Jesus fulfills them. Emphasize the love, hope and joy found only in Him. **Do emphasize and pray with your Muslim friends**; ask the Lord to show Himself to them in dreams, visions, miracles and answered prayer. Muslims highly respect prayer and people who shamelessly (and boldly) pray!

Pitfalls to avoid: Don't criticize or mock Islamic beliefs and practices. Don't argue politics—keep the focus on Jesus. Don't assume all Muslims think alike as there are many versions and variations. Don't push toward conversion; relationships and the Holy Spirit's work takes time, and the journey together is worth it.

Remember: While Islam originates from the Middle East, the majority of the world's Muslims are Asian and African, and also come from nearly every country of the world. Thus, there is great ethnic diversity among Muslims.



And, most of all, PRAY!

Join us in prayer for Muslims and all newcomers to Canada, fulfilling the Father's Heart and Jesus' statement, *"My house shall be called a house of prayer for all [ethnos = nations, peoples, ethnicities],"* Mark 11:17, Isaiah 56:7 (ESV). Salvation is a work of the Holy Spirit, and both prayer and witness are our responsibilities to His commissioning of each of us as His imitators.

11 INTERCESSORY POINTS FOR MUSLIMS: "Lord, we pray...

1

... that Christians will love Muslims well and reflect Christ clearly in our daily lives: Let them see You in us!

- John 13:34–35; *"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*
- Luke 22:37-39; *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*
- Matthew 5:43–44; *"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."*

2

... that Muslims will encounter the truth about Jesus through Scripture and our testimony.

- John 3:16–17; *"God sends the Son so the world might be saved through Him."*
- Romans 1:16; *"...the gospel... is the power of God for salvation."*
- Mark 16:15; *"Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."*

© PAOC MISSION CANADA, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

10 INTERCESSORY POINTS FOR MUSLIMS: Lord, we pray...

3

... for the Holy Spirit to open hearts and spiritual eyes to the gospel:

- John 16:8-9, *"And when [the Holy Spirit] comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me..."*
- See also: Titus 3:4-7

4

... that Muslims will have genuine opportunities to read and understand the Bible:

- Romans 10:17; *"Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."*
- 2 Timothy 3:15–16; *"Scripture is able to make you wise for salvation and is God-breathed."*

5

... for peace, safety, and protection for Muslim-background believers who face pressure or persecution:

- Hebrews 13:3; *"Remember those in prison as though in prison with them."*
- 1 Peter 4:12-13; *"...rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed."*

6

... for boldness and wisdom for Christian witnesses among Muslim communities:

- Acts 1:8; the Spirit empowers believers to be witnesses *"to the end of the earth."*
- Ephesians 6:19–20; like Paul, give us the words and the boldness to proclaim the gospel to Muslims.
- 1 Peter 3:15; Help all believers be ready to give an answer *"with gentleness and respect"* to Muslims.

7

... that Muslim seekers will find trustworthy Christian friends and discipleship.

- Matthew 28:19–20; help us make not mere converts, but to *"make disciples"* like You commanded.
- 2 Timothy 2:2; Lord, help us be the *"faithful ones"* who also equip other faithful ones who will likewise equip other faithful disciplers.

8

... that those who come to faith in Christ will remain steadfast:

- Colossians 2:6–7; that they shall be *"rooted and built up in him... established in the faith."*
- Hebrews 10:23–25; that they *"hold fast the confession of hope and not neglect meeting together."*

© PAOC MISSION CANADA, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED



10 INTERCESSORY POINTS FOR MUSLIMS:
Lord, we pray...

9

... for family relationships, so conversations about faith happen with patience and grace and entire Muslim households will come to faith in Jesus together:

- See all these passages on household movements: John 4:53; Acts 10; Acts 16:14–34; Acts 18:8; 1 Corinthians 1:16; 1 Corinthians 16:15

10

MOST MUSLIMS IN THE WORLD (86%*) HAVE NEVER HAD A CHRISTIAN FRIEND. In Canada, that doesn't have to be the case. God has brought Muslim immigrants to Canada for His purpose – to encounter Him through us (see Acts 17:26-27). **PRAY THAT CANADIAN CHRISTIANS BEFRIEND MUSLIMS AND SHARE THE GOSPEL!**

- **Christ's command:** *"The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the Harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out...."* Luke 10:2 ESV.



LET US PRAY FOR OURSELVES, ALL PASTORS, CHURCHES, AND BELIEVERS IN CANADA will answer the Father's call to go out as His labourers, intentionally befriending Muslims in Canada, lovingly and patiently walking an Emmaus Road journey with them, sharing in both word and deed the liberating love and truth of Jesus Christ! Amen.

* Center for the Study of Global Christianity (CSGC) at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

© PAOC MISSION CANADA, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

An Emmaus Road Story

As a child **Ahmed** had questions about god. He asked his mom, and she said to ask the imam. So he did. Their imam shut him down quickly. “We don’t question Allah.”

Just because the questions weren’t answered doesn’t mean they went away. They didn’t. As he grew, he asked a couple more imams with the same result. Don’t ask.

The challenge was that he wasn’t questioning for disbelief, but because he wanted to better understand god. It was perhaps this desire to know more about god that Ahmed became and imam. And he was good, too. Having become conversant in Arabic and English in addition to the national language, he rose to teaching in the primary university in the capital city, teaching others becoming imams.

But still the questions remained. Unanswered.

He moved to Canada for more educational and life opportunities. And the questions came with him.

Here he met a group of Christians. At last, here were people he could ask this questions. They asked about his Islamic beliefs, and he asked all his questions. And the discussions led to him putting his faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God of the Bible!

Ahmed was discipled by two pastors, has an active and effective outreach to Muslims, is seeing a growing number put their faith in Jesus, grow in Him, and who perhaps may even become a church one day.

Questions and friends, conversations and patience. This is what Emmaus Road Journeys are all about.

Ahmed (a pseudonym for him in this real Canadian story) is an example of a growing number of Muslim background believers in Jesus in Canada. Muslims often come to faith because a Christian individual, couple or even local church body have graciously, patiently walked an Emmaus Road Journey with them.

Will you walk this road by the leading of the Holy Spirit with Muslims in your life?



Thank you for agreeing in prayer!

Jesus grants us this powerful promise: ***"...if any of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven,"*** **Matthew 18:19 (ESV). Amazing!**

We invite and encourage you to continue using these prayer points all year long. And share them with friends, too. **To share this Emmaus Road Journey with others, direct your friends here:**

EMMAUS ROAD JOURNEYS

Want to know more about how to better reach cross-culturally right here in Canada?

That's what Mission Canada is here for. Contact us at: missioncanada@paoc.org



Is God calling YOU to cross-cultural outreach in Canada?

Mission Canada deploys those called of God as workers to be His witnesses in the gaps of Canada. Our five missional gaps in Canada are: **Cultural, Urban, Indigenous, Francophone & Quebec**, and **NextGen** (**Campus**, **Youth** and **Children**). To learn more about our missional work in Canada and what it takes to become a deployed worker with Mission Canada, scan this QR code.

We look forward to engaging with you!

SCAN ME

mission canada
BECAUSE WE MUST
PARCE QUE NOUS DEVONS

© PAOC MISSION CANADA, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Will you make a

Kingdom investment

in this project and ministry?

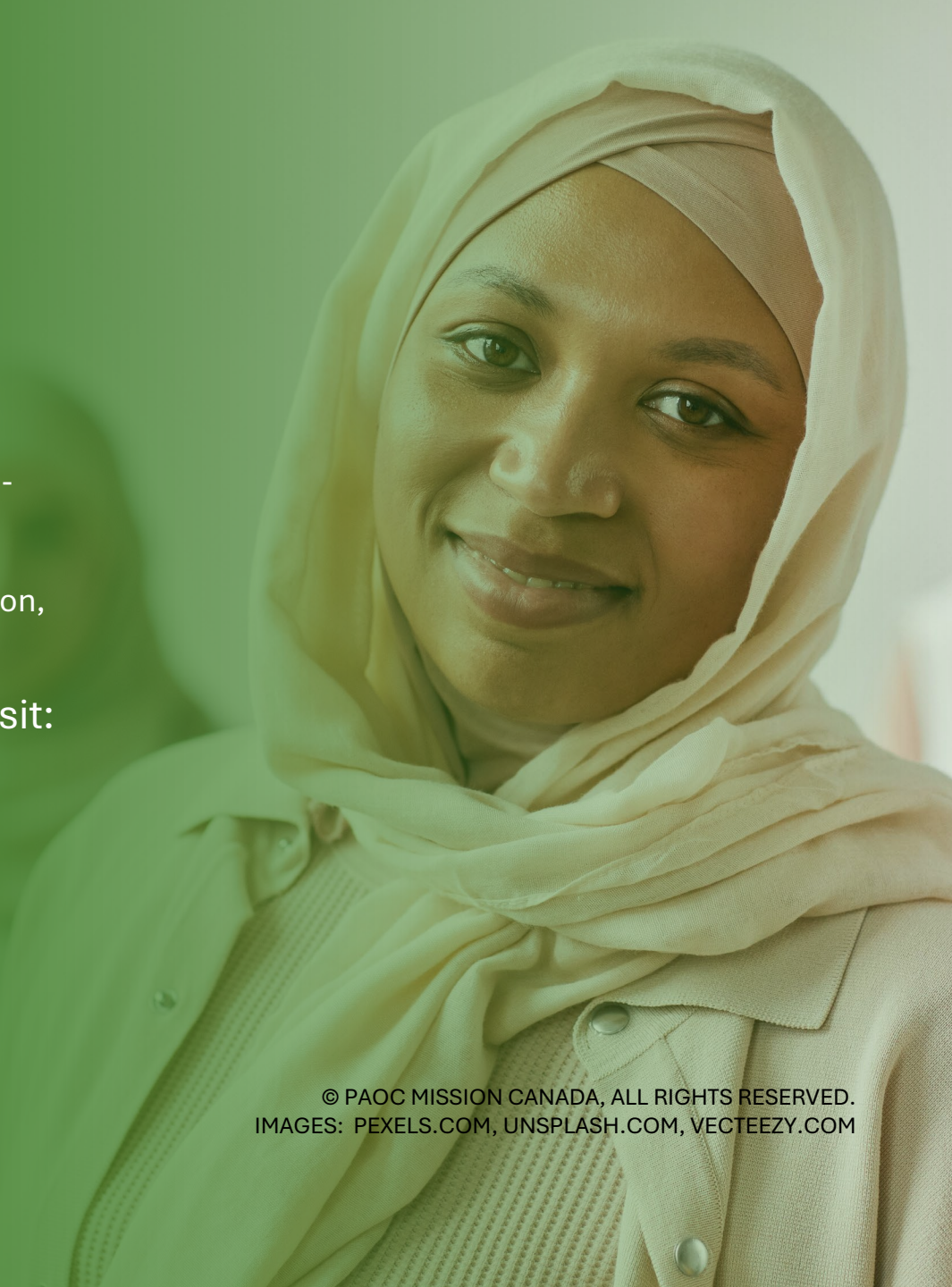
Your gifts empower:

- The national call to prayer, equip and deploy God's people to reaching cross-culturally in Canada
- The deployment of new cross-cultural workers in Canada
- And the production of more materials like this to raise awareness, share vision, stimulate prayer, and equip God's people

To invest, give to NNNetwork-National: Scan the QR code or visit:
www.paoc.org/canada/workers/nnnetworknational

PAOC THE PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES OF CANADA
APDC LES ASSEMBLÉES DE LA PENTECÔTE DU CANADA

mission canada
BECAUSE WE MUST
PARCE QUE NOUS DEVONS



© PAOC MISSION CANADA, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
IMAGES: PEXELS.COM, UNSPLASH.COM, VECTEEZY.COM