



"Creating partnerships for global peace, security and development"

Jewish, Somali groups unite

Members of Canadian Jewish and Somali communities gathered at Kipling Collegiate Institute yesterday to launch the Jewish-Somali project — the first comprehensive initiative of its kind in Canada in which Jewish and Muslim groups are working together.

The project will engage the resources of the Jewish community to provide mentorship to young Somali professionals. "The Jewish-Somali project is an initiative by the Canadian International Peace Project (CIPP) to assist the Canadian Somali community to successfully integrate into Canadian society," said Mark Persaud, president and CEO of CIPP.

"This project is intended to aid in creating a successful cadre of Somali Canadian professionals who can then assume greater leadership roles to assist with the development of their own community and contribute to Canadian society at large," he added.

The project is a joint partnership between the Canadian International Peace Project, the Canadian Somali Congress, the Canadian Jewish Congress and the United Jewish Appeal of Greater Toronto. "The Canadian Somali Congress invited other Canadian communities to assist Canadian Somalis in their efforts to successfully integrate into Canadian society and the Canadian Jewish community responded to our call," said Digal Haio, director of Canadian Somali Congress.

"Mentoring and development partnerships like this one are so important. Stronger communities make a stronger Canada," said Bernie M. Farber, chief executive officer of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

Source: Taghreed Saadeh, Metro Toronto, published October 29, 2008