

Toronto Area Interfaith Council

statement on reasonable religious accommodation in public schools

The Toronto Area Interfaith Council supports the Toronto District School Board and the Valley Park Middle School in the religious accommodation of Muslim students by providing space for Friday prayers. We note that such accommodation accords with national and provincial human rights legislation; it seeks to ensure that educational requirements are not compromised by the fulfilment of religious obligations; and it does not impose any constraints, religious or otherwise, on any of the students.

We acknowledge the important role played by our public schools in the integration of cultural and religious minorities. This rich diversity of partnership is the strength of our society.

We encourage the Board to support in all its schools a generous response to requests for accommodation of the religious interests of students in ways that are consistent with school values.