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Enhancing Knowledge  
For  
Actively Engaging Communities Through  
Research and Interaction Offering New Solutions

## Press Release

### **Think for Actions welcomes the actions taken by Royal Military College Saint-Jean to expel the officer-cadet who took part in desecrating the Holy Quran and other disciplined who were at the incident, for their actions on March 31, 2018**

Calgary, AB, May 26, 2018 - **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

We commend Lt.-Gen. Charles Lamarre, chief of military personnel for his comments, "We're absolutely appalled it took place," and "We are a diverse and inclusive force. We reflect the Canadian mosaic; diversity is our strength. We demand the best of those who serve, as Canadians rightly demand the best of us."

We also welcome the Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's comments, "We are taking this very seriously. It does not represent our Forces, our beautiful diversity and our Canadian values. We will follow up quite aggressively on this."

Steven Harper era in Canadian politics from February 6, 2006 to November 2015 was a difficult time for immigrants and especially Canadian Muslims. Harper's government brought several controversial bills with limited efficacy, but tried to score points and with ultra conservative votes in Canada and on the cost of demonizing Islam / Muslims creating anti-Muslim rhetoric / Muslim phobia / Islamophobia. A few bills are:

Bill C 24: Dual citizen ship act. June 20th, 2014

Bill S 7: Barbaric Cultural Practices Act. 5 November 2014

Bill C 51: Controversial anti-terrorism bill. Jan 16, 2015

Bill C 75: The Niqab ban at Oath taking ceremony. June 19, 2015

Hate crimes against Muslims in Canada have increased by 60% from 2014 to 2015, and 253% over four years, from up from 45 in 2012 to 159 in 2015. This attitude was one of the major factors that lead to the death of six and injured 19 others when Alexandre Bissonnette opened fire in a Québec Masjid on January 29, 2017.

**Canadian Community Engagement Study 2018** concludes:

- 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of Canadians believe that the atmosphere towards Muslims in Canada is negative
- 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of Canadian's want the government to invest resources towards reducing and eventually eliminating systemic racism and discrimination on religious grounds;
- 2/3 of Muslims have personally experienced discrimination due to their race or ethnicity in the last 5 years; almost 1/2 of the incidences were verbal abuse or attack;
- 82% Muslims believe that discrimination against Canadian Muslims has increased in the last 5 years;

Chairperson for the national think tank, Think for Actions, Dr. Mukarram Zaidi says, "we are proud of our men and women in uniform that have upheld Canadian values. We need to have mutual respect for all religions, we should respectfully agree to disagree and live in harmony and love."

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**Think for Actions** is a National Think tank focused on Muslim affairs. We focus on community research and professional development of youth. We aim to engage the government and public at a local and national level to offer new and effective solutions.

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