

## ANNUAL REPORT

2003/2004

### SUDANESE-CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF OTTAWA (SCAO)

This is a notice of SCAO's second Annual General meeting. All members of the organization are invited to attend the meeting at **Sandy Hills Community Center (250 Somerset East) on Sunday December the 19<sup>th</sup>,<sup>04</sup>, from 2:30 PM to 5:30 PM.** Copy of the annual report and financial report will follow this notice. All members who are entitled to vote through a proxy could appoint their proxy holder.

Mohamed Bashir, Secretary General

#### **Agenda for the second annual general meeting:**

- 1- Receive, discuss and approve the report of the board
- 2- Receive, discuss and approve, the financial report
- 3- Discuss and approve draft amendments proposed to the bylaws to meet the requirements of Corporation Canada to register scao as a non-for profit incorporated organisation
- 4- To discuss a high level of direction for 2004/2005.
- 5- To elect the new president and the board members of 6 officers
- 6- Others

#### **Current board members of SCAO**

- Nahid Alawad, cultural & social Coordinator
- Galal Ali, president
- Charles Ochalo, vice president
- Mohammed Bashir, secretary general
- Mohamed Khalifa, cultural & social Co-ordinator
- Badreldien Ahmed, youth coordinator
- Abdelwahab Gabbani, treasurer

#### **Report of the board to the GA**

- 1- **Registration of the organization and proposed bylaws changes:**  
SCAO is now registered as a non-for profit incorporated organization as of July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2004. This registration process required a few changes that are submitted as draft to be approved by the Minister of Industry Canada. These changes are proposed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> GA to be reviewed and approved. Starting the registration day, SCAO should be exclusively governed by its by-laws and conditions of

federal incorporation and as prescribed in the by-laws, the business of SCAO is to be managed by the elected president and board members of 6 officers

## **2- Membership of the organization:**

Membership of SCAO is open to all those categories of Ottawa residents as described in the Bylaw, and willing to further the objectives of SCAO and who are accepted as members by the elected board approval. Currently according to the last GA's resolution on definition of voting members, there are a few people who meet these conditions of voting members. Voting members have to fulfil all the conditions outlined in the bylaws. however and because the community is still in a development stage we recommend to the GA to revisit this resolution during this report discussion and evaluate the possibility if lifting this condition for voting to allow as much as possible members to participate and vote for the sake of the community.

## **3 - Activities and achievements during the year:**

- As mentioned above, SCAO has become fully functional as a registered non-for profit incorporated organization
- A comprehensive web site was developed for SCAO, to link the members to powerful job search tools, all local recourses in parenting, and major other Sudanese international community. The web site as well promotes to the community outstanding achievement of their members especially among kids, and keeps them connected with home through the world of music and related topics.
- SCAO Board has strike a deal with Pinecrest-Queensway Community Health and Social Services Center that would provide free services and programs to SCAO members. A series of parenting sessions were approved for SCAO two of which have already been completed. PQ is looking forward to schedule the more sessions as soon as the new Board has been in place.
- SCAO Board carried out study on potential government funding agencies and organizations that may be able to fund our community activities. Specific projects for Youth as well as for Women have been initiated and need to be finished and submitted. This was not done because they were pending the organization status (non-for profit) which was recently approved.
- SCAO Board worked on the front of building a trust relationship with other Sudanese communities in Ottawa, especially Southern Sudanese Community. An agreement was reached to open both sides' social events for all and a progress in attending these events was witnessed lately.
- SCAO Board -based on a mandate from previous GA- accepted an introductory invitation from Senator Mobina Jaffer, the Canadian Envoy for Peace in Sudan, followed by a joint round-table with other Sudanese communities on "what to expect from peace". The meeting was intended to equip the Senator with Sudanese- Canadians perspective before departure to Mashakus and Sudan for signing the Mashakus peace agreement.
- SCAO Board's president testified in front of Immigration and Citizenship authorities to support the immigration application of Hamid Ayoub based on his

contributions to the well being of the community. Mr Ayoub has been successful in his endeavour to gain refugee status. The Board had also written a letter of support to the Immigration authorities to accelerate Dr. Elsadig Abunafeesa's citizenship application. As well a request received to issue a letter of support to the Immigration authority in the matter of Siliman Eltigani Siliman claim for a refugee status to join his family in Canada.

- SCAO Board was able to reach out to the youth and call them in for the community activities. This year's events witnessed their attendance, and the distance created in the past between the community and many members has been shortened.

**Achievements continue:**

- 5 group Ramadan fatour evenings organized with 2 programs embedded within (October – November 2004)
- Late Dr. Abdelalla Altaieb memorial event December 20, 04
- November 28<sup>th</sup>, SCAO Eid alfitr party with Amir Musaad & Abdella Osman
- A ceremony day at the Sudanese Arabic School to recognize the commitment of Sudanese kids to learn Arabic. Certificates of excellence & gifts were presented to each participant.
- Youth Dinner night at Buffalo Charles restaurant January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 04
- Eid Alistiglal gathering January 17<sup>th</sup>, 04
- Sudanese Youth Fourm at Ottawa South East CC, Feb. 22, 04
- A joint workshop with Southern Community and Senator Mobina Jaffer before her visit to Sudan in regards to the Mashakus peace agreement & Darfour crisis to explore the view of Sudanese Canadian on these issues
- June – August 3 BBQs events (welcome new comers to Ottawa, a joint farewell event with SCWAPD for those who left Ottawa, encouraging event for Ottawa youth soccer team)
- The Board of directors participated in many fund raising events to cover the Ottawa soccer team trips to St.Catherine, Hamilton, Toronto and London Ontario within their participation in Ontario soccer for peace tournament and travelled with them to provide their safety and supervision
- A joint event with Hamilton Sudanese League to close the Ontario Soccer for Peace Tournament, where Ottawa participated for the first Time and occupied the second place
- End of Summer Party with Mustafa Alsunni August 28<sup>th</sup>, 04
- 2 group Ramadan's fatour were organized in October 23<sup>rd</sup> and November 30<sup>th</sup>

**4 – Challenges experienced:**

- 1- **Registration** as non-for profit, our approved bylaw couldn't entitle us for this status, needed amendments done and submitted as a draft for ministerial approval and subject to next GA review and approval.
- 2- **Fund-raising** remains a challenge. Our Board started the mandate off last year with a debt, and our budget was always in the red as the contributions of the members have not been raised to the level of delivered activities. For example, Mustafa Alsuni's party represented a wake up call with a debt of \$350. A comprehensive fund raising campaign was initiated to reach the members for their contribution and donation to cover the debt and generate a starting surplus for the next office. .
- 3- SCAO members have not contributed their fair share to raise the Sudanese Community's profile among the Ottawa community at large. Atypical expected role by members is to invite and encourage their non-Sudanese friends to join our events, learn about us as Sudanese and perhaps provide some resources to our organization.
- 4- Halls renting for the event was the most budget consuming item. The Board had to struggle to pay required fees in light of budgetary challenges and members poor response to on-going calls for fulfilment of dues.
- 5- A satisfactory progress has been achieved in bringing the Sudanese-Canadian youth together (especially among the male youth), thanks to the activities of Ottawa Soccer team's Similar efforts need to be exerted to include youth with our interests than soccer and a special efforts are need to include our female youth as initiatives to organize a female volleyball team have failed due to the absence of helping committees and lack of resources

Although teamwork and individual initiatives achieved a lot for this year, but it could have been much better with more committed members, to volunteer through established committees that have never been organized. We hope the performance in this area would improve greatly in the future board.

## **7- Look to the future**

- 1- Enhance the SCAO website as a good tool for communication and democratic floor for raising positive / negative issues in a professional civilized manner. Develop the website to be a major link to the job market to play a better role in this area
- 2- Engage extra support of other groups friendly to Sudan communities (Ethiopian, Eritrean, Somali and main stream Canadian), especially in well designed events that are used for fund raising purposes
- 3- Establishing offices / committees to help the board manage the organization and meet settled goals would be a great achievement.
- 4- Developing the process of democratization and adopting a good practise between the community members and their board to address raising issues that usually happen because of the fact that there is an action, will save the organization from pitfalls and keep everyone motivated towards the common goals.

- 5- Looking for free / cheap hosting organization to SCAO events will save a lot of money paid as rent, and the money saved could be utilized in other needed areas
- 6- Development of a clear Pan of Action with specific schedule of events will help more members to determine their participation rather than last short period notices

A separate, however an integral part of this report, Financial Report for 2003/2004 will be presented to GA

The Board of Directors:

Nahid Alawad  
Galal Ali  
Charles ochalamoi  
Mohamed Bashir  
Mohamed Khalifa  
Badreldin Ahmed  
Abdelwahab Gabbani

Ottawa, November 30, 2004