



ANNUAL REPORT

2006/2007

SUDANESE-CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF OTTAWA (SCAO)

This is a notice of SCAO's fourth Annual General meeting. All members of the organization are invited to attend the meeting at **Heron Gate Community Center (1480 heron Road) on Sunday April the 22nd, 07 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.** Copy of the financial report will follow this note of the meeting and Annual Report. All members who are entitled to vote through a proxy could appoint their proxy holder.

Hamid Bushra, Secretary General

Agenda for the fourth annual general meeting:

- 1- Receive, discuss and approve the annual report of the board 06/07
- 2- Receive, discuss and approve, the financial report 06/07
- 3- To discuss proposed BOD MOU with Sudan Embassy in Ottawa
- 4- To elect the new president and the board members of 6 officers
- 5- Others

Current board members of SCAO

- Nahid Alawad, Vice president
- Selma Hassan, cultural & social Coordinator
- Galal Ali, president
- Hamid Bushra, secretary general
- Mohamed Khalifa, treasurer
- Hafiz Elsadig, youth coordinator
- Hamid Ayoub, Event Coordinator
- Mohamed Bashir, Out-reach coordinator, resigned August 2006 for personal reasons

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 7th, 2004. A summary report submitted on June 2006 to the Department of Industry in June 2006 and will be due again in June 2007.



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 criteria. Voting members have to fulfill all conditions outlined in the bylaws. However and because the community is still in a development phase we recommend to the GA to revisit this resolution during this report discussion and evaluate the possibility of 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:

- A new comprehensive web site was developed for SCAO, to link the members to powerful job search tools, youth and community members' achievements & comprehensive recourses in parenting. The web site works as a hub to connect the community together through dynamic news broadcasting system, as well it promotes to the community outstanding achievement especially among kids to keep them inspired. The website as well connects all members & visitors with home through a comprehensive related topics and music choices, as well as cultural and social articles from different Sudanese discussion groups.
- SCAO Board has strike a deal with Jack Purcell community centre for hosting (as possible) our events at the city subsidized prices for hall rental as a non-for profit organization
- SCAO Board worked on the front of building a trust relationship with Southerner Sudanese communities in Ottawa, and reached an agreement between both sides to open the social events for all Sudanese. Progress in attending our last events was witnessed lately.
- SCAO Board provided recommendation letters to some members to be presented to Immigration and Citizenship authorities to support their cases
- SCAO Board continued supporting our Youth Soccer team in their activities and tournaments, despite the fact that there is still a distance between the community and them which need it to be shortened.

Achievements continue:

- 2 summer BBQ events combined with Volleyball activities for all members June 2006.
- June 18, 06 SCAO hosted the academic visitors from Sudan, Dr. Intisar Sagairon & Professor Ali Osman in a lecture exploring new excavation in Nubian Civilization sites and findings



- SCAO's women committee office organized 3 women's breakfast meetings and over 5 group visits supporting new comers and other families.
- SCAO's board plugged-in as member of the National Committee that prepared celebration of the Sudan's Golden Independence Anniversary (50th) in Toronto. A representatives from Ottawa & BOD attended the major event held in Toronto June 2006
- June 24, 06 SCAO held a major event in Jack Purcell CC celebrating the 50th anniversary of Sudan's independence included, book exhibition; folklore painting; fashion show; talented show & Singer Zuhair concert
- SCAO's board organized back injury prevention work shop
- July SCAO lunched a join health program with City of Ottawa
- Two Ramadan 'Fatour' evenings (Sept 30 & Oct 14) combined with fund raising for a family in need back home in Sudan.
- August 2006 SCAO held a joined event with RCMP promoting employment within the RCMP force and building trust with communities
- SCAO held on October 23rd, Eid Elfitr gathering at Heron CC with special programs for the kids (Clown-magician Show)
- January 13, 07 SCAO held Eid Aladha gathering combined with live concert of singer Zuhair Toronto at Jack Purcell CC.
- January 25th, 07 SCAO held a workshop at Heron CC on Diabetes prevention & diet, instructed by a professional from public health
- The Board of directors participated in many events & workshops provided by City of Ottawa Police department building bridges between Visible Minorities community and RCMP & Ottawa Police
- The BOD organized two community gatherings to bring the community together to support their fellows when they experienced a loss among their close relatives.

4 – Challenges experienced:

- 1- Due to the fact that some new challenges faced our office and dealing with them were beyond our financial capacity. These new personal situation forced us to knock the Sudanese embassy's door and seek help for them. Repetition of such cases forced us to think of ways to deal with them and work with Sudanese embassy without jeopardizing the unity of our community. This issue is discussed in many board's meeting and the office came to a decision to propose to our community a Memorandum of understanding in which lines were drawn. The feedback from members contributed to the discussion forced us in the office to take the issue to the GA for further discussion and collective decision.
- 2- **Fund-raising** remains a challenge. Our Board started the mandate of last year with 91 dollars in the account, and our budget was always in the red as the



contributions of the members have not been raised to the level of delivered activities. A comprehensive fund raising campaign will be initiated to reach the members for their contribution for previous & current year (2005/2006 & 2006/2007) in order to allow upcoming office to carry-on the community activities.

- 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 is still 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- Mobilizing a wide based of volunteers towards activating the BOD committees is still the weakest link in our performance, and the ability of taking advantage of the community elderly members' skills & network to perform better is falling behind
- 6- It is worth wise to continue the previous spent effort and time to contact and build a relation with the Southerners communities
- 7- The web site as a tool of information and communication has to continue. It is better to organize a team to maintain it and as a recommendation we think one or two from the youth could be in this web team.

Although teamwork and individual initiatives achieved a lot for this year, but it could have been much better with more active committed members volunteering through established committees that have never been organized. We hope the performance in this area would be discussed by next BOD to establish a process to improve member's contribution.

5- Look to the future

- 1- 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
- 2- Establishing offices / committees to help the board manage the organization and meet settled goals would be a great achievement.
- 3- Developing the process of democratization and adopting a good practise between the community members and their board to address raising issues that usually happen. Such practices will save the organization from pitfalls and keep everyone motivated towards the common goals.
- 4- Enhance better communication between community members based on mutual respect and acceptance of differences



- 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 Plan of Action with specific schedule of events will help more members to determine their participation rather than last short period notices

6- Best Practices

- We can't conclude the annual report without mentioning that the hall rent for Fatour Ramadan and 50% of hosting the SCAO web site had been paid by our generous member Ali Alwad, similar less in value generous contribution from many other member SCAO's office received as a help in many activities.
- As well in most of SCAO's activities we found out that our Montrealian friends are with us, sharing the joy and flavour of the Sudanese atmosphere. Thanks to them

A separate, however an integral part of this report, Financial Report for 2006/2007 will be presented to GA

The Board of Directors:

- **Nahid Alawad**, Vice president
- **Selma Hassan**, cultural & social Coordinator
- **Galal Ali**, president
- **Hamid Bushra**, secretary general
- **Mohamed Khalifa**, treasurer
- **Hafiz Elsadig**, youth coordinator
- **Hamid Ayoub**, Event Coordinator

Ottawa, April 06, 2007