

Minutes of July 9th Meeting + Charter of Values and Principles

It was a great pleasure to initiate the next phase of the ICC4All Campaign in Monday July 9th meeting. We want to take this opportunity and extend our sincere thanks to all the participants. By way of summary and to update those members who were unable to attend, enclosed below please find an overview of the meeting and the next steps:

- Mehrdokht Hadi commenced the meeting by presenting an overall vision for the ICC4All campaign.
- ICC4All is comprised of current members of the ICC and those members of the Iranian-Canadian community who are concerned with how the community at large has been represented.
- A brief overview of the goals, aspirations and operational vision for the campaign was presented.
- Arsalan Kahnemuyipour then took the podium and presented the draft of the Charter of five Values and five Principles, as a complementary document to the ICC by-laws to help refocus and restore the ICC to a genuinely inclusive community advocacy organization that embraces diversity and advances unity in the community, rather than imposing a partisan vision that divides the membership and the broader community.
- Participants all were in favor of the charter, values, and principles and suggested a few minor changes that got implemented in the document (at the end of this e-mail).
- After the open discussion, Mehrdokht made a presentation of an operational structure comprised of functional sub-committees to activate the group and campaign with a wide range of activities. The sub-committees formed so far are:
 - The Online Media sub-committee that shall utilize online resources such as dedicated forums, social media, website and other virtual communication methods to engage the community at large and mobilize them in support of the ICC4All campaign.
 - The Outreach sub-committee shall connect with existing ICC members as well as the broader Iranian-Canadian community to inform them of the importance of an organization such as the ICC, to present the vision and mission of the ICC4All campaign and to broaden the support structure of the campaign in order to affect the ICC from within the member body.
 - The Events sub-Committee that shall devise and organize various events, presentations, meetings and themed gatherings to help inform the community and broaden the support behind the ICC4All campaign.
 - There was a suggestion for a new subcommittee which could not be discussed in details and is left to be decided on in the next meeting.
 - Attendees were encouraged to review the revised Charter of Values and Principals as well as to study the proposed operational structure and to subscribe to one or more of the sub-committees and help to expand the activities of the ICC4All Campaign.
 - The next meeting will be held within the next two weeks with the following agenda;
 1. Final approval of the Charter of Values and Principles before its public release.
 2. Introduce the already formed sub-committees and allow each of the sub-committees to present their short, mid and long-term action plans.
 3. The group also decided to hold regular monthly meetings during which new members can attend and join the campaign as well as to facilitate a platform of debate, discussion, updates and exchange of ideas.

Those who were unable to attend the July 9th meeting are encouraged to read the following Charter of Values and Principals document and contact us by email with any questions and suggestions they might have before the next meeting. They can also bring their inquiries and recommendations to the meeting.

Best Regards
ICC4ALL Campaign

Charter of Values and Principles

*This document lays out the values and principles adopted by the volunteers and supporters of the ICC4all campaign with respect to the conduct of the Iranian Canadian Congress (hereafter ICC). The Charter is organized in two sections. The first section covers five key concepts that best capture the values embraced by ICC4all: **Unity**, **Non-partisanship**, **Inclusiveness**, **Transparency**, **Empowerment** (UNITE). These values can be materialized in the ICC if and only if the five principles, as presented in the second section, are closely followed.*

Values

1. **Unity:** ICC should make it its highest priority to uphold unity within its membership (and the larger community) and avoid divisive policies and activities on which Iranian Canadians have fundamental differences.
2. **Non-partisanship:** As a grassroots community advocacy group, ICC should stay completely neutral towards political parties and governmental entities. ICC can take a position on an issue, but it should always strike a balance between different views and give the highest priority to neutrality and the unity of the community.
3. **Inclusiveness:** ICC should be inclusive of all Iranian Canadians irrespective of their political affiliation or beliefs or any other differentiating factor such as religious or ethnic background or sexual orientation.
4. **Transparency:** ICC should conduct its business with full transparency toward its membership and the larger community. The membership must have full unimpeded access to important information such as the membership list, meeting minutes, financial reports and decision-making procedures.
5. **Empowerment:** ICC should empower its members by recognizing them as the owners of the organization and finding ways to make its various functional bodies accountable to ICC members.

Principles:

1. ICC is a Canadian institution. As such, taking a position on any issue that involves Iranian domestic or foreign affairs, even indirectly, is outside its mandate. When ICC has to approach such issues as obvious and clear interests of (an) Iranian Canadian(s) are at stake, it should do so with the unity of the community in mind and in compliance with the ICC bylaws and the values and principles stated here.
2. ICC should do its best to give equal priority to advocacy on all aspects of the lives of Iranian Canadians, namely cultural, economic, political and social, and should refrain from placing too much emphasis on one of these areas at the expense of the others.
3. ICC's approach to political issues should be one which is inclusive of the various views represented by its diverse membership. When ICC needs to address a need of the community which may be potentially divisive, it should rely on the collective wisdom of its diverse membership and attempt to build consensus on a middle ground which is acceptable to all opposing views.
4. ICC should rely on a diverse advisory committee with representation from opposing views to help the Board of Directors find amicable solutions to difficult and potentially divisive issues. The advisory board should be regularly consulted by the Board on important issues.

5. *ICC should adhere to full accountability towards its membership and develop measures for its continuous implementation and assessment.*