

February 3, 2017

It is with tremendous sadness, shock and disbelief that we write to you to discuss the tragic and fatal shooting that took place in Quebec City at the Centre Culturel Islamique de Québec.

East Metro Youth Services condemns this act of violence against Muslims, who were in a centre of worship and refuge. We send our deepest and sincerest condolences to the families and friends of those who have passed. We stand with them in mourning.

In our capacity as a children and youth mental health centre in Scarborough (East Toronto), as well as in our role as Toronto Lead Agency we pride ourselves on serving and embracing people from many diverse communities including, but not limited to, ethno-cultural and racial minorities, immigrants, refugees, and people of various faiths. No matter their background, EMYS supports young people and their families in dealing with a variety of issues and we will not tolerate any form of discrimination, hate and racism.

EMYS is committed to a policy of Access, Equity and Anti-Racism that recognizes the dignity, worth and rights of each individual. This means we will:

- take reasonable steps to ensure that diverse communities have equitable access to its services, resources and decision-making,
- be non-discriminatory and promote the goals of anti-racism, access and equity; and,
- take reasonable steps to ensure its services, programs and decision-making reflect the community it serves.

EMYS strives to foster a climate that actively promotes mutual respect. We firmly believe every person has the right to live, work

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and serve in an environment free of individual, as well as, systemic harassment and discrimination.

You have our commitment that we will continue to work hard and remain vigilant in advocating for diversity, inclusivity, and cultural sensitivity, while also diligently addressing opportunities for improvement.

Sincerely,

Mary Jarrell,
Board Chairperson
East Metro Youth Services