



Annual General Meeting

April 29, 2018

Council Chamber, North York Civic Centre

Agenda

- Welcome remarks by General Meeting Chair Bijan Ahmadi
- Board nominees intro remarks
- Financial report by Mojtaba Adibrad and Mehran Farazmand
- Questions from members about the financial report
- President's report by Bijan Ahmadi
- Questions and comments from members

AGM rules

Let's have a productive session

- Please keep your questions or comments to max 1 minute. The meeting chair will have to kindly ask you to finish your comments after your 1 minute.
- Once we finish one round of questions if you still want to make a comment or ask another question, you will get another final 1 minute.
- Please respect your fellow ICC members in your comments or questions. Absolutely no accusations, labeling or defamatory comments.
- Please do not interrupt the presenters. After the reports by the ICC president and the treasurer you will have time to ask your questions.



Reports are available at:

iccongress.ca/2018report

President's report

Advancing our community's interests

- Building a united and engaged community.
- Promoting participation of Iranian-Canadians in Canadian political and social spheres.
- Informing elected officials of our priorities.
- Raising awareness in the media about priorities of our community.

ICC conducted community consultations sessions in 2016-2017

- Online questionnaire for ICC members and general public.
- In-person consultation meetings with public.
- Consultation session with Iranian-Canadian senior citizens.
- Forum for representatives of around 20 Iranian-Canadian Non-Profit and Charitable Organizations in 2016.
- Online questionnaire for Iranian-Canadian experts, faculty members and activists.
- In December 2016 organized a public consultation session in Vancouver.

ICC should continue consultations and update its priorities on a regular basis.

ICC priorities

The ICC's efforts in the past 2 years have been focused on the following priorities identified through community consultations and finalized by the Board of Directors:

- Advocating for Canada and Iran relations, reopening of the embassies and for the right of Iranian-Canadians to access consular services.
- Combatting new sanctions on Iran that negatively affect our community.
- Advocating for fair policies for recent immigrants.
- Combating any form of discrimination against our community.
- Increasing the participation of Iranian Canadians in the Canadian political process.
- Promoting constructive debate and dialogue in our community.
- Encouraging community and volunteer work among Iranian-Canadians and recognizing the hardwork of community activists and Iranian-Canadian non-profit leaders.

ICC priorities

Iran-Canada Relations:

- **We have ensured that the federal government remains committed to diplomacy with Iran and gained bipartisan support for engagement.** While facing strong opposition from pro-sanction and pro-isolation lobbies, we have ensured that the Government of Prime Minister Trudeau remains committed to reengagement and diplomacy with Iran.
- We have also been able to gain the support of the New Democratic Party of Canada and its leadership for renewal of relations with Iran and the reopening of the embassies.
- Parliamentary petitions on this issue:
 - Petition e-553: close to 16,000 signatures from across Canada for relations with Iran.
 - Petition e-1599: 1,800 signatures for opening Visa Application Centres in Iran.

ICC priorities

Combating new sanctions on Iran that negatively affect our community:

- **We have successfully prevented imposition of sanctions that negatively impact Iranian-Canadians.** With your support we have been able to so far block Bill S219 (Non-Nuclear Sanctions Against Iran Act). We believe that these sanctions only hurt ordinary Iranian-Canadians and block the path of diplomacy between Canada and Iran.
- Strong testimony against sanctions at Senate Foreign Affairs Committee by the ICC representatives.
- Over 3,000 emails and hundreds of phone calls from Iranian-Canadians to their parliamentarians against sanctions.
- High ranking members of the Senate listened to our concerns and spoke against the sanctions bill. The list includes Senator Omidvar, Senator Eggleton, Senator Woo, Senator Cools.

ICC priorities

Combatting new sanctions on Iran, supporting peace and diplomacy with Iran:

- ICC conducted an online survey from October 4 to October 8, 2017 to gauge the opinion of the Canadian-Iranians regarding the historic nuclear agreement reached between Iran and the P5+1 on July 14, 2015, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).
- **Results:** Respondents overwhelmingly support the Iran Nuclear Agreement. According to the survey of 1100 Iranian-Canadians, over 90% of the respondents are in support of the Iran Nuclear Agreement. About 95% of the respondents believe that in the event that the US Trump administration withdraws from the nuclear agreement with Iran, the Canadian government should abide by the nuclear agreement and therefore not to follow the US.
- Joint statement with 9 other Canadian civil society and pro peace organizations asking PM Trudeau to commit to the nuclear deal with Iran.

ICC priorities

Fair policies for recent immigrants:

- ICC conducted extensive research and prepared a policy report with a set of recommendations for the Provincial Government of Ontario to Address Problems of Foreign Trained Professional. These recommendations include:
 - Establishing incentive and auditing regimes to combat discriminatory hiring and labour practices;
 - Increasing the financial assistance and loans available to immigrant professionals;
 - Increasing provincial government oversight of the various accreditation bodies in Ontario, including:
 - The establishment of an independent ombudsman who has the power to issue binding resolutions;
 - Increased legislative involvement in the accreditation process;
 - Providing immigrant professionals with social supports including childcare and counselling.
- Working with Iranian students and other Iranian PR applicants since early 2018 to resolve extensive delays they are facing in their immigration and PR application process.

ICC priorities

Combating any form of discrimination against our community:

- ICC completed an online survey of more than 600 Iranian-Canadians on racism and discrimination faced by them in their daily lives. A large majority of respondents (65%) report experiencing discrimination personally. Respondents cited discriminatory experiences in their workplace, in social settings, and at border crossings and air travel. Importantly, many of these experiences are tied to, and a result of, hostile and antagonistic policies and rhetoric against Iran on the international stage.
- **For the first time in the Parliament of Canada we talked about discrimination that our community members face in Canada and we proposed solutions to overcome these problems.** While our multicultural Canada is much better in comparison to most other countries, we need to acknowledge that discrimination still exists in Canada. As part of the study initiated in the House of Commons on anti-discrimination motion M103, representatives of the ICC presented in front of the House of Commons Committee on Canadian Heritage and provided a list of recommendations on how Canadian policy makers may combat discrimination against minority communities.
- Standing against the Trump Travel Ban (i.e. Muslim Ban), raising our concerns regarding provisions of the Pre-clearance Act that in our opinion would negatively impact our community.

ICC priorities

Increasing the participation of Iranian Canadians in the Canadian political process:

- **More than ever before our community is organized and meaningfully engaged in Canada's social and political life.** Through our work in raising awareness about important public policy issues, we have enabled thousands of Iranian-Canadians to take action and connect with their elected representatives about causes that are important to our community.
- Over 6,000 emails and hundreds of phone calls to Parliamentarians through 7 grassroots campaigns the ICC organized over the past 12 months about priorities of our community.
- Raising awareness about the Canadian political system and political parties.
- Meaningfully engaging our community with major party leadership races. Extensively during the leadership race for the New Democratic Party of Canada and to a lesser extent during the Conservative Party of Canada leadership race.
- ICC representatives have had significant presence in the policy conventions of the Liberal party and the NDP.

ICC priorities

Working in collaboration with other Canadian organizations to advocate for our common interests:

- **Working in collaboration with other Canadian organizations to advocate for our common interests.** During this past year the ICC for the first time joined forces with other Canadian organizations in raising awareness about important issues that would impact our community as well.
- We led an initiative in preparing and publishing a joint statement with 9 other civil society and pro peace organizations asking PM Trudeau to commit to the nuclear deal with Iran. List of organizations beside ICC: Science for Peace, Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (CJPME), the Rideau Institute, The Group of 78, Hamilton Coalition To Stop The War, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, Independent Jewish Voices Canada, Toronto Coalition to Stop the War (TCSW), Canadian Peace Congress
- We joined the Canadian Civil Liberties Association in raising our objection to some of the provisions of Bill C51.
- ICC joined tens of organizations that stood against some of the provisions of the Preclearance Act and provided a submission to the parliamentary committee with regards to provisions of the bill that in our opinion would negatively affect our community.

ICC priorities

Promoting dialogue and constructive debate in our community:

- ICC launched a series of community roundtables starting in 2018. So far we have held 3 roundtables with participation of experts, community activists and other individuals who are interested to share their ideas with their fellow community members:
 - Roundtable 1: Expectation of our community from Iranian-Canadian elected representatives.
 - Roundtable 2: Upholding the interests of our community in Canada.
 - Roundtable 3: Increasing participation of Iranian-Canadian women.

ICC priorities

Encouraging volunteer work and recognizing hardwork of community activists and our non-profit leaders

- Over the past 2 years the ICC has created an environment of cooperation and collaboration for around 100 volunteers in Toronto and a network of volunteers activists outside of Toronto (and Ontario) in Vancouver, Calgary and Montreal.
- Simrogh Gala and the Simorgh Awards have become an opportunity for recognizing hardworking activists and community leaders who have dedicated their lives to the betterment of our people. For the first time the ICC opened up its recognition awards process and accepted public nominations and appointed an independent awards committee to evaluate the nominees and select the award recipients in Simorgh 2018.

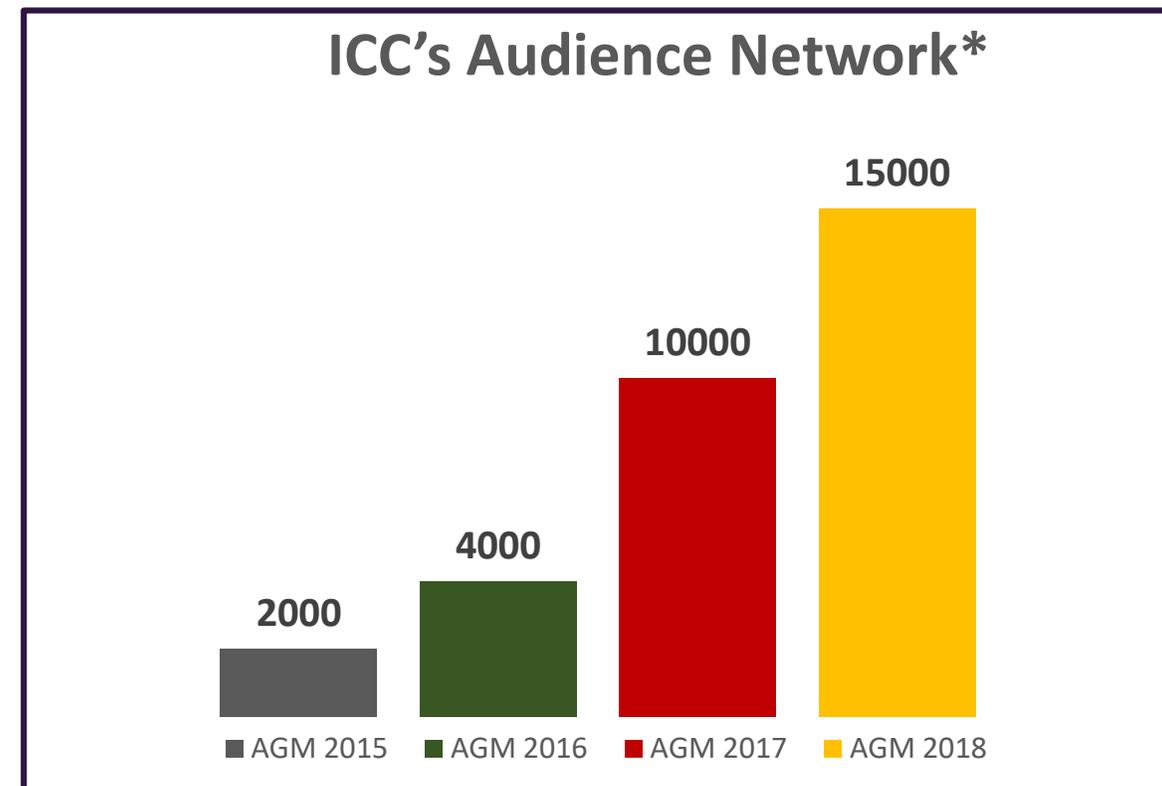
ICC priorities

We helped and showed our solidarity to Iranian people at difficult times:

- ICC organized vigil gatherings in multiple cities across Canada after the terrorist attack in Tehran in June 2017.
- ICC collaborated with Paradise Charity Group to help the victims of the earthquake in Kermanshah. Overall Paradise collected around \$70,000 of donations for the earthquake victims. The help they provided included over 60 temporary housing units in the impacted areas.

Expanding ICC's Audience Network

By implementing a successful communication and outreach plan we have increased the number of supporters in our audience network from 4,000 (in May 2016) to 10,000 people from across Canada (in May 2017) **to around 15,000 across Canada in April 2018.**



* Our audience network includes all people subscribed to ICC communication channels. The number is a close estimate.



Office: 45 Sheppard Ave East, Unit 900, Toronto, ON

www.iccongress.ca

info@iccongress.ca

Facebook.com/iccongress

Twitter: @iccongress



Q&A