

Citation for Dr. Mahmoud Haddara

Dr. Mahmoud Haddara retired from Memorial University in 2010, after 25 years with the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science. At the same time, he served the Muslim community of St. John's as Imam, interpreting that role broadly and, besides being spiritual leader, he became a public spokesperson and ambassador for the Muslim community.



Since his retirement, and move to London, Ontario, Dr. Haddara has continued and expanded his work for the Muslim community. He was Acting Imam for the London Muslim Mosque and chaired several of its committees. He served as an educator, teaching introductory courses on Islam for non-Muslims at the London Muslim Mosque, teaching a six week course - Islam for Christian Leaders - and teaching a shorter workshop - What everyone needs to know about Islam - both organized by the Continuing Studies at the University of Western Ontario, giving talks for students in various schools and to a wide variety of groups in London. He himself became a student, enrolling part-time in the Master of Theological Studies program at Huron College of the University of Western Ontario.

Together with Rev. Dr. Kate Crawford, with whom he worked in St. John's, he is a founding member of the Multi Social Action Coalition of London, Ontario, a multi-faith group advocating for the elimination of poverty in Canada. This is a testament to his concern for broader social issues.

And he has not forgotten St. John's. He continues, since his retirement, to return annually to speak at the Christian-Jewish-Muslim Dialogue event here.

While he is a highly regarded naval architect who continues his academic pursuits in his retirement, an appropriate way to think of Dr. Haddara is as a bridge builder, continually finding ways to span differences of all kinds with an emphasis on bridges between Muslims and people of other beliefs. And today we recognize this commitment throughout his retirement with the MUNPA Tribute Award.