



**For Immediate Release:**

**The Mosaic Institute Welcomes the Hon. Jason Kenney,  
Minister of Immigration, Citizenship and Multiculturalism**

**Toronto – February 7, 2009.** Today the Mosaic Institute welcomed the Hon. Jason Kenney, the federal Minister of Immigration, Citizenship and Multiculturalism to its offices in Toronto. The Minister had indicated his eagerness to meet with Mosaic after he assumed his current Cabinet portfolio in October of 2008.

Prior to his visit, the Minister's department issued its annual report on the operation of the *Canadian Multiculturalism Act*, entitled *Promoting Integration*. Enhanced integration of New Canadians was also the theme of Minister Kenney's meeting with Mosaic.

Minister Kenney expressed concern about the isolation of some members of ethnocultural groups, and was particularly interested in the Institute's work to facilitate dialogues between Canadian diaspora communities whose countries or regions of origin are in conflict. An example of this cross-community programming is the 2009 *Building Bridges* speakers' series, which will bring together leaders of the Arab and Jewish Canadian communities to discuss peacebuilding strategies for the Middle East.

The Minister challenged Mosaic to consider how such initiatives might reach larger numbers of community-members and have a wider impact. He also encouraged Mosaic to explore further opportunities for partnership with the Department of Immigration, Citizenship and Multiculturalism. One potential opportunity for collaboration is the *South Asian-Canadian Global Citizens Project*, a Mosaic program under development that is aimed at helping to integrate young people of South Asian descent into Canadian life by encouraging them to help define Canada's role in South Asia and the world.

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