

# Imam answers questions from attendees

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needed peace and has done it in the past. It can do it in the future if it really is sincere in its effort to establish peace.”

There are just more than one million Muslims in Canada, he said, and if one of them becomes a “bad apple,” they garner negative media coverage that can fuel misconceptions.

“If you look at the other

Muslims, who are contributing to the betterment of society, they are doing so much to give back. But, (they) don’t get coverage because it does not sell,” said Mirza.

The imam took queries on United States President Donald Trump’s handling of immigrant children separated from their families at the border, as well as the American Supreme Court’s decision to uphold the presi-

dent’s travel ban on predominantly Muslim-majority countries.

Mirza believes Trump’s plans for both issues will backfire, but, in particular, the travel ban will be ineffective against people from entering the country.

“He (Trump) thinks he’s very smart, but those people who enter America from any border, they are smarter than him. They will find a

way and land in America,” said Mirza.

“Maybe he just wants to win some popularity contest in the world and say, ‘I’m a tough guy. I did what I said.’ So far, I don’t see much happening with what he promised to the world or to his own people.”

Mirza has travelled globally and lived in Canada for close to 20 years.

He said there is “no place

like Canada,” particularly in Halton, when it comes to inclusivity, as he always finds himself at home here.

“You feel at home, no matter who you are, no matter who you’re with. The politeness, brotherhood and accommodation, which Canadians have, with all these diversities and groups, there’s no such thing anywhere else in the world,” said Mirza.

“Our motto is love for all and hate for none. If we start working on love thy neighbour, you love yourself ... and the majority of peace-loving people start exhibiting more of it, I’m sure we can overcome these issues.”

The next gathering will be held in September, with details to be confirmed at a later date. For more information, contact publicrelations@ahmadiyya.ca.

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