

Imam Alaa Essayed

Sheikh Alaa was born in Cairo and lived in Egypt until he was 15 years old. During his youth, he spent time as the goalie for the Junior National Team and moved to Toronto, Canada in the late 1970's.

Sheikh Alaa has studied for his Bachelors in Shariah from the American International University and earned a scholarship from the Shariah Academy in Egypt and Florida. Sheikh Alaa also received his *Ijazah* of Qur'an recitation for Hafs an Asim, studied comparative religion for five years through the IPCI in South Africa, and was on the board of directors of the World Assembly of Muslim Youth.

Sheikh Alaa currently lives in Toronto with his wife and three children. He is a member of Canadian Council of Imams; he's also a member of Horizon Interfaith Communication Media Council. Prior to this he was the Imam for Muslim Council of Calgary and acted as its media spokesperson. He has hosted Vision of Islam, a weekly television show which runs in Alberta, Canada. He regularly appears as a speaker on Islam on various television channels. Sheikh Alaa was a member of the Calgary Multi-Faith Committee, and a member of the Muslim Christian Dialogue Committee. Sheikh Alaa has received the Alberta Centennial award by the Alberta Government in 2005, granted to him for his outstanding service to the Alberta community.

Currently Sheikh Alaa is the Director of Religious Affairs for the Islamic Centre of Canada-ISNA. Prior to that, he was the Executive Director for the Canadian Islamic Congress.