

New Federal Funding For Multi-Culturalism And Boosting Anti-Racism Measures

Liberal MP Iqra Khalid Makes Announcement; Critic Says Money Will Mainly Go To Islamic Groups

MISSISSAUGA: Liberal MP Iqra Khalid has announced the call for applications for three new funding streams that will strengthen diverse communities and support anti-racism initiatives in Canada. Khalid was the mover of the controversial Motion M103 on ‘Islamophobia’ that was pushed through Parliament.

The government is investing a total of \$51.9 million over three years, which includes new funding of \$21 million for projects, events, and community capacity building.

MP Iqra Khalid made this announcement on behalf of Mélanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Minister responsible for Multiculturalism.

Pakistan-born Iqra Khalid said: “I say this with passion – with belief – that every penny of this investment will better the life of individuals who are marginalized, racialized, or mistreated in this country that we all call home.”

The Toronto Sun has written that: “On the afternoon of June 27 while most of Canada was at



work or watching the World Cup matches, a major funding announcement was made with little fanfare and in front of no more than a couple of dozen, mostly Muslim audience of Pakistani Canadians”

The paper’s columnist Tarek Fatah wrote: “With no mainstream media in attendance to ask any questions, Khalid boasted

that her “hard work has resulted into tangible action.” She listed the following two groups as being among the recipients of the new funding:

“The National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM), a former branch of the U.S. based Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) that was named in 2008 as an unindicted co-conspir-

ator connected to the “largest terror-funding trial in U.S. history. NCCM has denied links to CAIR.

“Islamic Relief, a worldwide charity accused of links to Islamist extremism by Middle East Forum, Israel and the United Arab Emirates among others.” (A British audit had, however, cleared Islamic Relief of any terror links.)

Consisting of three components, this new funding will support:

1. Projects that address racism and discrimination with a focus on Indigenous Peoples and racialized women and girls;

2. Events that promote intercultural and interfaith understanding, and celebrate a community’s history and culture, such as heritage months recognized by Parliament; and

3. Community capacity building projects that will help recipients support the inclusion of newcomers and diverse communities.

“Programs like these help bring Canadians together and enable people from all backgrounds

to fully participate in society.

Those interested in applying for this new funding are asked to contact Canadian Heritage at pch.soutienauxcollectivités-communitysupport.pch@canada.ca.”, Khalid said in a statement.

Tarek Fatah, however, said: “While Islamists will receive millions to conduct their Sharia agenda in Canada, Muslim critics of jihad, polygamy, FGM and Sharia have been left on their own to fight global Islamofascism.”

Mélanie Joly said: “Although Canada is a welcoming and diverse country, our government knows that we can do better.

“That’s why we are proud to launch funding for initiatives that will celebrate our diversity, embrace our differences and address issues of racism and discrimination.

“By encouraging mutual understanding between all Canadians, programs like this will help build a society where everyone feels a true sense of belonging and can fully participate in their community.”

India Asks WhatsApp To Act After Recent Mob Lynchings Based On Rumours

NEW DELHI: India’s government says it has asked WhatsApp to take “immediate action” to prevent the social media platform from being misused to spread rumours and irresponsible statements like those blamed for recent deadly mob attacks in the country.

At least 20 people have been killed in mostly rural villages in several Indian states in attacks by mobs that had been inflamed by social media.

Victims were accused in the viral messages of belonging to gangs trying to abduct children. The brutal attacks, which began in early May, have also left dozens of people injured. Messages are usually sent anonymously to groups.

Although Indian authorities have clarified that there was no truth to the rumours and that the targeted people were innocent, the deadly and brutal attacks, often captured on cellphones and

shared on social media, have spread across the country.

India’s ministry of electronics and information technology said in a statement late Tuesday that the lynchings were tied to “irresponsible and explosive messages” circulated on WhatsApp. It wasn’t specific on the preventative measures it expected to be taken by WhatsApp, which is owned by Facebook.

“While the law and order machinery is taking steps to apprehend the culprits, the abuse of platforms like WhatsApp for repeated circulation of such provocative content are equally a matter of deep concern,” the ministry said.

“The government has also conveyed in no uncertain terms that WhatsApp must take immediate action to end this menace and ensure that their platform is not used for such malafide activities,” the statement said. “Deep disapproval of such develop-

ments has been conveyed to the senior management of the WhatsApp and they have been advised that remedial measures should be taken to prevent proliferation of these fake and ..motivated messages.”

WhatsApp said in a blog post that it would institute awards for research on “spread of misinformation” on its platform.

“We will seriously consider proposals from any social science and technological perspective that propose projects that enrich our understanding of the problem of misinformation on WhatsApp,” the post said.

The Indian Express, an English-language daily newspaper, quoted a WhatsApp official as saying, “The situation is a public health problem which will require solutions from outside the company as well.”

The official said that the “responsibility is beyond any one technology company” and “re-

quires partners.”

“I think it’s up to the Indian government to decide what is the right mechanism to address the spate of killing that is occurring. It is going to have to be a collaboration,” the official said.

Internet policy experts say WhatsApp doesn’t have legal accountability and cannot be held liable for the way people use it.

“But the platform is responsible for enabling anonymous sending forwards,” said Nikhil Pahwa, a digital rights activist and founder of a portal that covers technology and social media policy in India.

Pahwa said it’s impossible for WhatsApp to track and assess billions of messages. Pavan Duggal, a cyber expert and an attorney, said WhatsApp needs to comply with Indian laws and adopt a “more sensitive and customized approach” for the country to reap the benefits of the vast Indian market.

Interpol Notice Against Fugitive Nirav Modi

NEW DELHI: Interpol has issued a red corner notice (RCN) against fugitive diamond jeweller Nirav Modi after the CBI requested this in connection with the Rs 13,500 crore fraud on Punjab National Bank (PNB), officials said here on Monday.

“Interpol has accepted our request to issue RCN against Nirav Modi, his brother Nishal Modi and an executive of his company Subhash Parab,” a Central Bureau of Investigation official said. Interpol has put the charges of money laundering against the fugitive diamond jeweller, as levelled by Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Modi can be arrested by any of the 192 member countries of the Interpol, after which extradition or deportation proceedings can begin. Modi siphoned off funds to the tune of Rs 6,498.20 crore using fraudulent LoUs, while his uncle Mehul Choksi of the Gitanjali Group allegedly swindled Rs 7,080.86 crore.

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