



Little Mosque Star Takes a Candid Look at Diversity **Canada remains a vibrant example of tolerance and inclusiveness**

Calgary, AB – As the fourth most popular urban centre destination for immigration in Canada, Calgary is made more vibrant by the diversity of its citizens. It is projected that by 2011, more than one in five Calgarians will be a visible minority. With this come both opportunities for celebration and areas of concern. As a catalyst for positive action, The Calgary Foundation, in partnership with Borden Ladner Gervais (BLG) LLP, established the Forever Funds initiative to meet this need.

The Forever Funds Speaker Series is an amazing opportunity to engage Calgarians in our city's most pressing issues. The Series features thought-provoking discussion and presents visionary, topical speakers of imagination and energy who will present cutting-edge topics and discuss important sector issues.

With corporate partner BLG and community partner the Immigrant Access Fund (IAF), we invite you to join us for our second in a series of five Forever Funds Speaker Series events – **an evening of diversity and inclusion featuring Zaib Shaikh***, star of the world's first Muslim sitcom, *Little Mosque on the Prairie* (one of Canada's highest rated comedies which has drawn international attention from the BBC, CNN and The New York Times).

Shaikh, a pivotal player on the show, has also shot to fame around the world, exuding charm, conflict and control in his role as a Pakistani lawyer who moves to a small prairie town to become the Imam of the local mosque.

Monday, November 3, 2008
7:30 - 9:00 pm (DOORS at 7:00 pm)
Calgary TELUS Convention Centre
120 9th Avenue SE (South Building Macleod Hall A)

In his talks, Shaikh takes an engaging look at the multicultural miracle known as Canada. Drawing on his experiences as a Toronto-born actor of Pakistani descent, he explores how, in a world seemingly fractured by sectarian violence and ethnic rivalries, Canada remains a vibrant example of cross-cultural cooperation, tolerance and inclusiveness. But he doesn't paper over the racism and social injustice that still linger; he instead speaks frankly -- and, it must be noted, entertainingly -- about the ways we can address these problems, especially through the arts.

*Zaib Shaikh is available for interviews with the media.

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The Calgary Foundation, established in 1955, facilitates collaborative philanthropy by making powerful connections between donors and community organizations for the long term benefit of Calgary and surrounding area.

For more information, contact:
Chris Huestis, Communications Coordinator
The Calgary Foundation
P: 403-802-7716
chuestis@thecalgaryfoundation.org