

# Media Advisory



## Victoria Foundation to Host *Wellness Matters* Discussion with Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi and Aga Khan Foundation Canada CEO Khalil Shariff

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – Tomorrow afternoon, Mayor Lisa Helps will moderate a conversation between City of Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi and Khalil Shariff, CEO of Aga Khan Foundation Canada, about *Wellness Matters - A Dialogue on Connection, Belonging and the Power of Well-being* at the Victoria Conference Centre. Four hundred tickets to attend the free event that will run from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. sold out within the first two days of being advertised.

The conversation will focus on the things that make us happy and well, and the kinds of communities and connections that happy, well people create together. Ways that we can create and nurture a habitat for happiness and well-being in our communities on a local and global scale will be explored.

Following the panel discussion, participants will have the opportunity to ask questions, engage with one another, and share their thoughts on sounding boards. This creative input will be compiled to create a “crowd-sourced” well-being handbook that will be made available by the event’s partner agencies.

### **MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:**

Mayor Naheed Nenshi, Khalil Shariff and Mayor Lisa Helps will be available for media interviews prior to the event on Wednesday, October 12, 2016 from 3:30 p.m. – 4 p.m. at the Victoria Conference Centre. Media are asked to meet at the right entrance of the lecture theatre.

*Wellness Matters - A Dialogue on Connection, Belonging and the Power of Well-being* is hosted by the Victoria Foundation with support from the City of Victoria, Canadian Club of Victoria, Canadian Diabetes Association, Downtown Victoria Business Association, Heart Pharmacy and Fort Properties Ltd. Each of the community organizations works to increase the well-being of citizens and create community connection and belonging.

Last week, the Victoria Foundation, which is celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, published the 11<sup>th</sup> annual *Victoria Vital Signs* report. The publication is a community check-up that evaluates the Capital Region as a place to live, learn, work and grow, and measures the health of our city, assigning grades in a number of areas that are critical to Victoria’s vitality. A community foundation and a registered charity, the Victoria Foundation connects visionary donors with causes that truly matter, to invest in people, projects and non-profit organizations that make our communities stronger – now and for the long-term.

### **About the Panelists:**

Mayor Naheed Nenshi is currently serving his second term and is Calgary’s 36th mayor. During his first term in office, Mayor Nenshi’s leadership resulted in many positive changes to build better communities, keep Calgarians moving, and transform government to reinforce a culture of constant citizen-focused improvement at the City of Calgary. His passion is to make cities, especially Calgary, work better.

To support community wellness, the City of Calgary invested \$70 million towards establishing the Genesis Centre of Community Wellness. The Centre, which opened its doors in 2012, houses branches of the Calgary Public Library and YMCA Calgary, a human and social services centre, indoor and outdoor sports facilities and community gathering place.

Khalil Shariff joined Aga Khan Foundation Canada (AKFC) as Chief Executive Officer in August 2005. He was previously with the Toronto office of McKinsey & Company, an international management consultancy. Shariff served on AKFC's National Committee for five years and has cultivated his interest in international development and conflict resolution through activities including Deputy Editor-in-Chief for the Harvard Negotiation Law Review; Policy Coordinator and Research Associate for the Harvard Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research; and Legal Intern for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, Tanzania.

Established in 1980, the Aga Khan Foundation Canada is a registered Canadian charity and an agency of the worldwide Aga Khan Development Network, a group of development agencies with individual mandates that address social, economic and cultural dimensions of development. Active in 30 countries, these agencies share a mission to improve living conditions and opportunities for the poor, without regard to their faith, origin or gender.

– 30 –

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