

# **Br. Trevor MacFarlane - New Muslim, born in Canada**

Interviewed by: Br. Ryan Ramchandar\*



## **Q. Please tell us a bit about yourself (where you were born, your work/education).**

**A.** My name is Trevor MacFarlane. I was born here in Winnipeg, Manitoba, however, growing up my family and I moved around often. I've lived in many different cities with my family from Menifee, California to Calgary, Alberta, from Kelowna, BC to Playa Del Carmen Mexico, relocating because of sports.. Alhumduallah, it has given me such a broader understanding of the world and people, and has exposed me to many experiences and opportunities that I never would have had otherwise.

I now work as a Property Investor/Manager for a company called Wafa ltd here in the city. I have been working alongside the owner, Mr.Louay Alghoul, who's been a fantastic coach, and mentor. I am also studying Nutrition and soon Business, at the University of Manitoba. The world of athletics and nutrition has always been woven in my lifestyle so mixing business with them both should inshaallah make for an exciting future.

## **Q. How long have you lived in Canada?**

**A.** Again, I've lived in Canada for the majority of my life, but I've also lived in a few cities outside our nation's borders. I love Canada, it's always been home for me.

## **Q. How long have you been Muslim?**

**A.** I have been a Muslim for two years now, Alhumduallah.

## **Q. Where did you learn about Islam and how did you become Muslim?**

**A.** Growing up I was raised in a Christian home. We went to church every Sunday and sometimes more if there was youth group or other functions going on at the time. I always felt I had a strong connection with God since I was a young child. As I grew up I began to have questions regarding my faith; questions that put the foundations of the faith itself into doubt in my mind. I was 18 years old when my serious quest for truth and knowledge took off. After 3 years of dissecting the bible, finding the truths behind the geopolitical agendas in history regarding scripture changes, omissions, etc and learning the history of Pauline Christianity and also the other original Christian sects of Christianity, I "stumbled" upon Islam along the road. From the very first time I sat down with a Quran, I knew I found God's faith to mankind. It was like a treasure chest that was once kept hidden from me for so long now fell in my lap. Almost 2 billion people on the planet had already found it before me!

## **Q. Does being a Muslim change your perspective on being Canadian?**

**A.** Not at all. I still feel as Canadian as any other person living here. Islam hasn't changed my identity as a Canadian, but rather has changed my identity as a person. I still cheer on the Bombers with 30,000 other fans each game. I still visit the Forks every Canada Day (although I haven't painted my body red and white for a few years now). What has changed is my outlook on things like lifestyle choices, family, friendship, and true brotherhood. Not to say that I didn't have those previously, but the way Islam guides you so you can excel in those and every other area of your life, is like no other.

**Q. How easy or difficult is it to practice your faith in Canada? What are some challenges?**

**A.** Islam to most Canadians is still a foreign thing. The sights of women walking around fully clothed from head to toe, still give many the impression of oppression, rather than modesty and respect. I believe the biggest issue with non-Muslim Canadians is the lack of education regarding our faith. I am however very optimistic that this will change rapidly over these next few decades, as Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world. For me, I've found Islam to be fairly easy to practice and grow into. Right from the beginning I had a good group of Muslim brothers who I surrounded myself with and who helped me progress in my deen.

**Q. What things make you feel proud to be a Canadian Muslim?**

**A.** I feel proud being a Canadian Muslim when I look around my mosque at Juma and meet and see people from every corner of the globe. As Canadian Muslims, we are very diverse but one thing that holds us together is the love and faith in one God.

**Q. Do you consider being Canadian an important part of your identity? If so, how?**

**A.** Of course I feel being Canadian is important to my identity. Part of my make-up as a person has been shaped by the nation I live in.

**Q. Tell us one thing you want people to know about the Muslim experience in Canada.**

**A.** The Muslim experience in Canada is one that is as rich as it is diverse. The sense of brotherhood and love is like no other I've ever seen or experienced in my life, Alhumduallah. It is also one that builds you a strong sense of morality, discipline, and peace. I love calling myself, and being known as a Canadian Muslim man. I wear my badge with pride. I would strongly encourage Canadian and non-Canadian people alike to investigate Islam for themselves with open hearts so they too may find peace and purpose.