



Could the Muslim concept of Sharia tribunals set a better example for Ontario's broken down system of family courts?

By Mike March, Justice Reporter

Just recently, there were a number of scanty protests by Canadian women's groups opposing the Muslim community's efforts to use its own system of Sharia tribunals to resolve family related issues within the Muslim community. Women's groups were trying to use scare tactics by claiming that these Muslim tribunals would drastically threaten women's rights everywhere.

The 17 Liberal MPPs who make up the women's caucus of Ontario's Liberal Party, likely under pressure from these small, but noisy radical women's groups, also expressed their concern about giving the Muslim community some limited autonomy to settle problems relating to divorce and separation through its own community arbitration system.

Opposition to the use of Sharia tribunals in family law would appear to be coming from radical feminist groups and special interest women's groups, some of which get their funding from the government.

The clash between the Muslim community and the feminists in Ontario is coming to a head and some feel could potentially turn violent at some time in the not too distant future if the underlying causes of this cultural rift are not looked at and steps are not taken to resolve them in a fair and culturally tolerant manner.

When I first heard about this issue, my first thought as a native Canadian was to say no to Sharia tribunals as well, but as a Canadian who is very much aware of dismal failure of Ontario's system of family courts, my enlightened side told me to look closer into this issue. Could the concept of Sharia tribunals be a good thing for Ontario and for Canada? The fact that radical feminist groups were so adamantly opposed to Sharia tribunals for family matters also made me suspicious because anything that the radical feminists in Canada support, generally, has negative consequences for taxpayers or for children and families in Canada.

I contacted a representative of a local Muslim community center to get more information about Sharia tribunals. The person was very helpful and informed me that the application of Sharia tribunals in Ontario was intended for family related issues and not for other areas of the justice system. He also said that resolution of family disputes using Sharia was based on compassion, understanding and fairness for all family members, something which I already knew did not exist in the

family court system here in Ontario.

He said that Muslims could not understand why women's groups were putting up such barriers, because even if a dispute is not resolved to the satisfaction of Muslim women under Sharia tribunal, they still have the option to go to an Ontario family court. After having my questions answered, I was left with no doubt that the application of Sharia could offer many benefits over Ontario's current adversarial family court system.

Before Members of the Ontario Legislature consider what action they take in this debate, they should carefully consider the following questions:

- 1) Why is it that feminist groups are the ones adamantly opposed to the Muslim community using Sharia tribunals within their own cultural group?
- 2) Why is it that feminist groups are the driving force behind the effort to force Canadian family law on to immigrant groups coming into Canada?
- 3) Why aren't these women's groups at least giving the Muslim community the opportunity to show Canadians how Sharia system of family justice works before attacking and criticizing our Muslim neighbours? Canadians invited immigrants into this country for cultural diversity, so lets give our Muslim immigrant neighbours the chance to show us their diversity.
- 4) Is there any vested interest in feminist groups maintaining the status quo with Ontario's current family law system?
- 5) If Canada is the fair and just country in the world that it proclaims to be, then why would immigrant groups not want to embrace our system of family justice with open arms?
- 6) Is there something wrong about Ontario's system of family justice that our immigrant neighbours are seeing but that Canadians are not seeing or don't want to see?
- 7) Why are these women's groups (some of them funded by our tax dollars) so opposed to Muslim tribunals, yet not opposed to similar systems of arbitration used by other religious groups?

A growing number of Canadians, even those born and raised in Canada, would say that the radical feminists in Canada have a selfish interest in maintaining the status quo for family law in Ontario and it's sure not for the sake of the children. Given the clear failure of Ontario's family justice system, the Muslim Community has very good reason to want to use what they believe is a more family friendly way of resolving family disputes.

There is plenty of evidence which shows that Ontario's family courts clearly give women vastly superior treatment than with men. Generally speaking, the courts in Ontario often give women who want to get divorced, the ability to destroy their former spouses, take their houses, their money and take away their children as well. Canadian men are being routinely arrested and thrown in jail based on merely the allegations of a vindictive ex-wife who wants a divorce. Many children are having their fathers stripped away from their lives because of Canada's unfair and biased family court system which allows women to do this with impunity.

It is becoming increasingly apparent to many Canadians, young and old, that Ontario's family and domestic violence courts are not what they appear and that many Canadians believe that there is rampant bias and corruption within Ontario's family justice system.

The destruction of children and families by Ontario's morally corrupt family and domestic court systems has become so rampant that many Canadians are beginning to band together for the purpose of making changes to what many Canadians believe is Ontario's morally corrupt justice system.

Just some of the many stories of injustice and persecution of ordinary Canadians by the family court system can be seen on a website being operated by the Canada Court Watch Program. Readers should check out <http://www.canadacourtwatch.com>

There are dozens of other articles, as well as audio clips, from many Canadians testifying to scandalous condition of Ontario's system of family justice.

Currently, Ontario is considered one of the most oppressive provinces to live in when it comes to the application of family and domestic violence laws, especially if you happen to be a father.

While debate continues within the Ontario Legislature about the use of Sharia tribunals in Canada, Muslim immigrants have many good reasons not to use the Canadian system and to use their own Sharia system of tribunals to resolve family matters. The Muslim community, like many Canadian who were born and raised in this country, are now beginning to see how biased, corrupt and anti-family many of Canada's family courts have become under Canada's current legal system. Many Canadians are beginning to see the hundreds of millions of dollars of hard earned tax dollars that are

being squandered by feminist groups in Canada to promote an anti-family, anti-father and pro women's agenda. Left uncorrected, it is only a matter of time until widespread violence will erupt on Canadian soil and respect for law and order in this country will evaporate, especially within immigrant groups who hold strong family and community values and believe in protecting their children and families.

Maybe if Canadian lawmakers, especially with legislators in Ontario taking the lead, cleaned up Ontario's own system of family and domestic violence courts, then the Muslim community may start to embrace Canada's system of justice with open arms. Before Ontario gives more money to legal aid and children's lawyers and to build larger and more expensive court buildings, mandatory mediation should be implemented so that community-based tribunals can decide what is best for children and families, not expensive family court judges who get it wrong much of the time.

Maybe if our broken down system of family and domestic violence courts are fixed up, Canada will be a country where both men and women are treated equally under the law, not just in the wording of the law but in its actual application.

Anyone who is exposed to the inner workings of our family courts soon gets to understand what Canada's feminized, pro mother, anti-father and anti-family family justice system is all about. It then becomes quite obvious why women's groups want Ontario to keep things the way they are and keep Muslim tribunals out.

Many Canadians easily understand why the Muslim Community in Ontario wants to do things according to its cultural heritage. Ontario's system of family justice does not work and Muslims believe that their Sharia tribunals will work better for their people. Maybe the Muslim community can show us Canadians how to treat our children and families with greater respect and fairness when it comes to family breakdown.

Generally, competition is good for the consumers. Maybe Ontario's broken down family court system, which has turned into a multi-billion dollar industry for the financial benefit of lawyers, needs a bit of competition geared at cutting out these high-priced lawyers. Maybe the use of community tribunals may allow us to do away with some of these incompetent and biased judges who sit back and collect their fat lifetime incomes from the taxpayers.

Let's give Sharia a chance. Let's show respect and tolerance for our Muslim neighbours and tell the radical feminists that we have had enough of their selfish threats, whining and complaints.

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