



Presenters and organizers at the TIME TO TALK event (from left to right): Mirsad Kaplani, Imam Muhammad Abuelezz, Fran Pappert-Shannon, Hinda Hassan, Jessica Hutchison and Kathy Rana

## TIME TO TALK: END-OF-LIFE CARE INFORMATION EVENING

By Fran Pappert-Shannon

CMW presented a fascinating and informative event at the Kitchener Masjid on Wednesday, November 16, 2016. “TIME TO TALK: END-OF-LIFE CARE” featured speakers and discussion about the importance of having end-of-life care conversations with loved ones.

Fifty people were in attendance as three panelists addressed the topic. Jessica Hutchison of Hospice Waterloo Region spoke about the work of her organization, and stressed the importance of families discussing their wishes for the health care they

would like to receive as their lives draw to a close. Sister Hinda Hassan talked about her personal experiences as an Intensive Care Nurse, and presented real life stories about families who experienced trauma as their loved ones reached the end of their lives without a plan in place. Our third respected panelist, Imam Mohammed Abuelezz, spoke with great knowledge about the Islamic perspective on end-of-life care.

Following the panel presentations, there was a lively Question and Answer period. Discussion largely focused on the Islamic point of view concerning when life actually ends, and there was also passionate discussion about life support, and the decision to “pull the plug” when a patient is brain dead.

Due to continued, enthusiastic interest in this topic, a second TIME TO TALK information evening is being planned for Friday, March 10th at 8:15 p.m. at the Kitchener Masjid. This session will largely focus on the topic: “Brain Death, and the Removal of Life Support Equipment for Muslim Patients”. Panellists will include Dr. Ahmed Jakda, a Muslim Palliative Care physician; Reverend John Lougheed, the Director of Spiritual Care at Grand River Hospital; Mark Godin from Hospice Waterloo Region, and our own respected Imam, Mohammed Abuelezz. Childcare and refreshments will be provided. Please join us on March 10th at the Kitchener Masjid for **TIME TO TALK TWO!**