

SOMALI CENTRE
for Family Services



LE CENTRE SOMALIEN
pour les services à la famille

200-1719 Bank St. Ottawa, ON K1V 7Z4 Tel: (613) 526-2075 Fax: (613) 526-2803

Website: www.scfsottawa.org , Email: info@scfsottawa.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 5, 2026

OTTAWA MOURNS THE PASSING OF COMMUNITY LEADER AND REFUGEE ADVOCATE MR. ABDIRIZAK KAROD

Ottawa, Ontario – The Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and community partners of the Somali Centre for Family Services (SCFS) are deeply saddened to announce the passing of our Executive Director, Mr. Abdirizak Karod, a visionary leader whose life's work transformed the lives of countless immigrants, refugees, and families across Ottawa and beyond.

For more than three decades, Mr. Karod dedicated himself to building a stronger, more inclusive community. Through his leadership and unwavering commitment to service, he helped newcomers find safety, opportunity, and a sense of belonging in Canada. His work touched thousands of lives and strengthened the social fabric of our city.

As a pillar of the Somali Centre for Family Services, Mr. Karod championed programs and services that supported settlement, family well-being, youth development, employment, mental health, and community engagement. He was widely respected for his compassion, integrity, and determination to ensure that every individual, regardless of their background, had the opportunity to succeed.

His legacy extends far beyond the organization he helped develop and lead. He inspired generations of community leaders, advocates, and volunteers to work toward a more just and welcoming society. His voice, wisdom, and dedication will be remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him and working alongside him.

"Mr. Karod devoted his life to serving others. His leadership created lasting change for newcomers, refugees, and marginalized communities throughout Ottawa. We mourn his loss and celebrate a legacy that will continue to guide our work for years to come."

During this difficult time, we extend our heartfelt condolences to his beloved wife, Sahra, and his children, Ayan, Mohamud, Hakim, and Lukman, as well as his extended family, friends, colleagues, and the many community members whose lives he touched.

The Somali Centre for Family Services and its partners will continue to honour Mr. Karod's vision by advancing the values he championed: dignity, inclusion, service, and opportunity for all.

Funeral services (Janazah) for Mr. Karod will be held on Saturday, June 6, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. at Assalam Mosque (2335 St. Laurent Blvd #100, Ottawa, ON K1G 5G6). Community members wishing to pay their respects are welcome to attend.

The Somali Centre for Family Services will also host a press conference on Monday, June 8, 2026, at 1719 bank st , 2nd floor boardroom. Further details will be shared with members of the media.

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Issued by the Somali Centre for Family Services Leadership Team and Board of Directors

Media Contacts:

Bille Abdalla
Somali Centre for Family Services
613-415-5595
b.abdalla@scfsottawa.org

Meseret Haileyesus
Somali Centre for Family Services
780-904-1482
M.Haileyesus@scfsottawa.org

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