



**Message to BHESA**

**Sohail Quadri, MLA Edmonton-Mill Woods**

**Legislative Secretary to the Premier**

This marks a very important time of year for our Muslim brothers and sisters. Eid al-Adha, the Feast of the Sacrifice, is an extremely important holiday for followers of the Islamic faith worldwide. Canadian Muslims have been integral members in developing our nation's history, and as such, Eid al-Adha is of particularly far-ranging importance for us.

It is quite fitting, therefore, that the Bangladesh Heritage and Ethnic Society of Alberta (BHESA) has worked to mark this holiday with the Celebration of Eid Reunion, 2014. BHESA has been a champion for Alberta's Bengali community, and has been tireless in its efforts to promote and preserve the Bengali culture's contributions to our society.

Recognizing that nearly 1.6 billion people, or approximately 23.4 per cent of the entire world's population, celebrate Eid al-Adha each and every year, BHESA has done us the service of raising awareness through such events as the present gala reunion and the publication of Edmonton Bichitra magazine. Across the globe, the Islamic faith is among the most prevalent – and within the faith, members of Bengali heritage have played an important role.

Happily for this year's holiday, Edmonton Bichitra 2014 and the reunion coincide on the same day, as is fitting for this milestone. President Delwar Jahid and his associates at BHESA have every reason to celebrate on this occasion – not-for-profit organizations such BHESA serve as non-political, non-sectarian community supports which enrich and enliven our everyday lives. They maintain cohesive and effective voices for the wide variety of backgrounds present in our society. The holiday of Eid al-Adha, symbolizing submission to divine faith, transcends any sect in its message, and it is appropriate that this celebration of community service with the publication of Edmonton Bichitra should fall in line with this date.

Once again, congratulations to all those individuals celebrating Eid al-Adha, as well as to BHESA for its years of valuable service and the publication of this new volume of Edmonton Bichitra 2014.