



Canadian & Turkish
Women's Association
of Ottawa

Dear CATWAO members,

Our fourth annual general meeting was held on Wednesday, April 15. With 72 members to date, we are indeed proud of the way we grew since we established ourselves in November 2004. As we approach the 5th anniversary of our founding, it is with great satisfaction that we look back at the path we followed and are convinced that with your support, our mission of “bridging cultures” will continue to make a difference in the nation’s capital.

In the last elections held at our AGM last week, I turned over the presidency to our vice-president Madeleine Guindi. Zeynep Karman kindly accepted my invitation to preside over the AGM which was a great way to complete the circle as she was the first person with whom I shared my idea of a Canadian & Turkish women’s association in June 2004 and she was there again as I turned over my responsibilities. Thank you, Zeynep, for your support and encouragement throughout.

You will soon get the minutes of the meeting with the new members of our Executive Committee. I had the pleasure and the privilege of working with a wonderful group of people whom I am proud to call my friends. Their dedication and commitment made it possible for us to present to our members and the public at large a rich variety of events reflecting the diversity of the Canadians, taking us to interesting places with unique traditions as well as discussing current issues.

My heartfelt thanks to all the members of the Executive Committee, past and present and also to Jackie Holzman whose encouragement and guidance gave me the courage to initiate and proceed with this project and to Monique Martin whose artistic and creative talents gave us not only our uniquely beautiful logo and thus our pin, but also her extraordinary paintings she allowed us to use in many of our announcement posters.

I would also like to thank the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey for their continued support of our projects and events.

Last but definitely not least, my thanks to you, dear CATWAO members for making every event special and sending kind words of approval and praise – please know they are most appreciated. The fact that we now have at least 3-4 new members following each event strengthens our confidence.

I shall, of course, continue to be a part of CATWAO and will look forward to seeing you again in the Fall when the new season begins. Please remember that it is our differences that enrich our lives and make our relationships stronger.

May you all have a wonderful summer with your loved ones.

All the best,

Füsün Ören

www.catwao.ca