

Local Muslims ponder Arafat's death

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The death of Yasser Arafat has touched Saskatchewan's Muslim community and has left many wondering what the future holds for the Middle East.

"We think it's a big turning point for the Middle East and the Palestinians," said Kashif Ahmed, communications director with Muslims for Peace and Justice. The Saskatchewan-based Muslim outreach and advocacy organization offered condolences to the Palestinian people following Arafat's death on Thursday.

Ahmed said the absence of the Palestinian leader will create a "political vacuum" in the region. "Without Yasser Arafat in the picture, it's a very different reality in the Middle East now," he said.

He said the Muslim community in Saskatchewan and Canada will remember Arafat as a person who brought the Palestinian cause onto the international stage. "He'll be remembered as a father of the nation," he said.

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