

## Muslim Literary Festival (MLF) - June 8, 2024 - Full Day Program

CSI Spadina - 192 Spadina Ave, Toronto, ON

Time	Description
10:30 AM	<b>Guest Check-In + Network.</b> Chai and snacks provided.
11:00AM	<b>Meet Cute</b> Speed networking session guided by prompts, hosted by an MLF team member.
12:00 PM	<b>Opening Remarks</b> delivered by Narjis Sheikh, Executive Director of MLF.
12:15 PM	<b><i>From The End to The Beginning: The Journey of a Muslim Author Panel</i></b> Moderated by Alaa Al-Barkawi, Founder of SWANApit, this panel welcomes both emerging writers and industry professionals. Join authors Salma Hussain ( <i>The Secret Diary of Mona Hasan</i> ), Alina Khawaja ( <i>Maya's Laws of Love</i> ), and Sadi Muktadir ( <i>Land of No Regrets</i> ) as they discuss how the publishing industry can better support, empower, and uplift Muslim voices in the literary landscape. The panel will explore challenges faced by these authors on their journey to publication and share valuable lessons with the audience for moving forward.
1:50 PM	<b>Catered Lunch / Prayer Break</b>
2:40 PM	<b><i>Pitch Perfection: A Comprehensive Guide Workshop</i></b> Learn from industry experts Hana El-Niwairi, Rights Manager & Literary Agent at CookeMcDermid, and Fazeela Jiwa, Acquisitions & Development Editor at Fernwood Publishing, as they guide you in mastering the art of crafting the perfect pitch for your book. Gain insights into what editors and agents look for in fiction and non-fiction submissions, how to choose the right agent and publisher, and strategies to stand out in the submissions process.
3:40 PM	<b>Raffle Prize Announcements + Closing Remarks</b> delivered by Narjis Sheikh, Executive Director of MLF.

Time	Description
4:10 PM	<p data-bbox="394 306 846 338"><b>Creative Lab / Live Author Pitches</b></p> <p data-bbox="394 384 1438 451">The creative lab is a collaborative hub where writers can explore their ideas, and share their pitches and projects with each other. Refreshments will be provided.</p> <p data-bbox="394 499 1507 674">Live Author Pitch sessions will take place simultaneously in private rooms. If a writer has signed up to pitch to an agent, please note that they will have the opportunity to do so either at this time or at the literary expo. Their pitch session will only take up a portion of their time, allowing them to engage with fellow writers and discuss their projects.</p>
5:00 PM	<p data-bbox="394 714 862 745"><b>Literary Expo / Live Author Pitches</b></p> <p data-bbox="394 777 1511 903">The literary expo is an exhibition that will promote literacy, foster industry networking, and provide writers a chance to promote, grow, or launch their author careers. Confirmed exhibitors include Another Story Bookshop, CookeMcDermid, and Halal State of Mind.</p> <p data-bbox="394 934 1507 1094">Live Author Pitch sessions will take place simultaneously in private rooms. If a writer signs up to pitch to an agent, please note that they will have the opportunity to do so either at this time or during the creative lab. Their pitch session will only take up a portion of their time, allowing them to network with industry professionals, fellow writers, and get their books signed by the panelists.</p>