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## Kanata Mosque Design Brief

The revised design for the Kanata Mosque – Phase 2 is intended to develop a project that has a meaningful sense of place and be well integrated within its neighbourhood context. The project is located in an evolving district and the proposed building will be the first with a more urban relationship to the street. As such, an important design intent is to mitigate the building's impact on the streetscape and develop a welcoming approach to the site.

The prayer hall is oriented towards Mecca, the direction of Muslim prayer. In Kanata this direction is 57° east of true north. The front wall of the prayer hall (qibla wall) fortuitously aligns very close to the alignment of Sandhill Drive. The height of the prayer hall is stepped down towards the street using a slightly lower height for the qibla wall. This lower wall curves around to engage with the building's entrance plaza. Both design strategies in combination with the sensitive landscape design along the street frontage soften the building edge along Sandhill Drive.

The building design is intended to reflect the community's Islamic identity within the diversity of Canadian society. Contemporary interpretation of Islamic decorative motifs (calligraphy and geometric patterns) and architectural elements (the minaret) are used in the design. That in combination with a building that responds to the northern climate and uses regional materials is intended to create a building with a strong relationship to its environment and also be representative of its community.

The exterior building finishes use both local building materials and modern materials. The material palette includes stone masonry, precast concrete panels, metal cladding, glass curtain wall and decorative metal screens. The building entrances are celebrated with arched elements articulated with an aluminum screen. The freestanding minaret, an important architectural symbol in mosque architecture, is located at the entrance to the site creating a recognizable landmark.

The specific details of the calligraphy, geometric patterns and minaret articulation are still under design development. However, building heights, massing, entrances, and fenestration are fixed.

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