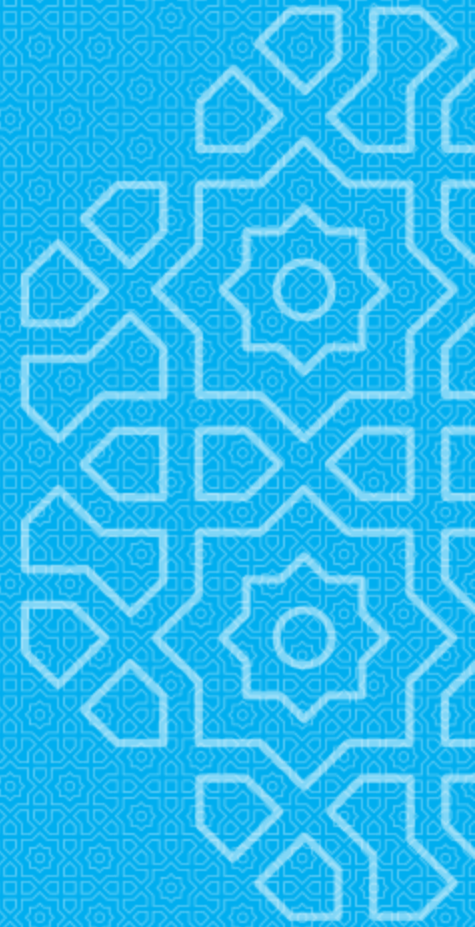


# Ismaili Volunteers

## History & Structure



# Ethos of Volunteering

**"In the Shia Ismaili Muslim tradition, voluntary service to others is viewed as an integral and positive part of daily life, and never as a burdensome obligation or an elective activity.**

**Service is a means for each individual to actualise Islam's ethics** of inclusiveness, of compassion, of sharing, of the respect for life, and of personal responsibility for sustaining a healthy physical, social, and cultural environment."

*- Princess Zahra Aga Khan, Edmonton, Canada, August 25, 1998*





# Mawlana Hazar Imam

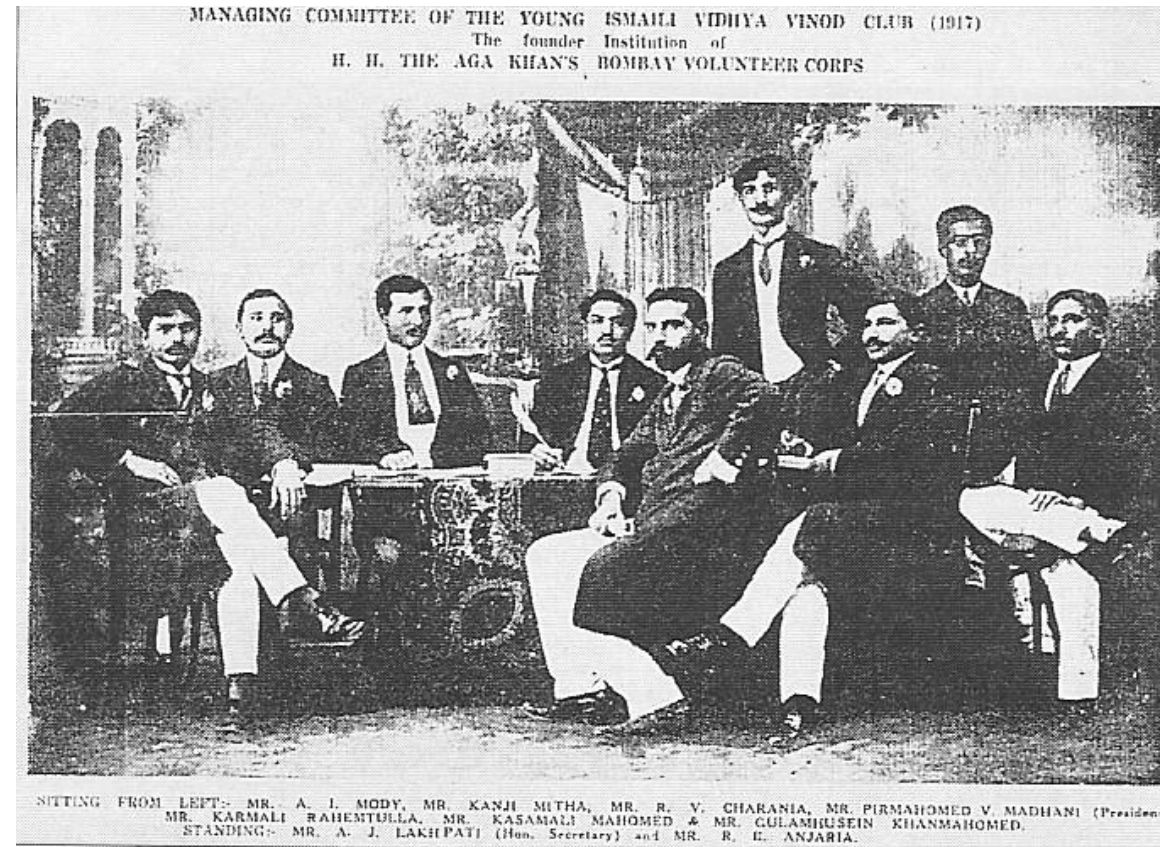
“Great architecture can integrate the past and the future – inherited tradition and changing needs. We need not choose between looking back and looking forward; they are not competing choices, but healthy complements. We can learn valuable lessons from history without getting lost in history; we can look boldly ahead without ignoring what has gone before.”

*Mawlana Hazar Imam, Aga Khan Award for Architecture Ceremony, Al-Ain, UAE, November 6, 2016*

# It All Started in India - 1915

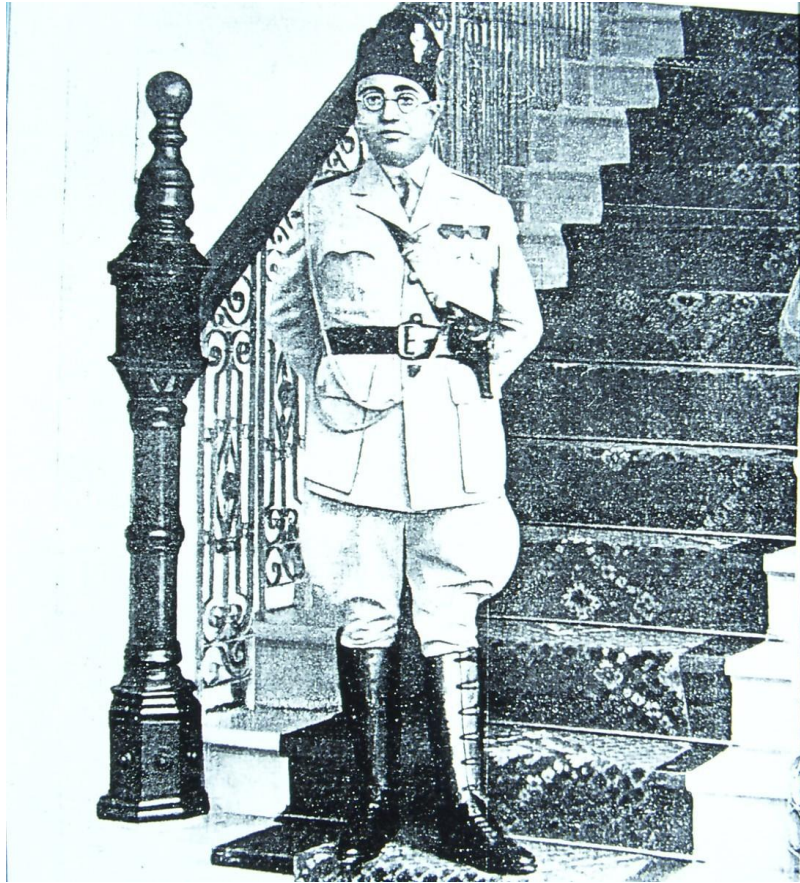
Creation of the Young  
Ismaili Vidhya Vinod  
Club (or V.V Club) of  
Bombay

Aim was to acquire  
knowledge and serve  
the Jamat





# How It All Started - India



Pir Muhammed Madhani formed the first Ismaili Volunteer Corps. in Bombay on November 19, 1919.

He was appointed as a Captain in 1920, Chief Captain in 1931, Major in 1936.

In 1944 Mawlana Sultan Muhammed Shah appointed him as the Lt. Colonel of the Corps.

# How It All Started - Africa



A.J. Lakhpati was one of the pioneers of the Ismaili Volunteer Corps in 1919 when he was the Vice Captain.

He later became a Major and helped establish the Ismaili Volunteer Corps in Kisumu, Kenya



# How It All Started - 1920



- ◆ Mawlana Sultan Mohamed Shah Visited Bombay. The Volunteer Corps was on duty. He changed the name to H.H The Aga Khan Bombay Volunteer Corps
- ◆ The Imam granted them the “coat-of-arms” to be worn as part of the uniform.



Mawlana Sultan Mohamed Shah with a group of volunteers

# How It All Started - 1921

Mawlana Sultan Mohamed Shah became the first Colonel of the Volunteer Corps and wore its uniform. He was colonel for 13 years.

*“If you wish to serve, enroll yourselves in (this) Volunteer Corps; wear uniform and perform duty”.*





# How The IVC Developed Its Mission - 1922

A riot broke up in Gujarat and the Ismaili Volunteer Corps responded by protecting the community.



# How The IVC Developed Its Mission - 1927

The volunteers risked their lives and saved many lives during the torrential rains and floods in Gujarat.





# How The IVC Developed Its Mission - 1929

Vice-Captain, A.J. Lakhpati fell seriously ill. It was decided by the doctors to treat him by blood transfusion. In those days, people had not heard of such a treatment. Therefore, they were scared. But, six young volunteers, without knowing the consequences, gave their blood to their Vice-Captain and saved his life.



# How IVC Leadership Developed - 1944

Mawlana Sultan Mohamed Shah appointed Prince Alykhan as the Colonel of the Ismaili Volunteer Corps



Prince Alykhan



# How IVC Leadership Developed – June 11, 1954



## Africa



Today, I will give you a small motto and that is **‘WORK NO WORDS’**. Labour for the welfare of others is the best way of improving ourselves, because results are sure and certain. If you work for yourselves, you are never happy. This is not the new idea, but this is an outcome of the experience of thousands of years of history.

# Leading By Example



Prince Ayn and Mawlana Hazar Imam in Volunteer Uniforms



# Leading By Example



Mawlana Hazar Imam in Volunteer Uniform

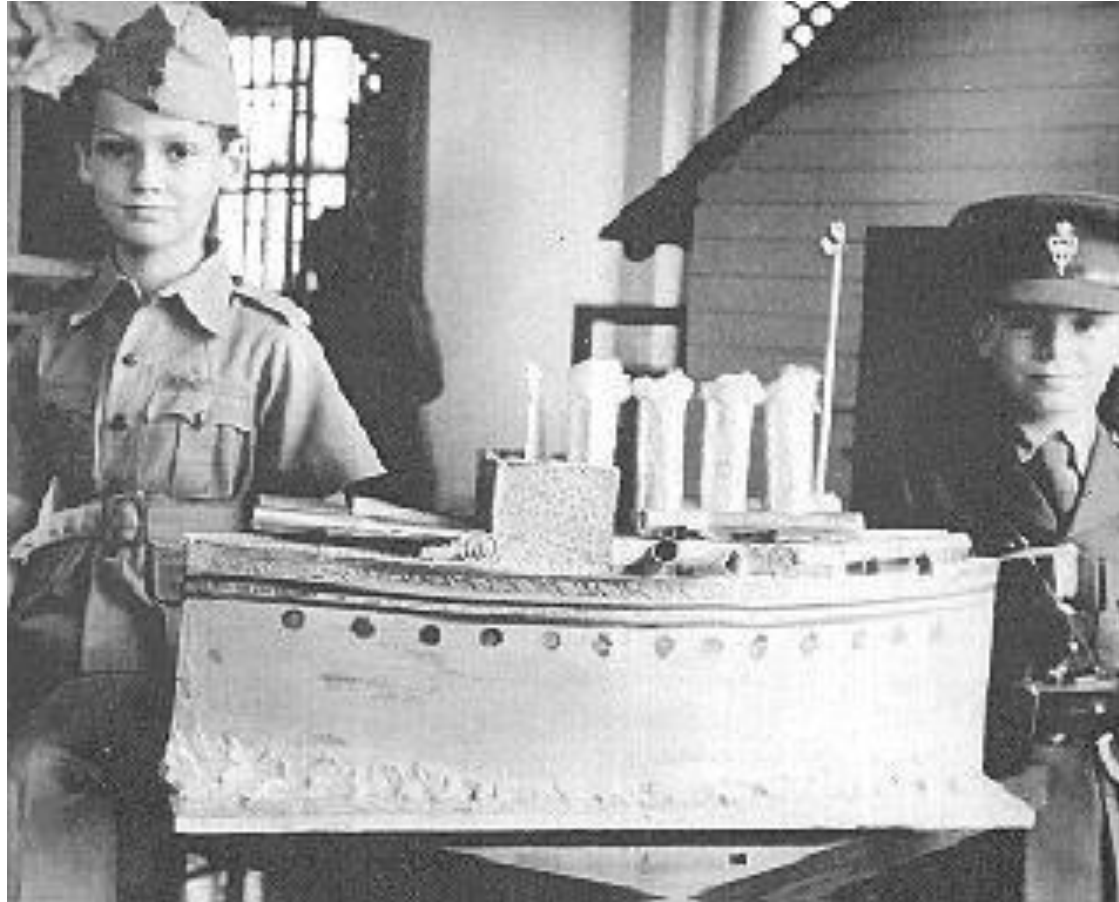
# Leading By Example



Mawlana Hazar Imam & Prince Ayn in Volunteer Uniforms



# Leading By Example



Mawlana Hazar Imam and Prince Ayn in Volunteer Uniform proudly displaying the ship they made.

# Leading By Example



Prince Ayn in Volunteer and Scouts Uniform



# How It Grew



Major Nurali Harji  
on duty during visit  
of Mawlana Sultan  
Muhammad Shah

**1966** Africa Visit - Mawlana Hazar  
Imam with Major Nurali Harji



# How It Grew

Uganda - Mawlana  
Hazar Imam with the  
IVC Executive and  
Scouts

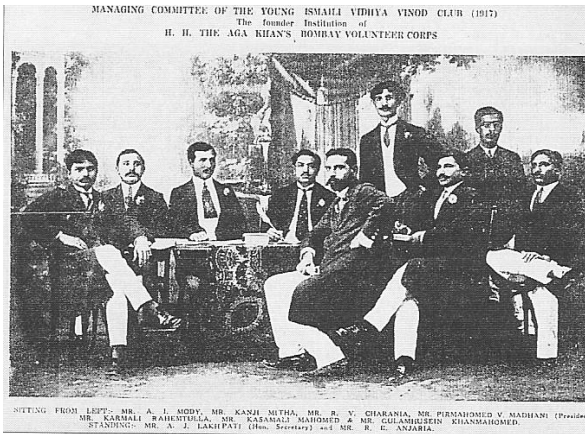
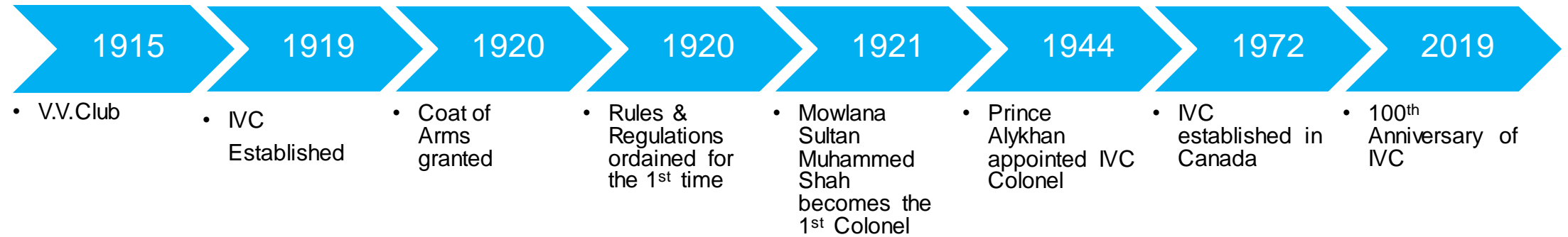


*With the scout and volunteer executive in Uganda*

*Avec les dirigeants des scouts et des volontaires en Uganda*



# IVC Timeline



# IVC Mandate

## **Ismaili Volunteer Corps**

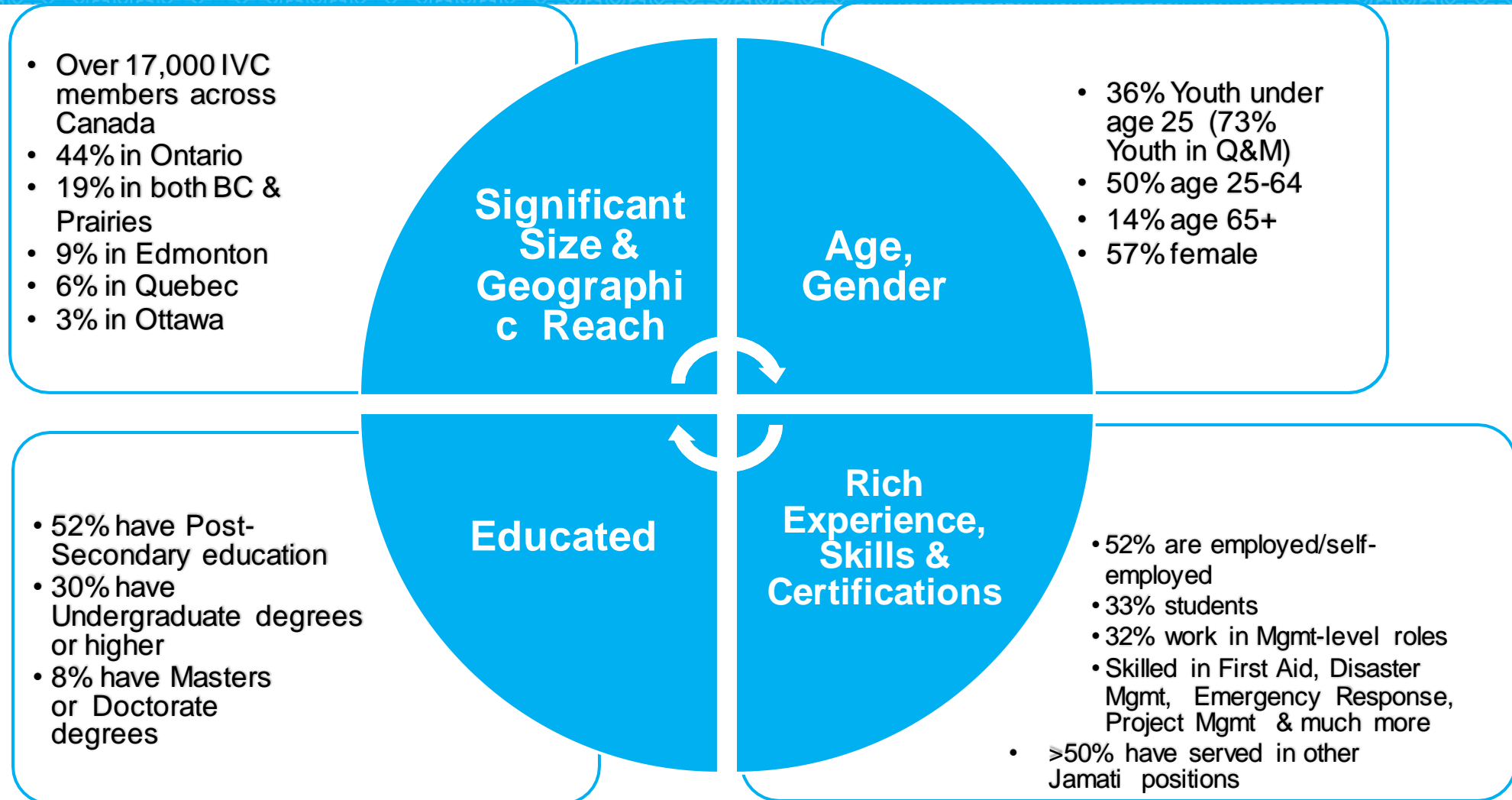
Preserve and foster the tradition of voluntary service and identify, motivate and develop leadership talent

## **Roles / Objectives**

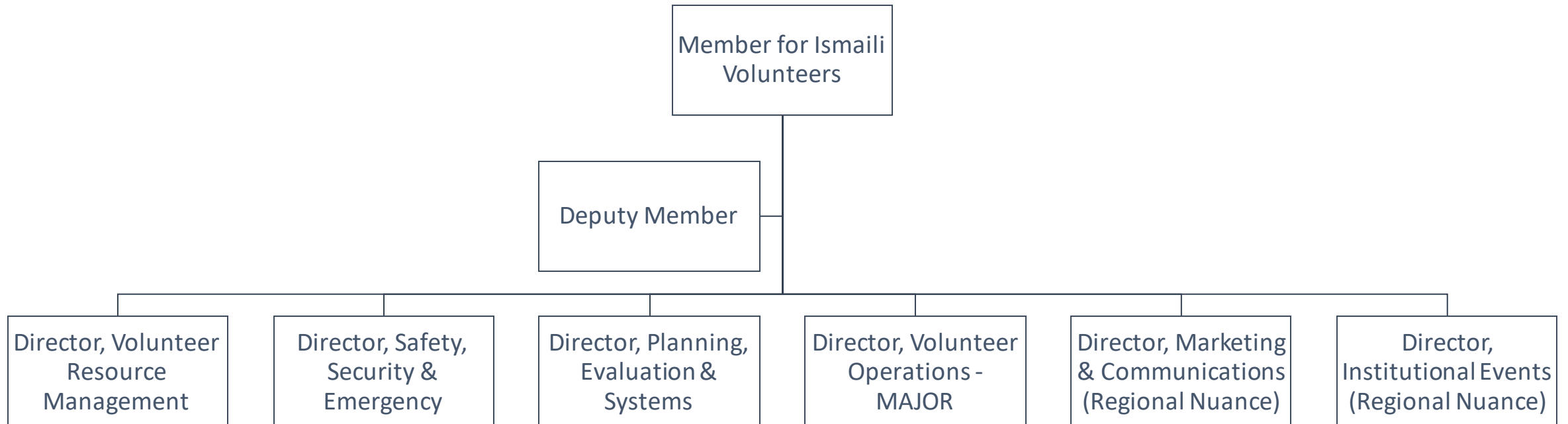
To be a disciplined, united and caring organization, without boundaries, that will provide exemplary service to the Jamat, the Ummah and Society ... while preserving and fostering the concept of voluntary service guided by the ethical principles of Islam.



# Today's Ismaili Volunteers

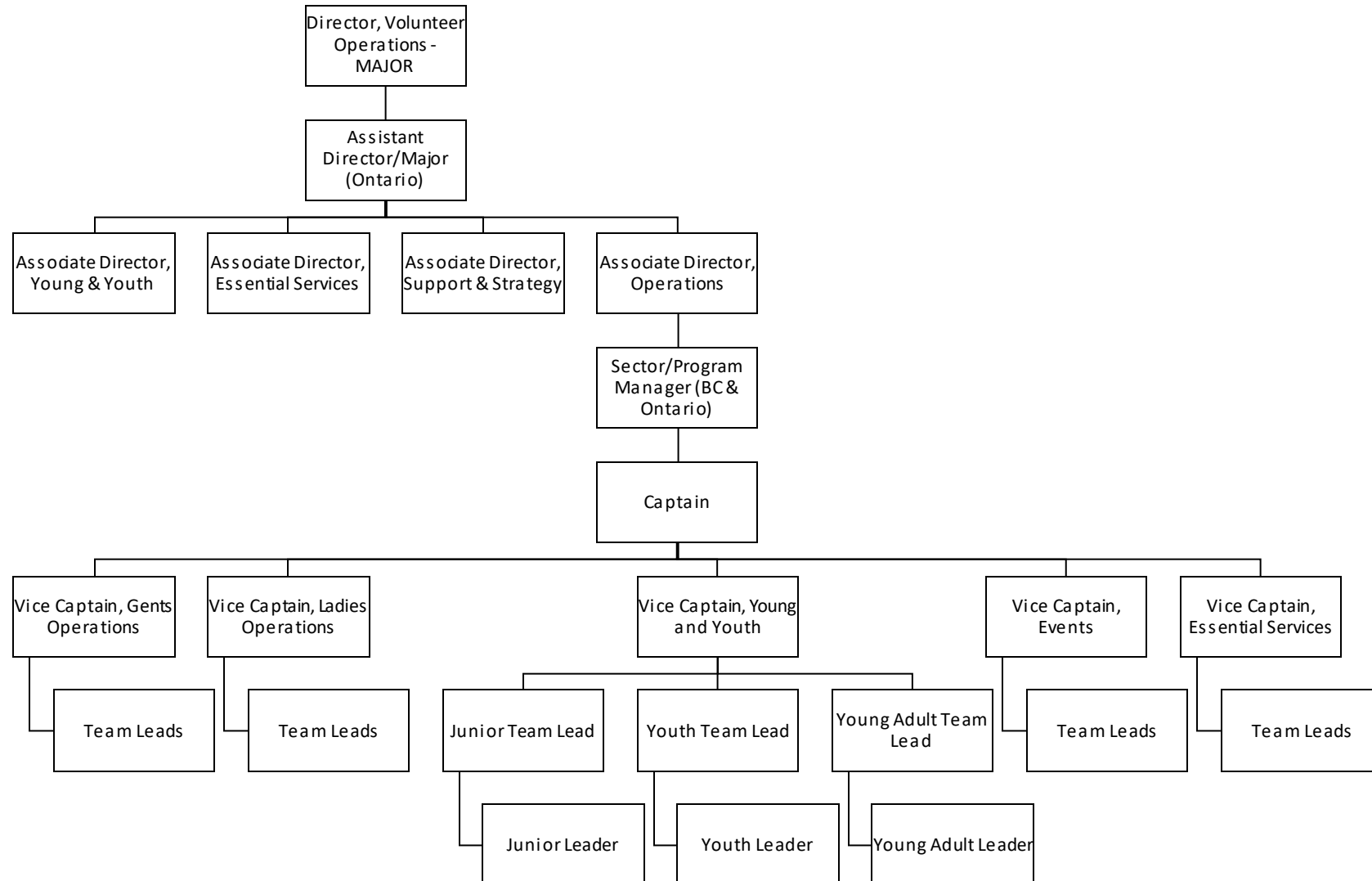


# Ismail Volunteer Organizational Structure





# Volunteer Operations Organizational Structure



# Formal Uniform





# Casual Uniform



Council for Canada