



SAKEENAH
CANADA



ANNUAL 20 REPORT 25

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INTRODUCTION

About Us



The Vision

A world where everyone has **safety**, **serenity**, and **strength**.

The Mission

Sakeenah Canada provides essential support and services, empowering people to become healthy, independent, and thriving members of our society.

Sakeenah Canada is a national charitable organization founded in 2018 which provides culturally and religiously sensitive support for Muslim women, children, and families experiencing domestic violence, homelessness, and poverty. Its services include Canada's first 24/7 Emergency Hotline operated by a Muslim organization, for individuals in crisis across Canada, as well as transitional housing, mental health counselling, remote case management, foster care support, child and youth programming, anti-human trafficking initiatives, and community education and training programs.

In 2025, Sakeenah Canada continued to address food insecurity through two People's Market locations and provided safe, transitional housing through nine homes across Canada.

THANK YOU FROM OUR 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rabia Din, *Chair*
Uzma Chaudhry, *Vice Chair*
Hena Awan, *Secretary*
Bushra Pervaiz, *Treasurer*
Ateeqa Butt, *Director*

Huma Saeedi, *Director*
Sarah Malik, *Director*
Jawwad Khurshid, *Director*
Eaman Fahmy, *Director*



LETTER FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

As-salamu alaykum.

Thank you for continuing to support women, children, and families across Canada through your generosity, compassion, and belief in our mission.

Alhamdulillah, 2025 has been a year focused on strengthening our foundation and continuing to provide meaningful support to communities across the country. Through the grace of Allah and the support of people like you, we have continued to grow our impact and respond to the evolving needs of those we serve.

Some highlights from the year include:

- Our 24/7 Emergency Hotline celebrated its first anniversary in December. During its first full year of operation, the hotline received 547 calls for support and facilitated 82 emergency placements, providing individuals in crisis with safe emergency shelter, transportation, meals, and immediate support when it was needed most.
- Our Child & Youth program experienced significant growth in 2025, with workshop and remote program offerings increasing by 173% over 2024. This expansion enabled us to broaden our reach and provide meaningful support to even more children and youth in our community.
- 2025 was our first full year of operating the second location of The People's Market. Alhamdulillah, we distributed over 135,445 food and essential items through both locations.
- Our Casework department remains a trusted source of support and guidance for those we serve. Alhamdulillah,

we are proud to have achieved a 96% client satisfaction rate, a testament to the dedication and care our team brings to every client interaction.

- In 2025, our Transitional Home program provided safe housing and support to 405 women and 233 children, while our Remote Casework program reached 2,054 clients across more than 60 cities and regions across Canada.
- Since our inception, we have provided over 39,000 services to clients across 60 Canadian cities.

Every milestone achieved this year has been made possible through the collective support of our donors, volunteers, staff, partners, and wider community. Your support continues to help individuals and families access safety, stability, and compassionate care during some of the most difficult moments of their lives.

While the growing demand for support services reflects the ongoing challenges faced within our communities, it is also a reminder of the importance of organizations rooted in compassion, dignity, and service. We remain committed to ensuring that those in need are met with care, understanding, and accessible support.

Supporting local charities like Sakeenah Canada means directly supporting individuals and families within your own communities. We pray that every act of kindness and every door you help open for others becomes a source of endless reward for you and your loved ones.

May Allah accept it from all of us.

Yours In Service,

Zena Chaudhry
Chief Executive Officer,
Founder - Sakeenah Canada

Nazish Tayab
Executive Director
Sakeenah Canada

MILESTONES

2025 AT A GLANCE



JANUARY 9

Sakeenah Canada celebrates **7** years of impact.

JANUARY 31

The Child & Youth Program celebrates **1** year of impact.

FEBRUARY 17

The People's Market celebrates **3** years of impact.

MARCH 29

Annual Eid-ul-Fitr Drive
(DISTRIBUTED 555+ EID GIFTS)

MARCH 8

London Home celebrates **4** years of impact.

APRIL 23

St John's NFLD home celebrates **1** year of impact.

MAY 13

Brampton home celebrates **4** years of impact.

JUNE 2

Annual Eid-ul-Adha Drive
(DISTRIBUTED 285+ EID GIFTS)

JULY 31

Montreal home celebrates **4** years of impact.

AUGUST 9

The People's Market - Scarborough celebrates **1** year of impact.

AUGUST 23

Annual Back to School Drive
(DISTRIBUTED 333+ SCHOOL BACKPACKS WITH SUPPLIES)

AUGUST 31

Regina Home celebrate **2** years of impact.

OCTOBER 9

Toronto home celebrates **7** years of impact.

OCTOBER 10

Winnipeg home celebrates **3** years of impact.

NOVEMBER 1

Ottawa Home celebrates **5** years of impact.

NOVEMBER 30

Windsor home celebrates **2** years of impact.

DECEMBER 6

24/7 Emergency Hotline celebrates **1** year of impact.

OUR IMPACT



Services Provided

Provided **15+ services** such as legal support, food support, life skills and employment training



Remote Casework

Served **2,054 clients** remotely in 2025



24/7 Emergency Hotline

Provided support through **499** Emergency Hotline calls and **77** emergency accommodation placements in 2025



Transitional home

Provided shelter to **405 women** and **233 children** in 2025



Cities Served

Served clients in over **60 cities** and regions in Canada from Vancouver to Halifax, from Yukon to Windsor in 2025

39,188
PEOPLE

served across all programs
and services since inception*

*This figure represents services delivered and may include multiple interactions with the same client over time or across different service areas.

IN THE NEWS

In 2025, Sakeenah Canada garnered significant media attention across a range of news outlets, including CBC and The Local, shining a spotlight on the growing need for culturally responsive, faith-sensitive support for women and children facing crisis. This coverage reinforced the importance of our work, elevated awareness of service gaps affecting underserved communities, and helped advance our mission to provide safety, dignity, and culturally aligned care.



JANUARY 14, 2025

The number of asylum seekers and refugees needing shelter has surged in recent years

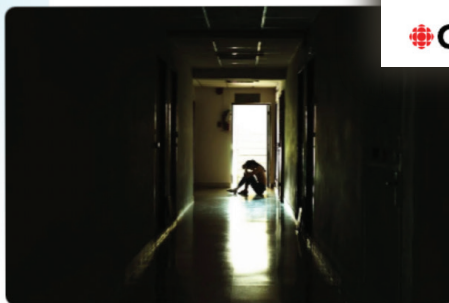
THE LOCAL



JUNE 16, 2025

The Signal | Women's Shelters

CBCNEWS



FEBRUARY 2, 2025

How to end intimate partner violence against women, particularly those from marginalized communities

TORONTO STAR



DECEMBER 5, 2025

Intimate Partner Violence Rates Not Declining



CLIENT TESTIMONIALS

Testimonial 1 – The People's Market (Food Security)

"I'd like to express my deep appreciation for [The People's Market]. Their commitment to serving the community is truly inspiring. A special shoutout to Nadia Kashif, who exemplifies excellence in her role. Her kindness and professionalism make a positive difference in the lives of those she helps."

Testimonial 2 – Case Management

"Salam, and thank you for all the support you've given to me and my daughter. I want to extend special thanks to my caseworker — I'm truly proud of her. I learned strength and resilience from her, and she always felt like a pillar I could lean on, not just someone doing her job. She gave me everything she could, standing beside me through both difficult and happy moments. She was my first point of contact, and I always valued her guidance. I admire her strength and the way she supported me, helping me regain my footing. I'm deeply grateful to her. There's so much more I wish I could express, but words are not enough. I wish all of you happiness."

Testimonial 3 – Winnipeg Transitional Home Program

"During the time I stayed here, I never felt that you were simply the manager of this house. When I arrived, I was pregnant as a result of a horrific sexual assault. While I was going through that difficult pregnancy, you provided me with warm milk, eggs, and even decaffeinated coffee, always caring about my health. Many times you quietly told me to let you know if I needed anything. When you realized that my partner would not return my clothes and I only had one outfit to wear — and the Winnipeg winter was approaching — you did everything you could to provide me with warm winter clothing from the New Donations brand. You supported me in a way that I would not feel miserable or ashamed. You gave me new clothes, food, shampoo, personal items, and everything else I needed. Now that I am leaving this safe house, I want to thank you and everyone who made this place a refuge for me. I sincerely pray for your health and well-being, and I hope that God accepts all your kindness and good deeds."

Testimonial 4 – Ottawa Transitional Home Program

"I want to sincerely thank you for everything you did for me and my daughters. Today was a turning point - you saw the truth with your own eyes, and you chose compassion and justice. Your kindness, humanity, and the way you treated us with respect and care will stay in my heart forever. You didn't just provide safety — you gave us dignity, warmth, and hope again. May God bless you for your sincere work and for standing by women and children who have no one else."



Testimonial 5 – Brampton Transitional Home Program and Case Management

"My three-month stay at Sakeenah was not just a temporary stop; it was a profound chapter of healing, strength, and rediscovery. I arrived needing support and left with the confidence and courage to build a beautiful life for my son and myself, all thanks to the incredible team who created a true sanctuary within its walls.

The support I received was nothing short of life-changing, and I must particularly highlight my caseworker, Zahraa. Zahraa is more than a professional; she is a bright light of pure support. She was instrumental in navigating the complexities of the subsidized housing application, but her care extended far beyond paperwork. Zahraa was a constant source of emotional strength, always ready with warm encouragement and motivation. She was genuinely happy and excited in my wins, no matter how small, and her appreciative, kind nature and warm smile made me feel valued every single day.

Equally remarkable is the House Manager, Javeria. Javeria embodies the spirit of compassion and kindness. She has a genuine gift for making the house feel like a safe, comfortable, and appreciative home. Javeria constantly went above and beyond, taking care of every small need to ensure our stay was comfortable. Her thoughtfulness extended to my son, as she was always kind regarding his wishes and ensured we had nourishing food, helping us live a healthy and beautiful life.

To Zahraa and Javeria - thank you. Your dedication, your kind hearts, and your belief in my future gave me the courage to move forward with confidence.

I am so deeply thankful to every member of the Sakeenah Homes team. You provide not just a roof, but a foundation of amazing support that truly empowers women and children to live confidently. My son and I will carry the impact of your help with us forever. Thank you."

OUR PROGRAMS

Transitional Housing

Since inception, Sakeenah Canada has provided shelter to 1,459 Muslim women and 1,045 children across the country, filling a critical gap in culturally and religiously sensitive services for those experiencing domestic violence and homelessness.

Through our Transitional Homes program, we provide safe and supportive spaces where women and children can access essential needs such as nourishing meals, hygiene items, and stable shelter, along with emotional and practical support tailored to their circumstances. Each home is staffed with an on-site house manager and caseworker who assist residents with their daily needs and guide them through their individual journeys. Additional staff, including mental health counselors and child and youth care workers, offer remote support to ensure residents receive comprehensive care aligned with their cultural and faith-based values.

Our Transitional Homes welcome both single women and women with children. Single residents stay in shared accommodations, and families are provided with private spaces. Lengths of stay vary according to individual needs, but each home offers a safe and nurturing environment where women can access the support, resources, and stability needed to rebuild their lives and work toward lasting independence.

Since opening our first home in Toronto in 2018, Sakeenah Canada has continued to grow in response to increasing demand, creating a national network of care that serves women and families from coast to coast.

Long-Term Transitional Housing Program (Windsor Home)

Sakeenah Canada also operates a long-term housing program in Windsor, offering a secure apartment for a single family fleeing domestic violence and homelessness. The Windsor Home provides greater independence to help families become self-sufficient while supporting Muslim women and children with culturally sensitive services.

The home accommodates one family at a time in a private unit, combining autonomous living with 12 to 18 months of personalized case management and remote counselling. Residents receive tailored supports designed to meet their unique needs.

Through mental health resources and culturally sensitive programming, the family is empowered to heal, develop essential life skills, and build confidence. This comprehensive approach facilitates a successful transition to independence, helping individuals rebuild their lives with dignity and resilience.



Toronto

Opened October 2018

- Accommodates 10 women and children
- Served 261 Women and 140 Children in the Transitional Home program since inception in the region
- Served 2,362 clients through the Remote Casework program since inception in the region



Brampton

Opened May 2020

- Accommodates 13 women and children
- Served 235 Women and 178 Children in the Transitional Home program since inception in the region
- Served 2,681 clients through the Remote Casework program since inception in the region



Montreal

Opened in July 2021

- Accommodates 11 women and children
- Served 201 Women and 136 Children in the Transitional Home program since inception in the region
- Served 580 clients through the Remote Casework program since inception in the region



London

Opened February 2021

- Accommodates 12 women and children
- Served 180 Women and 160 Children in the Transitional Home program since inception in the region
- Served 502 clients through the Remote Casework program since inception in the region



Ottawa

Opened September 2020

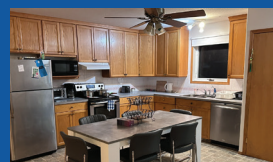
- Accommodates 23 women and children
- Served 436 Women and 297 Children in the Transitional Home program since inception in the region
- Served 965 clients through the Remote Casework program since inception in the region



Winnipeg

Opened October 2022

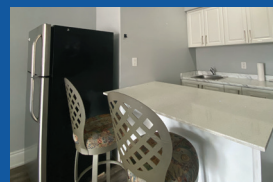
- Accommodates 11 women and children
- Served 70 Women and 68 Children in the Transitional Home program since inception in the region
- Served 179 clients through the Remote Casework program since inception in the region



Regina

Opened October 2023

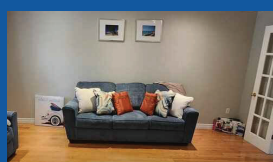
- Accommodates 10 women and children
- Served 21 Women and 13 Children in the Transitional Home program since inception in the region
- Served 155 clients through the Remote Casework program since inception in the region



Windsor

Opened November 2023

- Accommodates 1 family and children
- Served 25 Women and 32 Children in the Transitional Home program since inception in the region
- Served 55 clients through the Remote Casework program since inception in the region



St. John's

Opened in 2024

- Accommodates 8 family and children
- Served 30 Women and 21 Children in the Transitional Home program since inception in the region
- Served 37 clients through the Remote Casework program since inception in St. John's

The People's Market

Throughout 2025, both locations of The People's Market (TPM), a Sakeenah Canada project, continued to expand their impact by strengthening community partnerships, increasing food access, and responding to the growing food insecurity crisis affecting families across the Greater Toronto Area. As food insecurity in Canada has risen from 1 in 7 Canadians in 2020 to 1 in 4 Canadians at the time of printing, TPM has continued to adapt and grow to meet the increasing needs of the communities we serve.

A key focus this year was building sustainable partnerships that enhanced the quantity, quality, and variety of food available to clients. Through collaborations with grocery retailers, charitable organizations, local businesses, and community partners, TPM received regular donations of fresh produce, staple food items, prepared meals, household essentials, and other critical resources to support individuals and families experiencing food insecurity. Community engagement remained at the heart of TPM's operations. Volunteers from local schools, post-secondary institutions, community organizations, businesses, and faith-based groups supported food drives, donation campaigns, and volunteer initiatives throughout the year. These partnerships played an essential role in ensuring clients continued to receive dignified and accessible food support.

During Ramadan, TPM expanded its culturally responsive food offerings through community partnerships, providing staple food items and other essential Ramadan items to families observing the holy month. Grant funding and volunteer support also enabled both locations to enhance food distributions during this important time of year. Additional seasonal initiatives included the distribution of Qurbani meat across both TPM locations, providing hundreds of pounds of halal meat to families in need. TPM also coordinated Eid toy distributions, helping children and families celebrate Eid with dignity and joy.

As the demand for food assistance continues to rise, The People's Market remains committed to providing dignified, culturally responsive, and community-centered food support to individuals and families across the GTA.



1 in 4

Canadians face food insecurity

14,478

total people helped at The People's Market in 2025 alone!

TPM Mississauga - 8,894
TPM Scarborough - 5,584

125,031

total food items distributed at The People's Market in 2025
TPM Mississauga - 87,552
TPM Scarborough - 37,479

Child and Youth Program

Sakeenah Canada's Child and Youth program continued to grow in 2025, providing trauma-informed, age-appropriate support to children and youth residing in our transitional homes, as well as those accessing services virtually and within the community. Through individualized support, group programming, and skill-building activities, the program aims to foster resilience, emotional well-being, confidence, and positive social development in children and youth navigating difficult circumstances.

As part of our broader commitment to supporting vulnerable Muslim children, we also serve those in foster care. Our team provides culturally and spiritually sensitive support, including Ramadan and Eid gifts, back-to-school kits, halal food, and other essential resources for Muslim children in care and the families who support them.

Program Highlights:

- Social-emotional learning (SEL)
- Health and nutrition education
- Academic tutoring and homework support
- Digital citizenship and cyber safety
- STEM workshops and coding sessions
- Personal safety courses
- Art and creative expression
- Movement and fitness activities
- Parenting support workshops
- In-person children's programs for community families
- Seasonal supports for Muslim children and youth in foster care (Ramadan and Eid gifts, back-to-school kits, and more)



2025 IMPACT

73

children and
youth supported
in the Transitional
Homes

91

children and
youth supported
remotely

400+

individual and
group sessions
delivered

OUR SERVICES



Remote Services

- 2,054 remote clients serviced in 2025

Acknowledging that many women and children seek refuge with family or friends after fleeing abuse, remote casework has become a vital part of our service delivery. Remote support is essential for clients who are not currently residing in a shelter but still require assistance from caseworkers for referrals, securing safe housing, and accessing counselling services.



24/7 Emergency Hotline

- 547 calls received in the first year of service
- 82 individuals placed in after-hours emergency accommodation

Sakeenah's 24/7 Emergency Hotline is the first service of its kind among national Muslim organizations in Canada. The hotline provides immediate, after-hours support for individuals and families fleeing domestic violence and other crisis situations. Callers are connected with trained support workers who listen without judgment and provide emotional support, safety planning, emergency assessments, and referrals to essential services. The program also assists with safe transportation and temporary accommodation when immediate safety is at risk. In its first year of operation, the hotline received 547 calls and facilitated 82 placements into after-hours emergency accommodation, ensuring vulnerable individuals and families could access support and safety whenever they needed it most.



Mental Health

- 461 clients across all counseling programs
- 256 mental health assessments to support the Transitional Home residential program
- 7 Community mental health events with 289 registered attendees

In 2025, Sakeenah Canada's Mental Health program provided counselling services to 461 clients across Transitional Homes, remote counselling programs, and referral pathways to partner organizations. Services were tailored to each client's unique experiences and goals, addressing concerns such as anxiety, depression, trauma, adjustment challenges, relationship difficulties, and other mental health needs. Through individual counselling and ongoing therapeutic support, clients were provided with a safe and supportive environment to strengthen coping skills, improve emotional well-being, and work toward meaningful personal goals.



MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

The Mental Health program also completed 256 mental health assessments in support of Sakeenah's residential programs. Conducted as part of the intake process, these assessments played a critical role in evaluating program suitability, identifying client strengths and support needs, assessing risk factors, and informing individualized care plans. The assessment process helped ensure that prospective residents were appropriately matched to available supports while enabling the early identification of concerns and service needs. Recommendations generated through the assessments supported informed decision-making regarding admissions, service coordination, and ongoing resident support, contributing to a responsive and client-centred approach to care.

In addition to direct service delivery, the Mental Health program continued to expand its community impact through mental health outreach and education initiatives. A total of seven outreach events were delivered throughout the year, including five in-person workshops and two virtual programs. These events were attended by a total of 289 registered participants, whereas walk-ins were also welcomed for a few in-person events. These initiatives were designed to increase mental health awareness, promote mental health literacy, reduce barriers to seeking support, and foster meaningful conversations within the community.

The continued growth of the Mental Health program reflects Sakeenah Canada's commitment to providing accessible, culturally responsive, and holistic mental health support. By offering counselling, assessments, and community education, the program continues to strengthen the well-being of individuals, families, and communities across Canada.





LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

As Sakeenah Canada enters 2026, our focus remains on strengthening both what we deliver and how we deliver it. Guided by our commitment to compassion, dignity, and accountability, we are prioritizing sustainable growth that allows us to expand our impact while maintaining the quality, consistency, and responsiveness of our services.

Over the coming year, we will continue investing in the programs and supports that individuals and families rely on most. This includes strengthening access to housing support, food security initiatives, crisis intervention, remote case management, mental health services, and programs that promote long-term stability and well-being. Our goal is to reduce barriers to support and ensure that services remain accessible, culturally responsive, and centered on the needs of the communities we serve.

Mental health and healing will continue to be a key area of focus. Through counselling services, community education, and integrated support programs, we will work to expand access to care that is rooted in dignity, safety, and cultural understanding. We remain committed to creating pathways for individuals and families to access the support they need to heal, grow, and move forward.

We will continue investing in youth programs, prevention efforts, and community engagement. Through workshops, outreach, mentorship, and partnerships with community organizations, schools, and mosques, we aim to equip individuals and families with knowledge, support, and meaningful opportunities to connect. By strengthening relationships and expanding access to resources, we will continue building safer, healthier, and more connected communities.

At the organizational level, 2026 will focus on strengthening the foundation that supports our work. This includes enhancing operational effectiveness, investing in staff and volunteer development, strengthening partnerships, and building long-term financial sustainability. By continuing to improve the systems behind our services, we can ensure that support remains reliable, responsive, and available for years to come.

As community needs continue to grow, so does our commitment to meeting them. Through thoughtful planning, collaboration, and community support, we will continue building an organization that is equipped to deliver lasting impact while ensuring that individuals and families can access the support they need to move forward with strength and dignity.

Thank You

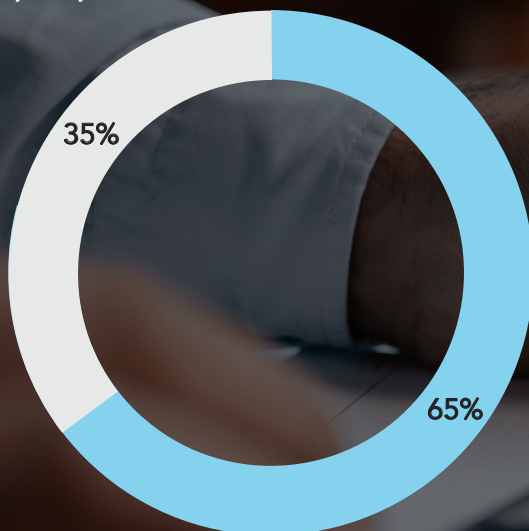
To our donors, partners, volunteers, and supporters, thank you for continuing to stand beside us. Your trust and generosity allow us to sustain vital services, strengthen our impact, and continue building safer and more supportive communities for those who need it most.

FINANCIALS

2025 AUDITED NUMBERS.

Sakeenah Canada is a registered charity that issues tax receipts. Our programs are Zakat eligible. 100% of Zakat goes towards Zakat-eligible programs and recipients.

Receipted Donations
\$1,061,103.25



All Other Revenue
\$2,847,847.75

Revenue
Total \$3,908,951

Charitable Programs
& Development
\$3,931,512



Management & Administration
\$296,535

Expenses
Total \$4,228,046

ADMINISTRATIVE OVERHEAD 7%

This means that 93¢ of every dollar donated to non-Zakat funds goes directly to programming.

SUPPORT US

This year, we anticipate providing assistance to even more Muslim women, children, and families across Canada. The support of our community partners, donors, and supporters is essential to sustaining this work.

We rely on the generosity of our donors and foundation partners to help fund the programs and services our community depends on. Over the years, Sakeenah Canada has built strong relationships with funding partners at local, national, and international levels, securing both short-term grants and long-term partnerships to support our work.

Monthly donors play a particularly important role in creating stability and sustainability. When you give monthly, you provide reliable support that helps us plan ahead, respond to needs as they arise, and continue serving families throughout the year. Your ongoing generosity is a form of sadaqah jariyah - a lasting act of giving that allows the impact of your contribution to continue.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US

1. Become a monthly donor. Provide ongoing, reliable support that helps sustain our programs and services.
2. Make a one-time donation. Every contribution helps us respond to the needs of women, children, and families in our community.
3. Sign up for our Monthly Impact email. Stay connected to our work, learn about the impact of your support, and see what our community needs.
4. Fundraise for Sakeenah Canada. Celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or special occasion by creating a fundraiser. We can help you get started.
5. Connect us with corporate or foundation funders. Help introduce Sakeenah Canada to organizations that may be interested in supporting our programs.
6. Volunteer your time or expertise. Share your skills, experience, or time to help us make a difference in our community.



Charitable Registration
Number
776013310 RR 0001



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