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اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ كَمَا صَلَّيْتَ عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَعَلَى آلِ
إِبْرَاهِيمَ إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مَجِيدٌ

اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ كَمَا بَارَكْتَ عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَعَلَى آلِ
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JOB POSITIONS (VOLUNTEER)

AḥMADIYYA GAZETTE CANADA

Aḥmadiyya Gazette Canada is seeking qualified volunteers for Graphic Design and Web Development.

Aḥmadiyya Gazette Canada, published since 1971, is the official monthly publications of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at. It is available both in print and online at www.ahmadiyyagazette.ca.

Position Title:	Graphics Designer
Position Overview:	As graphic designers and web developers for the Aḥmadiyya Gazette Canada, you will be responsible for creating visual concepts that communicate ideas that inspire, educate and captivate our print and online readers.
Qualifications:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ University/College level education in graphic designing or currently studying▪ Minimum 1-3 years of experience working in a graphic design environment▪ Fluency in Adobe Creative Suite (Illustrator, Photoshop and InDesign), Inpage and related Graphics software such as CorelDraw.▪ Strong verbal and written communication in English & basic knowledge of Urdu▪ Exceptional organizational skills to meet critical deadlines▪ Excellent understanding of the Jamā'at system and traditions▪ Excellent teamwork and collaboration capabilities▪ Ability to work well as part of a distributed team▪ Available to volunteer on a part-time basis

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Position Overview:	As Web developer for Aḥmadiyya Gazette Canada, you will be responsible for creating, updating and marketing of the Aḥmadiyya Gazette website at www.ahmadiyyagazette.ca for our online readers.
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Please email your resume to editor@ahmadiyyagazette.ca

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَّسُولُ اللَّهِ

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Pearls of Wisdom



THE HOLY QUR'AN

Allāh and His angels send blessings on the Prophet.
O ye who believe! you also should invoke blessings
on him and salute him with the salutation of peace.
(Al-Ahzāb, Chapter 33 Verse 57)

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا
الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا

HADĪTH

Narrated by Abū Hurairah^{ra}:

The Holy Prophet^{sa} said, “If any one of you greets
me, Allāh returns my soul to me and I respond to
the greeting” (meaning that a person greeting the
Holy Prophet^{sa} shall receive its reward as if the Holy
Prophet^{sa} is himself responding to that greeting).

(Sunan Abū Dāwūd, Kitābul Manāsik)

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ
عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ: مَا مِنْ أَحَدٍ يُسَلِّمُ عَلَيَّ إِلَّا رَدَّ اللَّهُ عَلَيَّ
رُوحِي أَرْدُّ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامَ۔

(سنن ابوداؤد- كتاب المناسك، باب زيارة القبور)

So Said the Promised Messiah^{as}



“It is my personal experience that through invoking blessings upon the Holy Prophet^{sa}, Divine grace in the shape of wonderful light proceeds in the direction of the Holy Prophet^{sa} and is absorbed into his breast and then issuing therefrom numberless streams of it reach everyone deserving them according to his capacity. Certainly, no grace can reach anyone without the agency of the Holy Prophet^{sa}. Invoking blessings on the Holy Prophet^{sa} brings into movement his throne from which these streams of light issue. He who desires to obtain the grace of God Almighty should invoke blessings on him persistently, so that divine grace might be moved.”

(Al-Ḥakam, February 28, 1903, p. 7)



Guidance from Hazrat Khalīfatul- Masīḥ V^{aa}

*The following summaries of Friday
Sermons have been provided by
Wakālat ‘Ulyā’, Tahrik Jadid Anjuman
Aḥmadiyya*

Ramaḍān, Taqwa and Steadfastness

Friday Sermon Delivered on June 2, 2017

Whoever observes fasts in the month of Ramaḍān with faith and introspection, will be forgiven all previous sins.

The state of faith cannot exist without knowing God. Our faith can never be enlightened without the recognition of God.

May Allāh enable our Jamā‘at to strive against sins and foster purity and piety.

On June 2, 2017, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V^{aa} delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūḥ Mosque, London. Huzoor^{aa} began by reciting verse 184 of *Surah Al-Baqarah*, which is translated as follows: “O ye who believe! fasting is prescribed for you, as it was prescribed for those before you, so that you may become righteous” (2:184).

Huzoor^{aa} said that by the grace of Allāh, we are fortunate to have another Ramaḍān in our lives. The Holy Prophet^{sa} has said that if people knew about the

excellence of Ramaḍān, they would wish that Ramaḍān lasted the whole year. He^{sa} also said that whoever observes fast in the month of Ramaḍān with faith and introspection will be forgiven all his previous sins.

Every year the month of Ramaḍān has been ordained so that we adopt piety and do everything for the pleasure of God. When we observe our fasts with sincerity we will come under God’s refuge and will be saved from Satan. The Promised Messiah^{as} has said:

“Faith cannot be achieved without knowing God. Without the knowledge of God our faith can never be enlightened and radiant. We will recognize Him when our relations with Him are such as make us experience His Mercy, Grace and Power. Humans do not love the possessions of the next world as they do those of this world, and they

do not believe in God’s Power and Mercy and in His Promises.”

Huzoor^{aa} said this is something we need to do introspection about. Huzoor^{aa} further said that the Holy Prophet^{sa} has laid down before us, a guidance for our lives in two sentences. It is not enough just to say that we are observing the fast with faith, rather it has to be accompanied by introspection and self-analysis. This is the criterion that we need to live up to in order to strengthen our relationship with Allāh. The Promised Messiah^{as} has said:

“Faith in God is of two kinds. The first is the one that is confined to the tongue and has no impact upon our actions and deeds. The second is the one that is accompanied with practical testimony. Until one has the second kind of faith, I do not believe that a person really believes in God. I cannot understand how

Faith cannot be achieved without knowing God

Faith cannot be achieved without knowing God. Without the knowledge of God our faith can never be enlightened and radiant. We will recognize Him when our relations with Him are such as make us experience His Mercy, Grace and Power. Humans do not love the possessions of the next world as they do those of this world, and they do not believe in God’s Power and Mercy and in His Promises.

a person can believe in God and commit sins at the same time. Most people of the world claim to believe in Allāh, some call him *Parmeshwar*, others call him God, but when their claim is tested in terms of their practice, it is most often only a claim that is unsubstantiated by practical testimony. It is man's nature that when he truly believes in something, he seeks to avoid its dangers and to acquire its benefits. Why then, claiming to believe in God, does he not demonstrate the results of this claim? It has to be said that these are only words that have not been turned into faith. They deceive themselves in saying that they believe in God."

The Promised Messiah^{as} has continued by saying that man's first duty is to correct his faith in God, that is to say he should prove it through his actions, and should not commit any action that is contrary to the Greatness and commandments of God. This is the way to undertake self-inspection. Ramaḍān provides us a special atmosphere to submit before God and seek forgiveness for our past sins. The Promised Messiah^{as} has said that man only continues to grow in faith for as long as he continues to grow in piety.

Huzoor^{aa} continued by saying what people are doing in the world today, in spite of observing fasts, is all due to lack of piety. They have killed over 100 people in Afghanistan; do they think they are going to be rewarded for this? They are deviating from God's commandment and from piety. It was truly in keeping with the purport of the Holy Qur'ān that the Promised Messiah^{as} has said "Prayers that are not accompanied by piety are useless, indeed they are the keys to hell." The Promised Messiah^{as} also said that piety and purity are the roots of faith, and faith cannot grow unless one grows in piety. When man analyzes himself in

this way, he is able to overcome his carnal passions and this brings him closer to Allāh. The true piety which cleanses and purifies man, and for which Prophets have been sent, has disappeared from the world. Even Angels bring greetings to a person who is pure and clean. People do not appreciate this, otherwise they would find all their pleasures through lawful means. When a thief steals, he is not a believer at that time; and when an adulterer commits adultery, he is not a believer at that time. If a lamb sees a lion before her, she cannot even eat grass, but people do not even have this much faith in God.

The Promised Messiah^{as} has said that our basic requirement and objective is piety, and with this fundamental belief one can achieve everything. Without it, it is not possible for man to be saved from sins, whether great or small. The verse, "As for those who say, 'Our Lord is Allāh' and then remain steadfast" (41:31) also refers to *taqwa*; it means that they were faced with severe trials and tribulations but they did not turn back from the pledge they had made. And those who show such fortitude, not only in Ramaḍān but throughout their lives, then Angels come down for their help and say: "Fear not, nor grieve, for God is your friend. And be happy with His paradise." Here, paradise refers to the bliss of this world, as God says: "But for him who fears to stand before his Lord there are two Gardens" (55:47) and "We are your friend and protector in this world and the next" (41:32).

Huzoor^{aa} said that Allāh blesses those who are steadfast and lead their lives according to His Will. A true Muslim has to persevere. When man abides by *taqwa*, Allāh opens all the doors for him. All the heights that Prophets attain are on account of perseverance. Empty *ṣalāt* is of no use.

Huzoor^{aa} said that in order to become righteous, one should not only shun evil, but adopt virtues as well. The Promised Messiah^{as} has said that in order for one to become righteous, it is necessary that after strictly abstaining from the obvious sins, such as adultery, theft, usurping the rights of others, displaying arrogance, contempt and miserliness, one should adopt and progress in the higher morals, and one should treat others with compassion, kindness and be sincere and truthful to God. And should search for ways to serve others which are worthy of admiration.

The Promised Messiah^{as} has said: "The reason God has sent me is that the field of righteousness is empty and if you adopt *taqwa*, all wisdom will be yours. Therefore, adopt righteousness."

Huzoor^{aa} said that if Allāh enables our Jamā'at to fight evil and adopt piety, then this is our greatest victory, and nothing can be more effective than this. If we look at other religions, piety is missing and worldly grandeur is their 'god'. But now God wants to make Himself known as the only true God. Those who worship material things cannot put their faith in God.

Those who want to be saved by merely pledging the *Ba'at* are mistaken. We should adopt piety and righteousness to the extent that it removes God's wrath.

Allāh has mercy on those who turn to Him. This Jamā'at was created for *taqwa*. Let us make full use of this Ramaḍān and let us make these blessings a permanent part of our lives even after Ramaḍān.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor^{aa} informed the Jamā'at of the sad demise of Khwaja Ahmad Husain Ṣāhib, a *Dervaiṣh* of Qādiān, and led his funeral prayer *in absentia* after the Friday prayer.

Attaining Taqwa

Friday Sermon Delivered on June 9, 2017

Without *taqwa*, one cannot perform any kind of virtue. We should impress others with our virtue and piety through our high moral character.

The Holy Prophet^{sa} was perfect in all moral attributes. We should demonstrate good morals by making

each and every one of our actions subservient to *taqwa*.

Truly courageous is the one who has the power to change his moral

character. Spend all our power and energy in transforming our morals, for this is true valour.

On June 9, 2017, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V^{aa} delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūḥ Mosque, London.

Huzoor^{aa} said that as he had mentioned in the last sermon, the objective of fasting is to inculcate *taqwa* in our hearts. The Promised Messiah^{as} has said that

“It should be evident from our character that our *Baī‘at* has brought about a transformation in us. May Allāh enable us to walk the path of *taqwā*, and undergo a holy transformation, and follow in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet^{sa}, and live our lives according to the expectations of the Promised Messiah^{as}.”

taqwa should be evident from our morals; without *taqwa* we cannot perform any virtue. To be a *mutaqqī*, it is not only necessary to fulfill our obligations towards Allāh, but also to live up to the highest moral standards that we can. We should impress others with our piety and virtue through our excellent morals. Good morals are the sign of a righteous person. Avoiding evil deeds is also *taqwa*. If one possesses good moral character, even his enemies can become his friend. *Taqwa* has many facets, such as avoiding pride and egotism and shunning unlawful income. Even if the opponents hurl abuse at us, we should not respond in kind and should instead show patience. The result will be that they will admit your superiority and will be ashamed of what they have done.

Huzoor^{aa} has said that the basic principle is that we should practice good morals by aligning our actions to *taqwa*. Having good morals means seeking God’s pleasure as we see embodied in the life of the Holy Prophet^{sa}. It is necessary to mould our lives according to the example of the Holy Prophet^{sa}. These morals serve as a foundation, and if this foundation is wobbly then it cannot support the building. Good morals are like putting one brick over another; if one brick is not straight, the whole edifice will be defective. The Promised Messiah^{as} has said that the most perfect example for us is that of the Holy Prophet^{sa} who was the repository of all excellent qualities. The Holy Prophet^{sa} is like a giant tree under whose shade millions of people have found, and continue to find, shelter. His example is such that Allāh has commanded us to follow it according to our abilities. And for this we need to struggle and strive. The Promised

Messiah^{as} has said that unless man strives and resorts to prayer, the veil that covers his heart cannot be removed. Allāh says that He does not avert the calamity that comes upon a people unless they themselves strive to alleviate it. There can be no transformation without effort and courage. Whether it is the people of our Jamā‘at or anyone else, transformation can only come about through striving and prayer, not otherwise. Philosophers have varying views on this point; some believe that man can transform his morals through his efforts, while others insist that he cannot. The truth is that if one strives and does not become lax, one can transform one’s moral character. The philosophers who think that it is impossible to change one’s morals are mistaken. For instance, he knew of some civil servants who used to receive bribes, but when they truly repented, they would not be swayed even by a mountain of gold.

The Promised Messiah^{as} has continued by saying that in the physical realm, if one does not care for one’s health, one will soon succumb to old age, and the same is true of the spiritual system. If someone does not strive to transform his baser morals with higher ones and does not do away with evil thoughts, then his moral condition will continue to deteriorate. In the month of Ramaḍān, Allāh has provided us an opportunity to overcome our laziness and to improve our moral condition.

Huzoor^{as} has also said that true repentance is very effective in attaining higher morals and perfection. Whoever wishes to rid himself of evil habits must repent with a true heart and a sincere determination. Repentance has three essential conditions. The first is to

remove the evil thoughts that lead to evil conduct. The fact is that imagination has a major effect on man; therefore, we should do away with evil thoughts and imaginations. The second condition is to express remorse and to believe that the pleasures of this world are transient. The third condition is determination, which means to make a firm resolve never to revert to those evils ever again. And when he shows such remorse, Allāh will enable him to truly repent. Ultimately, the evil habits will disappear and the higher morals will take their place. But only God can grant one the power to undertake this, and it can be attained by living up to these three conditions. If one prays with steadfastness, God will enable him to undergo a transformation in his morals character.

The Promised Messiah^{as} has further said that we do not need wrestlers in our Jamā‘at, rather we need those who have the strength to transform their moral character. The true brave person is one who has the power to transform his moral condition. We should employ all our power and strength for this purpose, for this constitutes true valour and bravery. One’s moral character is a miracle that no one can lay a finger on. This is why the Holy Prophet’s^{sa} moral character served as such a potent miracle. Thus, man should correct his moral condition, because this is the miracle that is never wasted and its benefit reaches far-and-wide. We will find in the stories of many people that they were motivated to accept Islām upon witnessing moral miracles. The sinners who stood against the Holy Prophet^{sa} did not believe after seeing miracles, rather they were only convinced of his truth after witnessing his excellent morals. Moral miracles

can accomplish what other miracles cannot. This is the meaning of the Ḥadīth “steadfastness is greater than miracles”.

Huzoor^{aa} said that today countless people enter Aḥmadiyyat who are impressed by the moral character of Aḥmadīs. Every Aḥmadī should remember that demonstrating high morals is a religious obligation that is the means for the reformation of others. The Promised Messiah^{as} says that faith requires seeking transformation with God’s help and exerting one’s own strength. It is related in a Ḥadīth that when a person raises hands for prayer with conviction, God never rejects his prayer. Therefore, seek

from God and seek with certainty and sincerity. Huzoor^{aa} again advised us that demonstrating great morals is the way to proving our excellence. The miracle of the morals works in every field. Good morals do not only mean speaking with kindness, rather it means the proper use of all of one’s faculties, such as bravery, chastity, etc. A person who shows his neighbour how his moral condition has transformed from what it was before, in fact shows a miracle which readily affects the neighbour. Huzoor^{aa} said that it should be evident from our character that our *Baī’at* has brought about a transformation in us. May Allāh enable

us to walk the path of *taqwa*, and undergo a holy transformation, and follow in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet^{sa}, and live our lives according to the expectations of the Promised Messiah^{as}.

At the end of the sermon Huzoor^{aa} informed the Jamā’at of the sad demise of Lutf-ur-Rahman Ṣāḥib (son of late professor Mian Ata-ur-Rahman Ṣāḥib) of USA and Ṣāḥibzada Mirza Umar Ahmad Ṣāḥib (son of late Dr. Ṣāḥibzada Mirza Munawwar Ahmad Ṣāḥib), Nā’ib Ṣadr ‘Umūmī of Rabwah. Huzoor led their funeral prayer *in absentia* after the Friday prayer.

Truth, Lies and Arrogance

Friday Sermon Delivered on June 16, 2017

An exhortation to adopt truthfulness and humility and to avoid pride, arrogance, falsehood and other moral weaknesses.

Adopt *taqwa*, speak truthfully and unambiguously, remain steadfast on the truth, give true testimony, seek God’s Grace and the light of wisdom.

Arrogance is a dangerous disease that sounds the spiritual death knell for one who possess it.

On June 16, 2017, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V^{aa} delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūḥ Mosque, London.

Huzoor^{aa} said that in his last sermon he spoke about *taqwa* and high morals. The Promised Messiah^{as} has said that a person becomes a *muttaqī* when he possesses all good morals. A believer should strive for these morals, do what is commanded, and shun what is forbidden. However, there are some moral qualities which, if they are missing, can endanger one’s very faith, and faith comes before *taqwa*. The first of these moral conditions is to become steadfast upon the truth. Allāh says: “Shun therefore the abomination of idols, and shun false speech” (22:31).

The Promised Messiah^{as} has said that falsehood estranges one from God. When a person ceases to have faith and trust in God, then God does not come near him. To become pure, it is essential to shun falsehood and idolatry. The Holy Prophet^{sa} has declared falsehood to be a filth and abomination. Liars lose their credibility to the extent that even when

they are telling the truth people imagine that there must be some element of falsehood in it. It is not easy for those who are in the habit of lying to let go of this habit, it takes long practice to do so.

The Promised Messiah^{as} has said:

Remember, there is nothing so obnoxious as falsehood. People commonly say that those who lie are apprehended, but how can I believe this; I faced seven lawsuits and, by the Grace of God, never had to utter one word of falsehood, but did God allow me to be defeated in even one of these cases? God is the Friend and Helper of the truthful, how then can He punish them. Had this been the case, no one would dare to speak the truth and people would completely lose faith in God. The fact is that those who are punished after speaking the truth are not punished because of that truth but because of some other hidden sins or lies. It is therefore important to make a habit of virtue and to keep seeking forgiveness for our shortcomings.

Huzoor^{aa} said that most often marriages end up in divorce because of lies, even though the verse recited in the *Nikāh* ceremony clearly say: “O ye who believe! fear Allāh, and say the right word” (33:71). He will bless your works for you and forgive you your sins. And whoso obeys Allāh and His Messenger^{sa}, shall surely attain a mighty success.

Allāh exhorts us to attain the highest levels of truthfulness so that we are saved from troubles and our children are saved from evil. In our society, the main

reason for divorce is estrangement from religious values. There is no one to guide worldly people, but if those who have found guidance resort to falsehood, then it has grave consequences. Some people tell their kids to tell visitors or callers on the phone that dad is not at home. In this way they inculcate the habit of falsehood in their children. There are people who lie just because of habit, or for hurting others, or to make people laugh, or for self-praise, or for personal and financial gain, or for covering their mistakes, or for avoiding people. Huzoor^{aa} said that we should set high standards of truthfulness.

Huzoor^{aa} said that the Holy Qur’ān forbids us from bearing false testimony either for financial gain or for any other reason. Do not murder the truth. If we find the truth on the side of our enemy, then let go of our dry logic. Be steadfast on the truth and testify accordingly. A Christian once objected that the Holy Prophet^{sa} has permitted the telling of lies for three purposes. The Holy Prophet^{sa} said that this is completely false. The Holy Qur’ān has declared falsehood to be akin to idolatry and has forbidden falsehood even against enemies and exhorts us to hold on to justice. When people adhere to the truth, then one will not deceive the other. Eating what is forbidden is not as harmful as falsehood. Tame your tongue and do not let your tongue govern you. We should always be mindful that we are established on such a high level of truthfulness as saves us from idolatry and enables us to attain higher stages of *taqwa*. Let everyone do

Holy Qur'ān forbids us from bearing false testimony either for financial gain or for any other reason. Do not murder the truth.

some introspection and get rid of any falsehood they find in themselves.

Huzoor^{aa} said that another high moral is adopting humility and shunning arrogance. Allāh does not love the arrogant boaster. Some people, if they do good deeds for two days, they become proud. If someone sees a dream in Ramaḍān, he becomes arrogant. This should be avoided. Remember that arrogance comes from Satan, and unless one moves away from it, it becomes a hurdle in the path of accepting the truth and receiving Divine Grace. One should not be arrogant about one's knowledge, one's wealth, one's family or one's lineage, since these are the main motivators of arrogance. Unless man cleanses himself of such arrogance, he cannot attain nearness to God and he will not be granted the cognition that consumes the carnal passions, because these come from Satan and God does not love them. Satan showed arrogance and considered himself superior to Adam^{as}, hence was rejected by God. Adam^{as} on the other hand was given knowledge and so he admitted his mistake and received God's blessings. He^{as} knew that nothing can be attained other than through God's Grace and prayed: "Our Lord, we have wronged ourselves; and if Thou forgive us not and have not mercy on us, we shall surely be of the lost" (7:24). This is one

of the prayers the Promised Messiah^{as} has urged us to offer, and we should do so particularly in these last ten days of Ramaḍān. The Promised Messiah^{as} has said:

Do not be proud or arrogant in any way; this in my view is the best way to attain piety. When someone is granted insight, he realizes that all the light that drives away darkness comes from heaven and that man is ever in need of heavenly light. The inner light that dispels darkness and produces the light of purity and piety comes from heaven. I say truly that *taqwa*, faith, worship, purity, all come from heaven and are dependent on God's Grace.

The Promised Messiah^{as} has said:

True knowledge means that man should consider himself as a mere nothing and seek God's Grace with the utmost humility and seek the knowledge that consumes the passions of the self and creates a power and passion for righteousness. In order to do away with arrogance, it is essential to attribute every good thing to God. One who recognizes this starts to be free from his moral weaknesses. He considers himself worthless and he does not deem the light and knowledge he receives

as being a result of his own ability, rather he believes it to be from divine grace and mercy.

The Promised Messiah^{as} has continued by saying:

Pride is a dangerous disease which sounds the spiritual death knell for whoever has it. The arrogant person is the brother of Satan. It was arrogance that caused Satan to be cast away in degradation. Therefore, it is essential for a believer that he has no pride and instead is filled with humility and meekness. This is the hallmark of God's chosen people that they possess the utmost humility, and most of all it was to be found in the Holy Prophet^{sa}.

The Promised Messiah^{as} has said that God now desires that the time of the Holy Prophet^{sa} should return and the same piety and purity should be established, and He wished to accomplish this through this Jamā'at. Therefore, turn towards reformation in the manner taught by the Holy Prophet^{sa}. Huzoor^{aa} prayed, may Allāh enable us to follow the example of the Holy Prophet^{sa}, to avoid all evils, and to acquire the higher morals. May our humility be such as to please God. And may we become such members of the Jamā'at as the Promised Messiah^{as} wanted to see us. *Amīn*.

“Tame your tongue and do not let your tongue govern you. We should always be mindful that we are established on such a high level of truthfulness as saves us from idolatry and enables us to attain higher stages of *taqwā*.”

Şalāt, Jumu‘a and Ramaḍān

Friday Sermon Delivered on June 23, 2017

The importance of Jumu‘a and the need to attend the Jumu‘a punctually. Let us make the virtues of Ramaḍān a permanent part of our lives.

Ramaḍān is a training camp. Fortunate are those who come under God’s refuge by offering prayers and keeping fasts.

One should never grow lax in the recitation of the Holy Qur’ān This practice should continue even after Ramaḍān, along with other good deeds.

On June 23, 2017, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masīḥ V^{aa} delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūḥ Mosque, London.

Huzoor^{aa} said that the month of Ramaḍān came and is quickly coming to an end. Despite the long days and hot weather, most people are saying that they did not find the fasting to be as difficult as expected. God, by His Grace, has made it easy for us.

Huzoor^{aa} said that we need to do some introspection about what we achieved in these blessed days, for only then will we be able to fulfill the purpose of fasting. During these days, Allāh comes closer to His servants and hears their prayers; hence, we need to see what we did to reap Allāh’s blessings, and what pledges we made to follow divine commandments and overcome our weaknesses. If we became punctual in prayers only because of Ramaḍān and grow lax afterwards, we are not following God’s commandment. Ramaḍān is a training camp. The virtues we acquire in Ramaḍān should be continued and then taken to an even

higher level in the following Ramaḍān. Allāh enjoins us to offer our prayers with care and attention and to safeguard the prayers that fall between our other activities and businesses. The Holy Prophet^{sa} said that every prayer, every Jumu‘a and every Ramaḍān becomes a source of salvation until the next prayer, the next Jumu‘a, and the next Ramaḍān, unless one commits a major sin. The Holy Prophet^{sa} says that anyone who skips three Jumu‘as continuously and intentionally, God seals his heart.

Huzoor^{aa} said that there are a lot of misconceptions about the obligation of offering *Jumu‘a-tul-Wida*, while the fact is that every Jumu‘a is equally obligatory. Allāh says: “O ye who believe! when the call is made for Prayer on Friday, hasten to the remembrance of Allāh, and leave off all business. That is better for you, if you only knew” (62:10).

The Holy Prophet^{sa} has said: When the day of Friday arrives there are angels upon the door of every mosque to record the names of worshippers in the order in which they arrive and when the Imām starts to deliver the sermon they close their scrolls. Huzoor^{aa} said that those who come late to Jumu‘a habitually should take heed from this. Jumu‘a is only obligatory for men; but if women also come to attend, it is a source of spiritual reward for them as well. Happy are those who do justice to their prayers, Jumu‘a and fasting and thus come under God’s protection. Huzoor^{aa} continued by saying that Ramaḍān is also a month in which we are drawn towards the recitation of the Holy Qur’ān and everyone tries

to complete its recitation at least once. Along with the importance of prayers, Allāh also says: “Verily, the recitation of the Qur’ān at dawn is especially acceptable to God” (17:79).

Huzoor^{aa} further emphasized that it is also important to read the translation of the Holy Qur’ān. The Promised Messiah^{as} has said: “Those who honour the Holy Qur’ān shall be honoured in heaven.” Huzoor^{as} also said: “do not abandon the Holy Qur’ān, for in it is your life. Those who give precedence to the Holy Qur’ān above every other word shall be given precedence in heaven.” Thus we should never grow lax in its recitation and should continue it even after Ramaḍān along with other virtues. We are fortunate that Allāh has enabled us to pledge allegiance to the Promised Messiah^{as} who has guided us to the right path.

Huzoor^{aa} mentioned that the Promised Messiah^{as} exhorts us again and again to undergo a transformation. Until an individual sincerely and truthfully closes all the unlawful doors to themselves and spreads their hands before God, they are not worthy of receiving God’s help and succour. And when an individual comes to His door with cries and supplications, such a condition draws God’s Help and Grace. If a person’s heart is cleansed of selfish desires and darkness, the doors to mercy are opened for this person; God takes him/her under His own protection and assumes the responsibility of providing for him/her. These are the standards we should constantly try to achieve.

“Promised Messiah^{as} exhorts us again and again to undergo a transformation. Until an individual sincerely and truthfully closes all the unlawful doors to themselves and spreads their hands before God, they are not worthy of receiving God’s help and succour. And when an individual comes to His door with cries and supplications, such a condition draws God’s Help and Grace. If a person’s heart is cleansed of selfish desires and darkness, the doors to mercy are opened for this person; God takes him/her under His own protection and assumes the responsibility of providing for him/her.

What does the Promised Messiah^{as} expect from us? He has said that we should mould our lives according to the higher morals that Ramaḍān teaches us. Being elderly, we should have mercy on those who are younger. Being learned, we should advise and not scorn others. Being rich, we should serve the poor and not be arrogant towards them. Fear God and keep aloof from the world. Hate every impurity and sin, for God is Holy. Shun the path that leads to ruin. Adopt *taqwā*, do not worship God's creatures, turn towards our Lord and lead our lives for His sake. Every morning should bear witness that we spent the night with the fear of God; and every evening should bear witness that we spent our day with the fear of God. Become straight and clean and pure. God wishes us to undergo a complete transformation. He desires from us a death after which He will give us a new life. Be quick to reconcile and forgive the sins of our brothers/sisters. Let go of our egos in every matter, let go of mutual discord; being truthful, show humility like a liar, so that we may be forgiven. If we wish that God in heaven is pleased with us, become one like brothers from the same womb. The most honoured

among us is the one who forgives his brother's sins; and unfortunate is he who remains adamant and does not forgive; he has no part in the Promised Messiah^{as}.

The Promised Messiah^{as} has said:

Beware of God's wrath, for He is Holy and has great sense of honour. A sinner cannot attain His nearness; an arrogant one cannot attain His nearness; a transgressor cannot attain His nearness; a cheat cannot attain His nearness; anyone who does not care for the honour of His name cannot attain His nearness; those who crave the world like dogs or ants or scavengers and find their comfort in the world cannot attain His nearness. Every impure eye is far from Him; every impure heart is unaware of Him. He who is in fire for His sake will be saved from fire. He who cries for His sake will laugh. He who withdraws from the world for His sake he will find Him. Become His friend with a sincere heart and with zealous devotion; then He too shall become your friend. Have mercy on your subordinates, your wives, your poor brothers, so that heaven should have mercy on you. Become truly His

so that He may become yours.

The Promised Messiah^{as} has continued by saying: "for mankind, there is no book on the face of the earth except the Holy Qur'ān, and for all children of Adam^{as}, there is no Messenger and Intercessor but Muḥammad^{sa}, the Chosen One. Endeavour to cultivate true love for that Prophet of dignity and majesty, and do not give anyone else any kind of preference over him, so that in heaven you may be counted as those who have attained salvation." He^{as} has also said: "Do not think highly of your apparent pledge of *Baī'at*, for apparent *Baī'at* is nothing; God watches your hearts and will deal with you accordingly.

Huzoor^{aa} said that we should come out of Ramaḍān with the pledge that we shall lead our lives in accordance with the commandment of God and His Prophet^{sa}. May Allāh enable us to do so. *Amīn*.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor^{aa} informed the Jamā'at of the sad demise of Mushtaq Zahrah Šāḥiba, wife of late Chaudhary Zahoor Ahmad Bajwa, and Abdul Bakr Šāḥib of Egypt. Huzoor^{aa} led their funeral prayer *in absentia* after the Jumū'a prayer.

Persevere in Mindful Prayers

Friday Sermon Delivered on June 30, 2017

We should continue our efforts to gain nearness to Allāh and forge ahead in our prayer and worship even after Ramaḍān.

The world is on the brink of destruction and a world war sees to be looming. An appeal to the Jamā'at to pray for the world.

Anguish and fervour are required for the acceptance of prayers. We should feel true sympathy for others, when

we pray for them.

On June 30, 2017, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masīḥ V^{aa} delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūḥ Mosque, London.

Huzoor^{aa} said that Ramaḍān comes with countless blessings and those who understand this are able to reap them. Many people had written to him saying that they were able to perform *Nawāfil* in addition to the obligatory worship; they completed a course of reciting the Holy

Qur'ān; they had strange and pleasurable spiritual experiences; they experienced the acceptance of their prayers and attained certainty in the existence of God. Huzoor^{aa} said that those who have strived in such a way, may Allāh forgive any shortcomings on their part and continue to bless them forever. May Allāh continue to elevate the status of those who attained high stations as well as those who strived even a little bit. They should also pray for themselves so

What does the Promised Messiah^{as} expect from us? He has said that we should mould our lives according to the higher morals that Ramaḍān teaches us. Being elderly, we should have mercy on those who are younger. Being learned, we should advise and not scorn others. Being rich, we should serve the poor and not be arrogant towards them. Fear God and keep aloof from the world. Hate every impurity and sin, for God is Holy. Shun the path that leads to ruin. Adopt *taqwā*, do not worship God's creatures, turn towards our Lord and lead our lives for His sake. Every morning should bear witness that we spent the night with the fear of God; and every evening should bear witness that we spent our day with the fear of God.

that they may not become lax in terms of fulfilling their obligations to Allāh and to His creatures. When God says that He comes close to His servant when he prays to Him, this statement is not limited to Ramaḍān, rather He says that He answers the prayers of the distressed person when he calls upon Him. Allāh is not bound only to bestow His nearness in Ramaḍān. This month has only been specified to draw our attention. The pronouncement “I am near” is for all times. Drawing our attention to prayer, the Holy Prophet^{sa} said that God is closest to His servant in the middle part of the night, and if possible one should remember Him at that hour.

Huzoor^{aa} said that if we have acquired the habit of offering *Nawāfil* in Ramaḍān, then we should try to adopt it permanently. If we are fully determined, we can always continue to benefit from God’s nearness. When God is close to man, man comes under His refuge. One who remembers God is like the living, and one who doesn’t is like the dead. To confine remembrance of God to a few days makes a person spiritually dead. If we want to be among the truly living, we ought to remember God in the remaining 11 months as well. Having come under God’s protection in Ramaḍān, we should use all the means to permanently keep ourselves under His protection.

Huzoor^{aa} said that Our Lord is Independent and Besought of all, He does not care for someone unless one fervently and consistently prays to Him. It is important that we feel true sympathy when we pray for someone. Just as we pray fervently for ourselves, in the same way we should pray for the Jamā’at, for the Muslim *Ummah*, and for our respective countries. We should also pray that God may remove the dangers that are looming over the world today. We should not keep even our enemies out of our prayers. The greater the scope of the prayer, the greater the benefit to the one who prays. And the more miserly one is in one’s prayers, the further he is from God.

Huzoor^{aa} said that in our routine prayers we should include the Jamā’at. Everyone is well aware of the situation in Pakistan. Time and again there are lawsuits made against the Jamā’at or Aḥmadīs are harassed in other ways by the maulavīs or by government officials. May Allāh

save every Aḥmadī from their mischief. Sometimes governments do certain things to create law and order situations which help them implement harsh laws that help strengthen their governments. Such acts were also perpetrated by past governments. Therefore, special prayers are needed. Aḥmadīs in Pakistan should particularly pray for themselves. We have never taken the law into our own hands, nor sought revenge, nor shall we do so in future. It is only the weapon of prayer that we shall always use. Allāh has always saved us from their designs and will continue to do so and the Jamā’at shall progress more than before.

Huzoor^{aa} said that similar activities are going on in Algeria, but all Aḥmadīs with a very few exceptions remain steadfast in their faith. One Aḥmadī wrote that though the Jamā’at was only established ten years ago, their history of making sacrifices goes a long way back. The government is also bewildered that these people neither turn back from their faith nor show any negative reaction. This is because they have the weapon of prayer and they know that their time of tribulation will come to an end and God will listen to their prayers. Before God, worldly powers are of no worth. Trials do come and sacrifices have to be made, but the ultimate victory belongs to those who remain with God. History of the Jamā’at shows that at every occasion God remained with the Jamā’at and protected it, and the enemy was always frustrated.

Huzoor^{aa} said that those who think they are not in direct danger and are therefore lax in their prayers should remember that these trials can come upon them as well. Before this should come to pass, they should turn their attention to prayer. Even if you are living in ease and security, you should pray for your Aḥmadī brothers with an anguished heart that Allāh may help them in their tribulations. When one prays for others, one’s own difficulties are also removed.

Huzoor^{aa} said that those living in western countries should not consider themselves safe, because Aḥmadīs will also be affected by the rising anti-Muslim sentiment. Although we say that we are peace loving Muslims, anyone can blindly attack us. Such incidents have started taking place whereby anti-Muslims and nationalists have started activities against Muslims. Huzoor^{aa}

continued by saying that the situation in the whole world is such that it is inviting God’s displeasure. World powers are trying to cause rifts among Muslim nations, and these circumstances can set these countries back by decades. America has dangerous aims. A conflict has been created in Syria which could lead Iran to send in its forces, and that will give America and Israel reason to vent their antagonism towards Islām. Big powers are very cunningly trying to weaken Muslim states. However, these conflicts will not be confined to a particular area, Russia will also come in and it can all turn into a world war. Muslim countries will go back decades. The tensions between America and Korea are also growing and commentators say that the use of even a small weapon by America could escalate into a terrible war in the region. Huzoor^{aa} said that new inventions can also become a means of destruction, such as cyber-attacks, particularly if they’re employed in manipulating weapons of mass destruction. Huzoor^{aa} said that the world is creating the means for its own destruction.

Huzoor^{aa} said that most Muslim leaders have already antagonized their own people by committing atrocities against them, and they commit even greater atrocities to save their rule, but this is not the solution. The solution is the one told by the Holy Prophet^{sa}, which is to accept the Promised Messiah and Mahdī^{as}. We are fortunate that, in keeping with the command of the Holy Prophet^{sa}, we have accepted the Promised Mahdī^{as}. Today, the world can only be saved in the way told by the Promised Messiah^{as}. Only Aḥmadīs can save the world through their heartfelt prayers. Every Aḥmadī should feel the suffering of all the people of the world and pray for them. Calamities are fast enveloping the world. While we spread the message that salvation only lies in coming under the protection of the Promised Messiah^{as}, we should also pray fervently that God may bring the world to its senses and save them from destruction. May Allāh enable us to bring the world under the banner of the Holy Prophet^{sa}. May we employ all the means and take our prayers to the extreme to bring this about. After Ramaḍān also we should continue to come closer to Allāh through worship and prayers. May Allāh grant us the ultimate success. *Amīn*.

150th Year Canada Day Celebrations

By Amal Yousaf Sāhibā



CANADA 150

Although Jamā'at Aḥmadiyya Canada grandly celebrates Canada's birthday on the 1st of July each year, this time on the occasion of Canada's 150th birthday, when the entire country of Canada rejoiced, all Canadian Jamā'ats joined their fellow Canadians to commemorate this great occasion. Nine of Canada's Jamā'ats festively celebrated Canada's birthday,

while 4 Jamā'ats participated in the official celebrations of their respective cities.

The Jamā'ats where events were held to commemorate Canada's 150 years are as follows: Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Regina, Hamilton, Peace Village, Toronto and Ottawa. Those

Jamā'ats who participated in their official city celebrations are as follows: Windsor, Bradford, Barrie and Abbotsford.

Jamā'at Calgary's passion and excitement was worth watching - 7000 members gathered together to demonstrate their love for the country and several political representatives participated as well.

The Celebration in Peace Village, Vaughan



The second largest celebration took place in Peace Village where 6000 men, women and children were joined along with the following guests who participated in the day's festivities: the mayor of Vaughan, provincial representatives, members of provincial and federal parliaments, the

Vice Chancellor of York University and more than 40 political representatives and police officers

The preparations for the celebration began a week earlier when more than 200 volunteers from the Peace Village

and Vaughan Jamā'ats got together and decorated Peace Village with Canadian flags and banners. Baitul Islām Mosque, Aiwan Tahir, Jāmi'a Aḥmadiyya Canada, Ayesha Academy and offices of other auxiliary organizations were also decorated in red and white flags and



Mr. Maurizio Bevilacqua, hoisted the Canadian flag, while Lal Khan Malik Şāhib, Amīr Jamā'at Canada, raised the Aḥmadiyya flag.

banners. A beautiful stage was set up at the landing on the top of the Masjid's stairs and seating arrangements for men and women were set up on the grass area across from it.

Children, seniors and volunteers were all dressed up in red. On one side, some of them were working at the food stall while on the other side, Lajna Imāi'llāh Canada members who never stay too far behind, had also set up a Meena Bazaar. It was as festive as if it were 'Īd.

The Program

The hustle of the stalls and the playing

of children began at 11 am, but the scheduled agenda of events began after Zuhr prayers at 3pm upon the arrival of guests. Amongst the shouting echoes of slogans, the mayor of Vaughan, Mr. Maurizio Bevilacqua, hoisted the Canadian flag, while Lal Khan Malik Şāhib, Amīr Jamā'at Canada, raised the Aḥmadiyya flag. Syed Yasin Ashraf Şāhib recited verse 19 of Surah Al Nahl of the Holy Qur'ān followed by the English, French and Urdu translations. 150 children dressed in red and white sang the national anthem of Canada. Two girls, Adila and Jaziba, presented some facts

about Canada followed by a speech by a student of Jāmi'a Aḥmadiyya Canada, Sarmad Naveed Şāhib, on the topic of "Jāmi'a Aḥmadiyya's Loyalty to Canada." After this, a young Syrian immigrant, Louna Odeh, came to the microphone to speak about why she had chosen Canada as her country.

At this time, a cheque of 2 million dollars on behalf of Majlis Khuddāmul Aḥmadiyya was presented to the Chief Executive Officer of the Mackenzie Health Foundation towards the building of their hospital.



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Presentations by Honourary Guests

From amongst the honourable guests who were present, the following guests spoke to the audience during the Canada Day event:

- His Worship Maurizio Bevilacqua,



His Worship Maurizio Bevilacqua, Mayor of the City of Vaughan

Mayor of the City of Vaughan

- Mr. Altaf Stationwala, Chief Executive Officer of the Mackenzie Health Foundation
- Greg Sorbara, Vice Chancellor, York University



Mr. Altaf Stationwala, CEO of the Mackenzie Health Foundation

- Hon. Steven Del Duca, Provincial Minister of Transportation
- Ms. Deb Shulte, Member of Provincial Parliament
- Mr. Francesco Sorbara, Member of Provincial Parliament



Greg Sorbara, Vice Chancellor, York University



Hon. Steven Del Duca, Provincial Minister of Transportation



Ms. Deb Shulte, Member of Provincial Parliament



Mr. Francesco Sorbara, Member of Provincial Parliament

Concluding Address



At the end, respected Amīr Şāhib congratulated the members of the public and the government on the 150 years of Canada’s institution. At this opportunity, he also read out two congratulatory messages from Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V^{aa} for the Prime Minister of Canada and the Governor General. Readers can find these letters at the end of this report.

Cake Cutting Ceremony



After the concluding address, respected Amīr Şāhib and the mayor of the City of Vaughan together cut a cake to celebrate the 150 years of Canada.

A Unique Presentation by the York Regional Police



Later in the day, a group of York region police officers on motorcycles demonstrated a daring and professional act in the grassy area located beside

Aiwan Tahir and right across from Ayesha Academy.

Barbeque

Throughout the day, the Diyāfat department had a barbeque going at which guests could enjoy free burgers.





MIRZA MASROOR AHMAD
HEAD OF THE AHMADIYYA COMMUNITY
IN ISLAM

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيْمِ
نُحْمَدُهٗ وَنُصَلِّيْ عَلٰى رَسُوْلِهِ الْكَرِيْمِ
وَعَلٰى عَبْدِهِ الْمَسِيْحِ الْمَوْعُوْدِ
خدا کے فضل اور رحم کے ساتھ
هوالتاصر

L O N D O N
T-4120-2F/16-05-17

**The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Office of the Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
Canada**

My Dear Prime Minister

May the peace and blessings of God be upon you.

Please accept my heartiest congratulations on the occasion of Canada Day due to be celebrated on 1st July 2017, which this year marks the 150th Anniversary of the founding of Canada.

It is my earnest prayer, may God bless you and all the people of Canada and enable you to continue to exemplify the splendid model of a nation that enthusiastically promotes the values of freedom, respect for cultural and religious differences and a sincere commitment to social justice within all aspects of national life.

I have always remained impressed with Canada's aspirations to establish an all-embracing society sensitive to the wants of others, always willing to welcome those who are oppressed, and to help the needy and destitute. Your dedication to the cause of peace and your contribution to peacekeeping efforts in various parts of the world is also commendable, particularly in the present perilous times.

Indeed, my predecessor the 4th Caliph of the Community was so touched by the hospitality and kindness extended to him by the Canadian people that he made the famous remark 'I pray that Canada becomes the whole world, and the whole world becomes Canada.'

As I mentioned during my tour of Canada last year, if human values and human rights are not upheld in one country or region, it has a knock-on effect upon other parts of the world and such wrongdoing can spread further afield. Conversely, if there is goodness, humanity and prosperity in one part of the world, it will have a positive effect on other societies and other people. Therefore, Canada should be proud of the wonderful example she has set in striving to promote the best of human values in a world where human rights are unfortunately much disregarded.

As you are aware, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is pledged to establishing universal peace in the world with a message presenting the peaceful nature and beauty of the faith of Islam, while calling on global powers to pursue an agenda of peace, religious freedom, and the advancement of human rights throughout the world. Therefore, I assure you of the full commitment of the members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community residing in Canada to contributing fully and working towards supporting the best values of Canadian society, and to be totally engaged in maintaining its development and progress towards an ever increasing peaceful and harmonious nation.

Indeed, the Founder of Islam, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said that to love one's nation was a part of Islamic faith. Thus, it is the duty of every Muslim to love his or her nation, to strive for its betterment and to serve it faithfully with utmost loyalty.

In conclusion, I reiterate my good wishes on this most auspicious landmark in your history and pray, may God bless Canada and enable your great nation to shine as a beacon of peace, harmony and tranquility forever.

Yours sincerely



Mirza Masroor Ahmad
KHALIFATUL MASIH V

Supreme Head of the
Ahmadiyya Muslim Community



MIRZA MASROOR AHMAD
HEAD OF THE AHMADIYYA COMMUNITY
IN ISLAM

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خدا کے فضل اور رحم کے ساتھ
هوالتاصر

L O N D O N
T-4120-1F/16-05-17

H.E. the Right Honourable David Johnston
Governor General
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A1
Canada

Your Excellency

May the peace and blessings of God be upon you.

Please accept my heartiest congratulations on the occasion of Canada Day due to be celebrated on 1st July 2017 which this year marks the 150th Anniversary of the founding of Canada.

It is my earnest prayer, may God bless the people of Canada and enable them to continue to set an example of promoting the best of human values inculcating freedom, respect for cultural and religious differences and commitment to social justice within all aspects of Canadian life.

Canada has long served as a shining example within the family of nations of a people aspiring to establish an all-embracing culture, sensitive to the wants of others, willing to welcome in those who are oppressed, and to help the needy and destitute. The commitment of Canada to peace and her contribution to peacekeeping efforts in various parts of the world is most commendable, particularly in the present precarious times.

As you are aware, the Ahmadiyya Muslim community is pledged to establishing universal peace in the world with a message presenting the peaceful nature and beauty of the faith of Islam, while calling on global powers to pursue an agenda of peace, religious freedom, and the advancement of human rights throughout the world. Therefore, the members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community residing in Canada are duty

bound to contribute fully, and work towards supporting the best values of Canadian society, and to be totally engaged in maintaining the development and progress of a peaceful and harmonious nation.

Indeed, the Founder of Islam, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said that to love one's nation was a part of Islamic faith. Thus, it is the duty of every Muslim, wherever in the world he or she resides, to love his or her nation, to strive for its betterment and to serve it faithfully with utmost loyalty and conviction.

In conclusion, I reiterate my good wishes on this auspicious landmark in the history of Canada and pray, may God bless this great nation and may it be truly acclaimed as a shining beacon of peace, harmony and tranquility.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Masroor Ahmad', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mirza Masroor Ahmad
KHALIFATUL MASIH V

Supreme Head of the
Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

July 7-9, 2017

PART
2

Report: 41st Jalsa Sālāna Canada International Centre, Mississauga

Dept. of AMJ Media

The following are speeches delivered by various dignitaries that attended Jalsa Sālāna Canada 2017. Guests, including politicians and various community leaders, took to the stage on days 2 & 3 to convey their messages to the Jalsa attendees.

MP Arif Virani – Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Canadian Heritage (Multiculturalism):

Brothers and sisters, Assalāmu alaikum.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honour and a pleasure to be here with all of you today and to bring greetings and best wishes on the behalf of the Government of Canada.

I wanted to start with the traditional acknowledgement, but I'm very pleased that Asif has actually done me one better and done the traditional territorial acknowledgement before me; because this is an important part of the reconciliation steps our government and Prime Minister Trudeau is encouraging all of us to think about, regardless of where we are in this country.

When we acknowledge the lands and the persons whose lands we are upon now, it helps us to raise awareness and raise understanding between different cultures. And when I think about that, I think that is especially important here among the Aḥmadiyya Community. Because most of all what I've understood and come to learn about the Aḥmadiyya Community is that you help others understand more about Islām, and about Aḥmadīs generally, but also help others learn about each other. So, thank you very much for that.

I wanted to also acknowledge there are many of my colleagues who are here right now and some of my colleagues who

are on route. But that you have strong support among the government caucus. We have Ramesh Sangha, the member from Brampton Centre; we have Salma Zahid, the member from Scarborough Centre; and we have Yasmin Ratansi, the member from Don Valley East.

All of us are here, today, because we know that the community has been in this country for 50 years and we know that this is the 41st Jalsa Sālāna that you are hosting here. Indeed, as Asif mentioned, the longest running annual Muslim convention in this land, which is a true testament to your successful integration, your prosperity, but also your ability to give back to your own country.

And I know, for example, that the Canada Day festivities that are held in Vaughan and in places like Calgary, are some of the biggest Canada Day celebrations that we have anywhere in the country. They are run by you the Aḥmadiyya Jamā'at, which is a testament, again, to your fortitude, your organizational capacity, and your willingness and your desire to give back to the country you now call home.

My role here is also as the Parliamentary Secretary for multiculturalism. This is a term we hear a lot about, but fundamentally it is about bridging barriers between communities and bridging divides. And what the Prime Minister has asked me, in giving me this role, is to help work on better dialogue and understanding between communities. But I know that the Aḥmadiyya Community is in the vanguard of this important work and I see around me here, I saw the displays outside and I see the banners, when we talk about Aḥmadīs we talk about "Love for All, Hatred for None." And that very

sentiment, those simple words, capture what is the essence of what you are trying to do as a community and what we are trying to do as a government; which is promote respect, promote tolerance, promote pluralism. But even more than tolerance what we are trying to do is not just tolerate difference, but celebrate difference and I think that is the teachings we have learned from different communities, but, among all, we have learned that from you, the Aḥmadiyya Community. So, thank you for that also.

The Prime Minister was unfortunately taken abroad. He's doing some matters of state in Germany, as I'm sure you are all aware. But the Prime Minister has provided me with greetings that he wanted me to share with all of you and those greetings are as follows:

"Dear Friends,

I am pleased to convey my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 2017 Jalsa Sālāna Canada. This annual convention brings together members of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community from across Canada, and abroad. This gathering offers tremendous opportunities for all those in attendance to affirm their spirituality and to foster the ties of fellowship that unite them. I want to thank the organizers, the many volunteers, for their incredible hard work and dedication in ensuring this event's success, year after year. On the behalf of the Government of Canada, I offer my best wishes for a memorable experience."

And it is signed "Sincerely the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau."

Thank you for having us here today; thank you for hosting us here today;

thank you for the contributions you are making most of all to this country. It is through communities such as the Ahmadiyya Community, that we become stronger and that we are strong not in spite of our differences, but because of them. Shukran. Assalāmu alaikum.

Jeff Ward – Member of the Mi'kmaq Membertou Community of Nova Scotia

Mr. Ward began by singing in his native language.

It is a true honour to be here today. My name is Jeff Ward from Membertou. It's a true honour.

I bring greetings from our Chief Terrance Paul, who just received the Order of Canada, in his 36 years of Chief in Membertou. It is my honour to be here today to pray with you.

That song I just sang is a very ancient, ancient song. It's a round dance song. It talks about us coming together, in a good way, and we dance in a circle and we hold hands, and that's beautiful. It's what we see here today and what we want to do is come together and to hold hands. There is only one sun and we all share it. It's very important that we come together with one another, we pray in good ways.

In two weeks time we start preparing for our ceremonies, our Sun Dance. It's a true honour that I bring teachings from our Sun Dance Chief William Nevins, from my uncle George Paul, and the many Sun Dance chiefs that are out there, I send prayers for them too, as well, and to you here, as well, as we come together.

It is a true honour that we pray together as one and I personally would like to invite every single one of you to Membertou. Come to Membertou Cape Breton, Nova Scotia; Unamagi the seventh district of migamagi, where our people have come from since the beginning of time, time in memorial. Thank you.

Mr. Ward ended with greetings in his native language.

Chief Ava Hill of the Six Nations of the Grand River:

Mr. President, distinguished guests, as the emcee has said, my name is Ava Hill. I am the elected chief of the Six Nations of the Grand River, and we are six nations. We are the Mohawk, Oneida, Cayuga, Seneca, Onondaga and Tuscarora. Collectively, we are the Hodan Ashoni. I

am a Mohawk woman, Mauve Clan.

I want to thank you so much for inviting me to be here and I want to thank Jeff Ward for the song and for the words he has offered to you.

Some of you may remember that I did attend your conference here two years ago and I had the privilege to speak to you at that time, and I am so happy to be invited back to speak to you again today.

In the many speaking engagements that I do, in my role as Chief of the First Nations, I always mention the time that I spent with you and point out how important it is that different cultures take the time to educate themselves, and become aware of the many diverse cultures that exist in the world.

I invite you to learn more about the rich culture and the rich history of the Hodan Ashoni people and I encourage our people to learn more about the Muslim community.

I do want to acknowledge the work that is being done by Humanity First. I had a chance to look at the displays earlier. Many of the projects that you have supported, such as the Water for Life, projects for our children, disaster relief, our future and our seniors, are many of the same projects that we, as the First Nations people, care deeply about and that we also work hard to support. It is commendable that you reach out to help those in the world who need it the most, particularly the youth and the elders, since the youth are our future leaders and our elders are our traditional knowledge keepers.

I also want to acknowledge that we share a common ideology and objectives with the preservation of our spirituality, our traditions, and our teachings. We are a very proud people and we ensure that our history and our culture is not lost and is passed on to the future generations. Our traditions have also taught us that we must always exercise a good mind and work in harmony, cooperation, and hope and pray for peace and love.

I want to speak briefly about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that was conducted in this country, over the past six years. Three commissioners travelled across the country and listened to survivors of residential schools; that was a system that was in place in this country for over 150 years. Their final report,

which was issued last year, includes 94 calls to action related to action needed in almost every area of our lives.

I want to pass the message onto you about the reconciliation part of their report and I think it is a message that should be given to all Canadians and I ask you to pass it on.

So, what is reconciliation? To some, reconciliation is about coming to terms with the events of the past in a manner that overcomes conflict and establishes healthy and respectful relationships among people. But for any type of reconciliation to happen there must be awareness of the past, acknowledgement of the harm that has been inflicted, atonement for the causes, and action to change behaviour.

Too many people in this country know little or nothing of our deep historical roots, our culture, and our pride and also about the many diverse cultures that now exist in the country, including that of the Muslim people. This lack of knowledge, education, and awareness can fuel distrust between the different cultures and it is through education and awareness that perhaps the stereotypes and the misconceptions exist throughout the world will be challenged and will ultimately be eliminated.

To build for the future, we must all look to and learn from the past. Together, we all must do more than just talk about reconciliation, we must learn how to practice reconciliation in our everyday lives within ourselves, in our families, and in our communities, our governments, our places of worship, our schools, and our work places.

Reconciliation must inspire us to transform society so that our children and our grandchildren can live together in dignity, peace, and prosperity on these lands that we now share.

As a final note, I want to say that our people are very welcoming. We welcomed the first settlers to this country thousands of years ago and we taught them how to live off the land. We continued to welcome newcomers to our traditional territories. We extend our hand in friendship to the Muslim community and we ask that we work together in love, peace, and friendship. We look forward to your support as we continue in our struggles not only for reconciliation, but for justice

for the First Peoples of this land. Naowa.

**Muhammad Fiaz – Member of the
Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan:**

*A'uzu billāhī minash- shaitān-ir-rajīm.
Bismillāhir Raḥmānir Raḥīm.*

Respected Amīr Sahib, brothers and sisters, members of parliament, members of provincial parliament, Assalāmo 'alaikum wa Rahmatullāh wa Barakātohu.

I'm so humbled to be here today, as an elected Aḥmadī Muslim and Member of Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. As an Aḥmadī, I also have the right to be a host of this Jalsa Sālāna and I do welcome every guest in this Jalsa. But I'm still missing a few things, that when I was asked from many of you, for this setup of the Jalsa, moving chairs here and there, working in parking lot, working in Langhar Khana, even. And while I was working as a volunteer with the Jamā'at, I learned many values from this Jamā'at, and the values stay evergreen with me and helping me in my business and in my political life.

I do remember that when I was living in a very small town of Pakistan, that was in a remote area, and used to attend Ijtimā't in Rabwah, and especially spending time with the Jāmi'a students, chilling with them, I was not realizing that I'm learning a lot from those students. Attending those Ijtimā't, and working as a volunteer there, learned many things.

Well doesn't matter you live in Pakistan or Canada, the values of the Jamā'at are the same. And we are blessed with the divine Khalīfat and these values are helping us in our daily life.

Well, I try my best ever that never say no to my office bearer and the complete obedience of Khalīfat, Jamā'at System, and Office Bearer and I can tell you that Insha'Allāh that success will come in your hand.

And, of course, we are very honoured to be Canadian. And we shall always honour Canada as every single Aḥmadī has celebrated July 1st, 150th anniversary, just a while ago and showed great patriotism and showed unconditional love for Canada on a firm principal of our faith that where the nation and the country always come first.

Amīr Ṣāhib, I would like you to allow me to say thank you to the First Nation and thank you to the first settler in Canada,

who welcomed us in this country and who honoured us to be Canadian. Now, I can tell you it is a time to honour these people and to be part of the people, especially if you have interest in politics, come up and give yourself back to the province, give yourself back to the country and honour these people who honour us in the past. Thank you very much Amīr Ṣāhib, JazakAllāh.

**MPP Laura Albanese – Ontario
Minister of Citizenship and
Immigration:**

Thank you very much brothers and sisters. Assalāmu alaikum.

I want to, first of all, say how honoured I am to be here today to offer my congratulations to the Aḥmadīyya Muslim Jamā'at of Canada on its 41st convention in this location. So, my really most heartfelt felt congratulations.

I try to attend every year and I think I have been since 2007, since I have been elected. And I love coming here and every year learning something different.

Today, for example, I really enjoyed looking at the displays and learning more about your community, about what the community is doing, how you give back to others, and the history, a little bit of the history, as well.

And I well remember this convention last year when we welcomed the world's spiritual leader of the Aḥmadīyya Muslims, His Holiness. I think it was a very special occasion and the fact that he spoke to you, and to us really, about calling for justice for all nations; and he spoke about the role of women in Islām; and it was also a very special convention because, for the first time, we had hundreds of Syrian refugees who attended here for the first time and, in many ways, it was their first experience with religious freedom.

So, I am very very honoured to share this important moment with you. I know that the Muslim community is a growing community in the province of Ontario and I want to thank you because you continue to enrich our country, our province, with your ancient heritage and culture and with your faith and with your strong sense of family and community. So, I am very pleased to help celebrate this moment of faith with you and what this convention stands for. So, thank you for having me here.

I also have greetings on behalf of the Premier of Ontario. And I know have colleagues that are here with me, and I believe that they will be coming on to the stage later on with Minister Del Duca, but I have been tasked with the greetings that I will, for a moment, that if you allow me to read to you:

“On behalf of the Government of Ontario I am delighted to welcome everyone to the 41st Annual Convention of the Aḥmadīyya Muslim Jamā'at Canada. This gathering is more than a convention; it is an opportunity for personal growth, spiritual insight and a more profound understanding of your faith. Ontario is proud to be home to diverse people and cultures from around the world. What makes us Canadian is our shared values of inclusiveness, respect for all cultures, and beliefs, a passion for justice, and a commitment to building a harmonious multicultural society. I thank the Aḥmadīyya Muslim Jamā'at Canada for organizing this convention. In doing so, you are helping build an even stronger Aḥmadīyya Muslim Community within a diverse and dynamic Ontario. Please accept my best wishes for an enlightening gathering.”

And it is signed by the Premier of Ontario, Kathleen Wynne. Thank you very much.

**Mo Ladha – President of the
Canadian-Muslim Vote**

Respected National President, Mr. Lal Khan Malik, distinguished guests, and brothers and sisters May the Peace and Blessings of Allāh be upon us all. Assalāmu alaikum.

On behalf of the Canadian-Muslim Vote, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Aḥmadīyya Muslim Jamā'at Canada for inviting us to participate on the occasion of this, the 41st annual Jalsa Sālāna, in Canada.

The strength of the Muslim communities in Canada continue to contribute to the common good and to bring about positive change. And this strength comes from the same strength that is a source of strength in Canada, it is found in the diversity of our communities.

Thank you for your leadership, not only in speaking about diversity, but in seeking to act upon its values through inclusion and creating opportunities, such as this one, enabling us to express that strength through our communities.

As the uncertainty in global affairs has changed dramatically over the past number of years, the need to express this strength has become even more apparent than it once was and Canada, in this climate, continues to be a beacon for the global community. A place where we can, no matter our differences in faith, creed, colour, or gender, come together in civic and democratic engagement to build on what is the common good between all of us.

This is the country in which we can practice your motto: “Love for All, Hatred for None.” Like many of you, and indeed Bono, I think that the world needs more Canada. Only a strong Canada can support that need. Whether it be through the various programs of education and outreach that the Canadian-Muslim Vote supports, or through the Get Out the Vote Campaigns, through which we seek the engagement of every Canadian Muslim in the country, we look forward to continued collaboration as together we express the strength of a diverse and inclusive Canada.

Thank you. Walaikum Assalām wa Rahmatullāh wa Barakātohu.

MP Raj Grewal – Associate Chair of the Parliamentary Friendship Association:

Assalāmu alaikum brothers and sisters and good evening.

It is a pleasure to be here for the 41st Annual Jalsa Sālāna celebrating the Aḥmadiyya Community in Canada. Today, it is a particular honour for me, as the Vice Chair of the Aḥmadiyya Parliamentary Friendship Association group, and as we celebrate Canada’s 150th birthday, we celebrate the Aḥmadiyya Community’s contributions, that make our country the greatest nation in the world.

When I think about Canada I always think about what makes Canada great. As governments will come and go but the people, the citizens, the people like yourselves, the Aḥmadiyya community, that work day in and day out and choose hope over fear and diversity over division. And that’s what’s been the strength of the Aḥmadiyya Community and its motto: “Love for All, Hatred for None.”

I mean it just doesn’t get any better than that. That’s what’s made Canada so great it’s citizens, like yourselves, that do the

work of building better communities day in and day out.

As your federal members of parliament for Brampton we are inherently indebted to the Aḥmadiyya Community because you guys came out in great numbers to support us in 2015. So, if we could ever be of any service to any of you, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you so much for the honour and privilege of addressing you today. Thank you very much.

MP Ruby Sahota:

Assalāmu alaikum.

My name is Ruby Sahota I am the Member of Parliament for Brampton North and, along with our whole team from Brampton, thank you so much for welcoming us.

I’ve come to a few of these conventions over the last couple of years and always it’s so lovely to be here. The love and warmth you feel amongst the Aḥmadiyya Community is like no other.

So, just like has Raj stated, as well, you know thank you so much for your contribution to Canada and never hesitate to approach us for anything that you need. The team of Brampton, all of us MPs, are to serve you and we appreciate your support. We believe in the right for you to practice and the rights and freedoms that our constitution has given everyone in society and that’s not just some faiths and some members of our country, but for all members including Aḥmadiyya and the Muslim Communities. Thank you for having us here today and I look forward to getting to know more of you in the years to come. Thank You.

MP Kamal Kehra

Assalāmu alaikum brothers and sisters. I am Kamal Kehra, proud Member of Parliament for the beautiful riding of Brampton West, and let me just say it’s truly an honour and a privilege for me to join you here today at the 41st Annual Jalsa Sālāna.

This is my third time here and it’s always humbling to be here with all of our brothers and sisters, with all the love and support you’ve shown over the years. As we are celebrating 150th Birthday of Canada, we cannot forget the accomplishments and the contributions of the Aḥmadiyya Community to Canada, and abroad, and your message for: “Love

for All, Hatred for None.” We’re all proud to share this message as Canadians.

So, once again I want to thank you for all that you do, not just here but also internationally and for truly showing us what community truly means. Again, as my colleagues have just said, if there’s anything that we can do to help and support you please do not hesitate to contact any of our offices. Thank you very much. Assalāmu alaikum.

MP Sonia Sidhu

Assalāmu alaikum brothers and sisters. Thank you very much for inviting us and I’m feeling so much honoured to be here with my team. As my colleagues said, thank you for showing the leadership. “Love for All, Hatred for None,” reflects our values. Again, our office, we are five MPs in Brampton working in one team, any time you have a federal issue please do not hesitate to contact us. We are there to serve you. Thank you for supporting us in 2015 and we are always there for you. Assalāmu alaikum. Thank you.

MP Kareem Musa – Deputy Leader of the Opposition Party in Belize

Assalāmu alaikum my brothers and sisters, national president, chairman, distinguished guests members of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community, I bring you greetings and well-wishes from Belize.

It is indeed a great honour and a privilege to be with you here today in celebration of your Jalsa Sālāna and to be afforded the opportunity to deliver a message of gratitude and appreciation for the invaluable contributions of your Aḥmadiyya Community in Belize.

At a time when the world is faced with so many challenges and being consumed by negativity, your community’s humble, yet vibrant presence, in our country offers great hope and promise. Your philosophy of “Love for All and Hatred for None,” demonstrates the social consciousness and a commitment to uplift the lives of the less fortunate and the underprivileged, whether it is through assistance in education, feeding programs, flood relief, skills training, or athletics, the impact of your community has been far-reaching and for some of our at-risk youth, even life-saving. I believe that I can speak on behalf of those whose lives you have touched when I say that your selfless service to our community

is recognized, it is welcomed, and it is celebrated

The growth and expansion of your community's membership is confirmation that amidst all the global conflict and negativity, peace, love and goodwill remain strong, values which can bring people together. And, so, it is with great pride that I echo the sentiments of those before me in wishing you all a successful Jalsa Sālāna and, again, I thank you for this opportunity to share with you in this very special occasion

Thank you and before I leave, as a show of appreciation, I would like to share some gifts from the local artist, the talented local artists from Belize, with the national president, Mr. Malik.

Dion Leslie – Councilor of Belize City:

Good evening. Assalāmu alaikum, my brothers and sisters from the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at.

It is my honour to stand here today and extend congratulations and greetings on behalf of the Mayor of Belize City, the council, but most importantly the residents of Belize City. It is a privilege for me to be amongst you today at the 41st annual Convention as it was my privilege to be present when the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at opened its doors in Belize City in 2013.

From that day, we in the council, and in the city, knew that your community would accomplish great things in Belize. While helping those in need, and spreading the teachings of "Love for All, Hatred for None," since the inauguration of your Belize Mission, the community has embarked on various social and humanitarian efforts within the city and all over the country. For example, the New Year's Day clean up that is held every year, the internet cafe that is open to the public, partnering with educational institutions to lend support, sponsoring of the Aḥmadiyya Basketball League, and, most importantly, disaster assistance. When last year the city was hit by a hurricane, Hurricane Earl, and the mission in Belize was used not only as a hurricane shelter, but after the storm had passed the community gave assistance in terms of groceries to those in need for who were most affected by the storm.

We in Belize City have seen the compassion that each and every brother

and sister of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at shares, not only towards each other, but to all humanity no matter race, religion, or social status. It is through this love for humanity that I can say that Belize is lucky to be a part of your global mission and we will continue to work side-by-side to uplift and better not only ourselves but our community

So, I once again express congratulations and many thanks to you for allowing me to be part of this is Jalsa Sālāna. Thank you.

David Barrow – Mayor of Richmond Hill:

Assalāmu alaikum. Peace be upon us, Mr. presidents, Imāms, honoured scholars, fellow elected officials from all levels, guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It's an honour and privilege to be here once again with you for the 41st annual convention Jalsa Sālāna Canada and I bring you greetings from York Region and certainly my own community.

As we know, the primary purpose of this conference is that every member of the Jamā'at may derive religious benefits and, at the same time, acquire more knowledge and promote peace and inter-religious harmony in our communities. We greet each other with smiles, and we spread the good word, and encourage people to perform good deeds. That is what the Jalsa Sālāna is here to do. I hope and pray that "Love for All, Hatred for None" will spread throughout this great region, this province, and this country, under the leadership of the Aḥmadiyya Jamā'at. Thank you. Being in our communities makes all of our communities much stronger. Thank you. Assalāmu alaikum.

Mayor Robert Keffer – Mayor of Bradford West Gwillimbury

Mr. President, chairman, distinguished guests, it is a pleasure to be here today to bring best wishes from the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury. As was mentioned, I am joined here by councillor Raj Sandhu, a regular representative here at your convention

It was just a week ago when the country and every community celebrated Canada Day. The sesquicentennial was a special occasion to celebrate and the town of Bradford was no different. We had a tremendous Canada Day parade with a

multicultural theme with a parade of nations with flags of the world were proudly carried by residents of Bradford.

Also, it was great to see the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at in our parade, proudly showing the banner "Love for All, Hatred for None," and "Love of Country is Part of Faith." There was a large number in the float representing the Jamā'at and I think everyone who was part of the parade would have gotten a real sense of pride in our country and in our community

We appreciate the support that you give our town, the run for BWG, involvement in community events, and a large contribution to our Leisure Centre, presented just last Saturday night at our Civic Awards ceremony.

Congratulations on hosting this convention this weekend and, it is the 41st, and all the events you hold throughout the year, some of which are in the town of Bradford West Gwillimbury. In the busy-ness of life it is good to connect to the true meaning of life, like you are doing this weekend. Thank you again for the kind invitation and the kind hospitality.

MPP Steven Del Duca – Ontario Minister of Transportation

Assalāmu alaikum,

I am absolutely honoured to be here with all of you this afternoon alongside my colleagues, as Asif has mentioned, I'm joined here today by Amrit Mangat, the Member of Provincial Parliament for Mississauga-Brampton South, and Harindar Malhi, the Member of Provincial Parliament from Brampton Springdale. It is it is an honour.

We've heard from so many officials over the course of the afternoon here at this convention, your 41st gathering. And you, I think, get a sense of how inspiring the Aḥmadiyya Community is to all of us, at all levels of government, not only here in the Province of Ontario, but right across this country and, in fact, internationally. And that doesn't happen by accident. That happens because of your dedication, because of your energy and your enthusiasm, and most of all it happens because of the values that you bring not only to yourselves, your neighbourhoods, your family relationships, but also to the broader community; whether we're talking about your theme of "Love for All and Hatred

for None,” whether we’re talking about the incredible community involvement that you participate in, that you give back in every single community, here in the province of Ontario and beyond.

I think in my own home community of Vaughan, as Asif mentioned, I am very very proud to be the MPP who represents your community’s headquarters, if I can say that, of course, in Maple; and to see all of the incredible work all of the giving back whether we’re talking about Humanity First’s work, blood donor clinics, food banks, supporting Syrian refugees and, in my own community, the incredible determination and hard work that you brought to bare to help support the building of Vaughan’s hospital, has just been simply outstanding.

So to be here with you today, as an MPP for Vaughan, as the Minister of Transportation, with my colleagues, is an incredible honour and I really just wanted to say, on behalf of the Government of Ontario, a thank you for your dedication, thank you for your contribution. It’s a wonderful celebration, as it always is, this year an incredible gathering and I certainly look forward, along with Amrit Mangat and Harindar Malhi, and the rest of our colleagues, to being back with you next year. Thank you very much.

Linda Jeffrey – Mayor of Brampton:

Assalāmu alaikum,

Thank you for inviting me to come back, once again, to speak to the entire congregation. It is an honour to be here with you. On July 1, we celebrated the 150th anniversary of the confederation of this great country, that we call home, and together we have collectively built our country, Canada, into the envy of the world. A place where Canadians, regardless of their background, can live in peace and prosperity. Your contribution enriched my city of Brampton and we are counting on you to continue to help shape the values and the priorities of my city, as we move forward. Your participation is critical so that our community and our country reaches its full potential.

When I was first elected, as councilor in Brampton back in 1991, the Aḥmadiyya Community had a dream. They dreamed of building a mosque in north Brampton. For twenty years you have persisted and you have been steadfast in that desire. And that dream is finally taking shape.

Your persistence has paid off and later this year, I hope that we will have the benefit of seeing this beautiful facility come to fruition.

I thank you for the invitation to be with you here today. I look forward to working with you in the future. Thank you.

Rabbi Michael Dolgin:

Assalāmu alaikum,

It is truly an honour to be here today to represent the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, the national Canadian Jewish advocacy organization, an organization who represents the values and the voice of the Jewish community of Canada and it is with that voice that I am pleased and proud to bring you greetings today.

The Aḥmadiyya Community and the Jewish Community of Canada have a deep and warm relationship, and one that we powerfully value. We’ve had the privilege of working closely with you on many causes that are important to us, and to humanity, especially our joint efforts to counter hate crime and to speak up for religious freedom around the world.

The Jewish Community is and remains deeply concerned about the ongoing persecution of Aḥmadi Muslims in Pakistan. We have spoken up in the past and pledged to do so again and again, honouring your human rights and your beautiful statement “Love for All, Hatred for None.”

In synagogues throughout the world the Jewish community yesterday chanted the words “Matavo Mishrak Israel.” These words bless a community for its values, its righteousness, and its organization and were recited by one outside our community in Prophet Balaam for us and so, in echo of that moment, it is a privilege to be here to bless your community and to be blessed by your invitation, to wish you strength and success, and that there be goodness and blessing in your gatherings, in your places of worship, and in your homes.

Motive halal ya akovh mishnayatak Israel.

MPP Stephen Lecce:

Assalāmu alaikum,

I am proud to stand before you on behalf of our leader of the Progressive Conservative Party in Ontario, Patrick Brown. It is my distinct honour to be with

you all today. As we mark the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community’s 51 years in Canada and as we celebrate the 150th year since our confederation.

Now, I am reminded by the wisdom of His Holiness from last year’s historic Jalsa, here in Toronto, where he said, and I quote: “Follow the commandment of the Holy Prophet^{sa} which says ‘love of your country is part of your faith’.”

Love of country was on display just last week with over 5,000 people during Canada Day festivities at the Baitul Islām Mosque in my hometown of Vaughan. We are all enriched, enriched by the strength of our shared citizenship, and history, and by the strength of our diversity. I have been enriched personally by participating in several Iftars this past Ramaḍān with your community and I am inspired by the generosity and the charity demonstrated each and every day. From the heroic work conducted by Humanity First, in every part of the world, to everyday acts of kindness by the youth of your community.

Here, in Canada, I want to applaud the Aḥmadiyya Community for your patriotism, for standing up against all forms of hate, and for upholding the values that unite us all, the values that inspired my parents and my grandparents to immigrate to this great land. The value of freedom, human rights, the rule of law, and equality between men and women.

However, as we know these values are under attack abroad. In Pakistan, the misuse of unjust blasphemy laws disproportionately targets religious minorities, especially the Aḥmadiyya Community. As we know, throughout our history, and has been said before, democracy will flourish only in societies that embrace freedom of faith and freedom of conscience. We will stand up for religious freedom. We will stand up against unjust blasphemy laws abroad and we will stand up for the next generation here at home.

To the young people in this room Insha’Allāh with hard work, through a close connection with your Khalīfa, and love of country, you will achieve your dreams and Ontario’s best days will still be ahead. Thank you all for this incredible opportunity and God bless you.

**MP Garnett Genuis – Co-Chair
of Parliamentary Friendship
Association:**

Good afternoon, Assalāmu alaikum.

It's an honour to be with you for part of your conference this weekend and it's an honour for me to bring greetings on behalf of our new Federal Conservative Leader, Andrew Sheer. Andrew Sheer won a strong mandate to represent and celebrate the diversity in our country and in our party. So, I'm very pleased to be able to bring his greetings to you.

I think of particular interest, some of the things that I care deeply about as a Member of Parliament, that our leader cares a great deal about as well, is representing and engaging with faith communities in Canada. And yes, fighting back against hate crimes and against hatred, but also recognizing the constructive role that all faith communities can and should play in the public square. That faith isn't just a private matter, but that all communities and individuals can bring a faith-informed perspective about the importance of human dignity and of religious liberty in our public conversation.

So, we welcome your public engagement on issues that are important to you as individuals and on issues that are important to your community. And we have consistently spoken about the importance of Canada having a principled foreign policy that is willing to disagree with countries when issues of fundamental human rights and dignity are at stake, that beliefs, that we must stand up for the rights of the persecuted religious ethnic linguistic minorities around the world. Whether, those rights are threatened in Pakistan, in Sri Lanka, in any part of the world it is important that Canada be a principled voice, sharing our positive pluralistic experience and challenging other countries to observe the experience of integration, of collaboration, we have here in Canada, and to treat all people in a way that recognizes fundamental human dignity.

So, thank you again for the important work that you do, that your community does on behalf of fundamental human rights, as well as supporting humanitarian work around the world. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. God Bless you.



Birth Announcement

On July 6, 2017, Allāh Almighty blessed **Zubair Ahmed Ṣāḥib** and **Sidratul Muntaha Ṣāḥiba** of Brampton Sprindale with a son, **Ruhaan Noorul Haq**. The newborn is the paternal grandson of **Imtiazul Haq Ṣāḥib** and **Sohila Syed Ṣāḥiba** of Brampton Sprindale and the maternal grandson of **Khalid Mahmood Ṣāḥib** and **Rashda Khalid Ṣāḥiba** of Shorekote Road, Faisalabad.

On July 29, 2017, Allāh Almighty blessed **Khalid Majeed Malik Ṣāḥib** and **Faiza Malik Ṣāḥiba** of Oakville with a daughter, **Wania Majeed Malik**. The newborn is the paternal granddaughter of the late **Lieutenant-Colonel Abdul Majeed Malik Ṣāḥib** (younger brother of the late Lieutenant-General Abdul Ali Malik Ṣāḥib (Hilal-e-Jurrat) and the late Lieutenant-General Akhtar Hussain Malik Ṣāḥib (Hilal-e-Jurrat)) and the maternal granddaughter of the late **Dr Abdul Khaliq Ṣāḥib** of Lahore.

And on August 4, 2017, Allāh Almighty blessed **James Edward Sinclair Ṣāḥib** and **Maria Shahzad Ahmad Ṣāḥiba** with a son, **Jamshaid Saad Ahmad**. The newborn is the maternal grandson of Shahzad Ahmad Ṣāḥib.

May Allāh Almighty grant Ruhaan, Wania, and Jamshaid each a long, healthy and pious life and make them the delight of their family's eyes. Amīn!



Announcement of Marriage

The Nikāh of **Urwah Waseem Şāhib**, daughter of **Waseem Ahmad Şāhib**, and **Hassan Shahid Şāhib**, son of **Fazal Ahmad Shahid Şāhib**, was held on June 30, 2017. The wedding ceremony took place on July 12, 2017. On both of these occasions Respected **Maulānā Mubarak Ahmad Nazir Şāhib**, Missionary Canada, led the silent prayer. The Walimah was held on July 13, 2017 and the silent prayer was led by Respected **Farhan Khokhar Şāhib**, Naib Amīr Canada.

On October 2016, the Nikāh of **Maliha Javaid Şāhib**, daughter of **Muhammad Sarwar Javaid Şāhib**, and **Muhammad Rizwan Ahmad Şāhib**, son of **Chaudhry Farooq Ahmad Şāhib**, was announced by **Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ^{aa}**. The wedding ceremony took place on July 26, 2017 at which the silent prayer was led by Respected **Maulānā Mubarak Ahmad Nazir Şāhib**, Missionary Canada. The Walimah was held on July 27, 2017 and Respected **Maulānā Mirza Muhammad Afzal Şāhib**, Missionary Peel Region, led the silent prayer.

The Nikāh of **Mishal Sameen Awan Şāhib**, daughter of **Abdul Basit Awan Şāhib**, and **Shah Nawaz Choudhry Şāhib**, son of **Iqbal Ahmad Choudhry Sahib**, was held on July 28, 2017. Respected **Maulānā Mubarak Ahmad Nazir Şāhib**, Missionary Canada, announced this Nikāh and led the silent prayer.

The Nikāh of **Humma Khan Şāhib**, daughter of **Sultan Khan Şāhib**, and **Tahir Cheema Şāhib**, son of **Nasir Cheema Şāhib**, was announced by **Maulānā Naseem Mahdi Şāhib**, ex-Amīr and Missionary In-Charge Canada, at their wedding ceremony that took place on August 5, 2017. The Walimah was held on August 8, 2017 and Respected **Lal Khan Malik Şāhib**, Amīr Jamā‘at Şāhib, led the silent prayer.

The wedding ceremony of **Samrah Ahmad Şāhib**, daughter of **Qamar Ahmad Şāhib**, and **Qasim Zafar Şāhib**, son of **Zafar Iqbal Şāhib**, took place on August 14, 2017. The silent prayer was led by Respected **Lal Khan Malik Şāhib**, Amīr Jamā‘at Şāhib. The Walimah was held on August 16, 2017 and Respected **Maulānā Mirza Muhammad Afzal Şāhib**, Missionary Peel Region, led the silent prayer.

May Allah Almighty bless all of these unions and make these marriages a source of blessings for their families! Amīn!

Responsible Use of Internet and Social Media

Maulānā Farhan Iqbal Ṣāhib

The following speech was delivered by Maulānā Farhan Iqbal Ṣāhib during the 41st Jalsa Sālāna Canada on Sunday, July 9, 2017.

I have recited verse 104 of chapter 3 of the Holy Qur’ān, which states:

And hold fast, all together, by the rope of Allāh and be not divided; and remember the favour of Allāh which He bestowed upon you when you were enemies and He united your hearts in love, so that by His Grace you became as brothers; and you were on the brink of a pit of fire and He saved you from it. Thus does Allāh explain to you His commandments that you may be guided. (3:104)

The emphasis in this verse is on holding fast to the rope of Allāh, which refers to the Holy Qur’ān or the Holy Prophet Muḥammad^{sa}, and it also refers to the Khalīfa who represents the Prophet^{sa}.

The Holy Prophet Muḥammad^{sa} has spoken about the dark times that will occur in the latter days, and emphasizing the importance of obedience to the Khalīfa of Allāh in those dark times, He^{sa} has said: “If you are present at that time

and see the Khalīfa of Allāh in the earth, attach yourself to him, even if your body is torn from you and your wealth is taken from you.”¹

The same was emphasized by the Promised Messiah^{as} when he said: obedience is not a small thing, nor is it easy. It is a kind of death. Obedience is akin to ripping out the skin off a living person.²

He^{as} has also said:

Obedience is such that if it is adopted with a sincere heart, a light is developed in the heart, and a light and pleasure is (also) developed in the soul. Hard work is not as important (and necessary) as obedience. The only condition is that it should be sincere obedience, and this is what is difficult. Obedience requires that all personal desires are sacrificed. Without this, we cannot obey. And desires of the self are one such thing that can become idols in the hearts of even great saints.³

Based on these teachings, we can understand that obedience is an extremely important moral quality and

without this we cannot hope to attain higher ranks of spirituality. In light of this, I take this opportunity today to share with you some guidance of Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V^{aa} regarding proper use of internet and social media.

Regarding the use of Facebook, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V^{aa} has said that there is “no ban in terms of Islāmic law” but it is better to avoid it “for personal use,” as “there are risks to it. For Jamā’at or Tabligh purposes it may be used to spread the message of Islām and to respond to false allegations but with due safeguards.”⁴

Now, this is a very clear instruction. We can choose to follow it or ignore it citing some personal excuse, but what we should remember is that our spiritual progress lies while remaining under the protection of Khilāfat and Jamā’at.

When we look at the lives of the companions of the Holy Prophet^{sa}, we see how they sacrificed their personal desires and wishes for the sake of Khilāfat. One example is that of Hazrat ‘Ā’ishah^{ra}. She once saw a dream in which she saw that three moons have fallen in

The Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sa} said “If you are present at that time and see the Khalīfa of Allāh in the earth, attach yourself to him, even if your body is torn from you and your wealth is taken from you.”

her bedroom. When the Holy Prophet^{sa} passed away and was buried in the room, Hazrat Abū Bakr^{ra} said, “O ‘Ā’ishah! This is the first of the moons that fell in your room (in the dream)”. Then, Hazrat Abū Bakr^{ra} died and he was buried next to the Holy Prophet^{sa}. In that sense, he was the second moon. Hazrat ‘Ā’ishah^{ra} had a strong wish, and she had every right for it, that she is herself buried next to them. And in that sense, she wanted to be that third moon.

However, when Hazrat ‘Umar^{ra} sent her the request to allow him to be buried there instead, she said: “I wanted to be buried here myself, but I leave my wish and give preference to the wish of the Khalifa of the time.”⁵ And this is what happened. Hazrat ‘Umar^{ra} was buried in that room after his death.

What we can see in her example is a remarkable level of obedience! And it is a lesson for all of us. We should have the same level of obedience and never let our personal desires hinder us in our attachment to Khilāfat.

Similarly, regarding social media in general, Huzoor Anwar^{aa} has guided us from time to time. One danger is that people sometimes have the habit of forwarding messages on social media without checking the source and without seeing if it’s true or not. One such incident happened last year during the days of Jalsa Sālāna Germany, as recorded by Abid Khan Ṣāḥib in one of his diaries.

A tweet was published from a Twitter account that claimed to represent Huzoor Anwar^{aa}, even though there is no official account representing Huzoor’s^{aa} office.

When Huzoor^{aa} was told about it, he expressed displeasure and said that “due caution” should be taken “at all times to ensure that there is never a miscommunication or error.”⁶

This incident is reflective of a growing trend where people try to break news or forward news on social media without checking the source, which can be a source of confusion.

Similarly, sometimes an official communication between Huzoor Anwar^{aa} and an office bearer – or an official letter – is shared on WhatsApp and it is not intended for an audience. So, we should be very careful about what we share on our social media and communication

accounts. Our social media accounts should be a source of genuine information that enhances our knowledge and helps us get closer to Allāh.

Another thing to be cautious about is our demeanor and language while we are on social media. Recently, Huzoor Anwar^{aa} mentioned in his Friday sermon that he gets complaints about some people who use such strong language while debating non-Aḥmadīs or Maulavis that it is unbecoming of an Aḥmadī Muslim.⁷ Aḥmadīs should be polite and follow the Ḥadīth, which says that Allāh loves those who suppress their anger.

Similarly, we should be cautious about the kind of pictures we put on our social media profiles. Lajna should refrain from posting pictures of themselves as it could be a violation of purdah. Both men and women should also be cautious about what they post and write. It should be decent and meaningful. Before posting, we should ask ourselves: will this post be beneficial for others, or is it something that only boosts my ego? Is it vulgar in any way? Is it something that is for show-off?

When posting about personal achievements, we should keep in mind that it should be done with the attitude of thankfulness to God and with humility. It should never be a means to become more arrogant or fill us with conceit. We should remember that it all comes down to our intentions as the Holy Prophet^{sa} has said: “Actions are judged by our intentions.”

And the constant guidance of Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ^{aa} is there for us to check what is right and what is wrong in terms of our actions online, or otherwise.

Regarding online activity as well, Huzoor Anwar^{aa} has given us much guidance. At one occasion, for instance, Huzoor^{aa} has said that many evils have become the norm today due to the media. Vain and filthy movies or programs are broadcast on television and Internet sites, which can lead people into sins. At first, such movies are seen in the name of progressive thinking and then some homes are themselves engaged in such evils. This is adultery of the mind and the eyes, and then this can increase and become a real sin as well. Parents should not let their children sit in front of the television if some bad programs are

being shown, and they should keep an eye on their internet usage as well.⁸

Here Huzoor^{aa} has reiterated what is stated in the Holy Qur’ān: “O ye who believe! save yourselves and your families from the Fire”(66:7).

In 2012, here in Canada, on one occasion, Huzoor^{aa} said that due to the desire to fulfill filthy desires, people have started behaving worse than animals and inappropriate behaviours are exhibited openly. Pornographic videos are available widely. Watching such videos has caused some people to start behaving worse than animals. Everyone should fear God. Allāh has stated clearly that hell is the abode of such people. Such people should try to reform themselves.

Some young people who have just entered youth, may not know the difference between right and wrong. Huzoor^{aa} has said, “I say to them that watching inappropriate videos, is a form of addiction. Do not keep friendship with those who indulge in such vain pursuits, because they will have an impact on you. Even if you indulge once in any kind of filth, it would be hard to come out of it.”⁹

In fact, many psychologists have written about the harms of addiction to pornography and how it is extremely important for us to be careful about it. What is more is that such people can have the urge to act upon their fantasies and face diseases which can become a form of hell – a hell of anxiety and dissatisfaction and unfulfilled desires.

The Promised Messiah^{as} has elaborated on how such things can become a form of hell, and I present to you a quotation of his.

The translation of what the Promised Messiah^{as} has said:

Do not think that some money, power, wealth, prestige, or lots of children, can be a means of comfort, peace or contentment. Do they represent heaven? Absolutely not. The comfort, contentment, and peace which is from the rewards of paradise cannot be attained from these things. It can only be attained by living and dying for the sake of God Alone . . . Desires of this world create a form of impure greed, which in turn increases yearning and thirst (for more). It is similar to a patient

of dropsy whose thirst is never quenched, up to the point that he dies. Hence, the fire of these out-of-control desires and wishes is from the same fire of hell, which does not let the human heart find peace and comfort. Instead, it causes the heart to be lost in anxiety and restlessness . . . Hence, this fire, which burns the heart of man, and makes it darker and blacker than burnt coal, is the love for things other than Allāh.¹⁰

This is precisely what can happen if we spend too much time on our devices, on social media, and on the internet. We may forget about our responsibilities, about what is due to Allāh and what is due to His creation.

Huzoor^{aa} has said that we can assess all the people from those who are older to those who are younger. They do not offer *Fajr* prayer on time because they are watching television late into the night, or surfing the Internet. They keep on watching something, and the result is that they don't get up in the morning. In fact, such people do not even have the intention to get up in the morning for prayer.

The reality is that such behaviour does not just waste one or two prayers. Instead, such people form a habit of watching programs or staying online late into the night, and find it hard to wake up for prayer in the morning. Unfortunately, some people don't give any importance to prayer.

The Holy Qur'ān is full of commandments that emphasize the importance of prayer and according to Islāmic law, men are to offer prayers in congregation and women are to offer prayer on time. But Satan may keep some away from prayer due to their desire to watch some worldly program. Our phones and tablets offer us a means to access the Internet in a way that we are totally engrossed by it. Even if initially it is used for a good purpose, it has the danger to eventually take the viewer to inappropriate and immoral programs.

Then, excessive use of phones, messaging, texting, itself has a detrimental effect on our lives and relationships. According to recent data reported by the New York Times, we have an "intimate relationship with our phones. We sleep with them, eat with them and carry them in our pockets.

We check them, on average, 47 times a day – 82 times if [we] are between 18 and 24 years old."¹¹ In fact, these phones are so distracting that they are becoming a constant nuisance in other aspects of our lives like phones ringing during prayers, or using phones while driving.

This has also started impacting our relationships, as phones are used to "quell feelings of loneliness and anxiety". In fact, the opposite becomes true as overuse of phones and going online causes greater anxiety as the rights of the spouse are not fulfilled, and then the children are also ignored and their rights are also not fulfilled. Sometimes, the men are going online to watch inappropriate things and the children may take the same impressions and watch the same program.¹²

Advising us on how we can save ourselves from all such evils, Huzoor Anwar^{aa} has graciously taught us a prayer that can safeguard us. This is a prayer of the Holy Prophet^{sa}, which is:

O Allāh! Create love in our hearts. Reform us, and guide us to the paths of peace. And take us from darkness to light. And save us from manifest evil, whether inward or outward. And bless our ears, our eyes, our hearts, our wives, and our children. And turn to us with Mercy. Indeed, You are the Oft-Returning, the Merciful. And make us grateful for Your blessings, remembering them with praise, and accepting them. And O Allāh! Complete Your favours upon us.¹³

Along with prayer, we should ensure that our usage of phones is controlled and children should not be granted access to the Internet via phones at an early age. Their online activity should remain limited and even when it is granted to them at a reasonable age, it should be monitored.

We should also ensure that our own Internet usage is for good purposes, like listening to the Friday Sermon of Huzoor Anwar^{aa}, or watching the various MTA programs that are available through various apps, YouTube, or the MTA website. We can also use social media and communication apps like WhatsApp, Twitter, Facebook, and others, but we should be cautious and not use them excessively or overlook the rights of

others. Our main goal for using these apps should be the propagation of the message of Islām Aḥmadiyyat, and sharing Islāmic teachings that are beneficial for others.

We should also never let these things cause us to neglect our responsibilities, like the offering of prayer on time. Or spending personal time with family and friends, or time with our children. We should keep in mind that we have a responsibility to our children and that responsibility should not be superseded by excessive use of our phones or other devices. Nor should the desire for such new devices cause us to let our children use them without proper checks and balances.

May Allāh safeguard us from the harms of the Internet and social media, and enable us to use the Internet and social media for the benefit of mankind. Amīn.

(Endnotes)

1. *Masnad Aḥmad Bin Ḥanbal*, Vol. 5, pg 403, Ḥadīth Hudhaifa bin Yaman
2. *Al-Ḥakam*, October 31, 1902 (as qtd in *Al-Fazl International*, May 27 –June 2, 2011)
3. *Al-Ḥakam*, February 10, 1901
4. *Diary of Abid Khan Sāḥib*, Canada Tour 2016, Part 4, pg 10
5. *Bukhārī*, Kitābul Janaiz, Bāb Mā jā'a fī Qabrī Nabī^{sa}
6. *Abid Khan Sāḥib's Diary*, Huzoor's Tour of Germany Part 2, 2016, pg 55
7. Friday Sermon, May 12, 2017
8. Friday Sermon, April 23, 2010
9. Friday Sermon, July 6, 2012, pg 7
10. *Malḡūzāt*, Vol. 1, page 371
11. Alderman, Leslie. "The Phones We Love Too Much." *The New York Times*. May 2, 2017. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/02/well/mind/the-phones-we-love-too-much.html?_r=0> (Retrieved June 30, 2017)
12. Friday Sermon, May 20, 2016, pg 8
13. <https://sunnah.com/abudawud/2/580>



150 years: Canada as a Global Role Model for Diversity and Peaceful Coexistence

The following speech was delivered by Maulānā Imtiaz Sra Ṣāhib at the 41st Jalsa Sālāna Canada on July 8, 2017.

Canada has set itself apart from many countries and is recognized across the globe as a pillar of generosity, acceptance, and diversity. It is a vast and beautiful country of different cultures, ethnicities, and religions that co-exist in harmony throughout our provinces and territories. However, the most enchanting beauty that this country has to offer is that despite the heterogeneous nature of its inhabitants they have all blended into a homogeneous entity¹. The world is amazed and astonished by this phenomenon.

This year, we celebrate Canada's 150th official birthday, and in that, we recognize the anniversary of Canada's confederation. This has been a long journey. And along the way, the nation has stumbled and made mistakes, but has also pondered over them and sought solutions to correct them.

Canada has progressed in so many avenues that it may be easy to take our accomplishments for granted. We should never forget how all the freedoms that we now have come to be. Our triumphs cannot be celebrated without the recognition of sacrifices and setbacks that were faced on the path. So how it is that Canada has established this reputation for being such a diverse, peaceful and tolerant country? And how can we continue this legacy for the future of Canada?

Definition of Diversity

The word diversity means 'variety'; however, in the context of Canada, diversity has come to mean encompassing,

acceptance and respecting our individual differences. It is now a synonym for the word Canada; the two go hand-in-hand.

It is the understanding that even if each individual is unique, he or she has a place in society. That not one person is excluded due to race, ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities, religious beliefs, political beliefs, or any other ideologies. Diversity is the acceptance and understanding of these differences in a positive and safe environment.

Diversity and Islām

Ladies and gentlemen, the Holy Qur'ān takes note of diversities of race, colour, language, and wealth, which serve their own useful purpose in the social scheme, and describes them as Signs of God for those who hear and possess knowledge². However, none of these confer any privilege or impose any disability upon anyone.

The Holy Qur'ān says:

O mankind, We have created you from a male and a female; and We have made you into tribes and sub-tribes that you may recognize one another. Verily, the most honourable among you, in the sight of Allāh, is he who is the most righteous among you. Surely, Allāh is All-knowing, All-Aware³.

Diversity in Canada

In this day and age, Canada is a flag-bearer of these qualities. This is the very reason why many of us are here to participate in today's event. Acceptance of diversity in our society is the fundamental glue that shaped Canada. That is why to advocate for diversity is in itself part of what makes us Canadians. Today, one-

fifth of Canadians are born outside of the country and have chosen to immigrate to Canada.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has stated:

In just considering the words that people use to describe Canada: open, accepting, progressive and prosperous. What's made it work so well in Canada is the understanding that our diversity isn't a challenge to be overcome or a difficulty to be tolerated. Rather, it's a tremendous source of strength. Canadians understand that diversity is our strength. We know that Canada has succeeded—culturally, politically, economically—because of our diversity, not in spite of it⁴.

We acknowledge that tolerance and acceptance, like in many other instances throughout history, were not always so widely practiced. In Canadian history also, we will find oppression of women and mistreatment of our indigenous peoples. The residential schools, the Chinese Head Tax, and treatment of Ukrainian and Japanese Canadians unfortunately mark Canadian history. But what intrigues me the most is that despite all the negativity – Canada was able to overcome hatred and mistrust, and emerge as one of the world's most tolerant countries that continues to provide the same rights to everyone. This did not happen overnight. It was a long journey of strife and struggle and it took extreme amounts of perseverance and dedication to forge a better Canada, a more inclusive Canada.

As stated by our Prime Minister Justin Trudeau:

We know in our bones that Canada was built by people from all corners of the world who worship every faith, who

belong to every culture, who speak every language. We believe in our hearts that this country's unique diversity is a blessing⁵.

Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Ladies and gentlemen, as Canadians, we are protected by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which allows for our right to express ourselves freely. This constitution was drawn up in 1982, and is Canada's gateway to multi-cultural identity.

The Charter guarantees us:

- (a) freedom of conscience and religion;
- (b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication;
- (c) freedom of peaceful assembly; and
- (d) freedom of association⁶.

These fundamental freedoms ensure that it is the right of every Canadian to be able to practice, express and celebrate one's faith of choice. And that ladies and gentlemen, is a beautiful thing. How lucky we are to live in a Country that advocates liberty of each of us to live how we choose.

In the words of John G. Diefenbaker:

I am a Canadian, a free Canadian, free to speak without fear, free to worship in my own way, free to stand for what I think right, free to oppose what I believe wrong, or free to choose those who shall govern my country. This heritage of freedom I pledge to uphold for myself and all mankind⁷.

Again, we see the former Prime Minister's remarks hint at rights for all of mankind. It is being foretold that not only are these rights and freedoms central to Canadian values but that we should aim to export them to spread in the world.

We, as Muslims, can relate to these fundamental freedoms as they are entrenched in Islām. In the year 622 C.E., the Holy Prophet Muḥammad^{sa} migrated to the city of Madīnah where many tribes and faiths were already present. He formulated a document which is known as the Charter of Madīnah, and predates the Magna Carta by six centuries.

Through it the Holy Prophet Muḥammad^{sa} wished to establish peaceful coexistence, to end tribal warfare, to institute rights and responsibilities for Muslims, Jews

and Pagans alike and to establish the first Islāmic state, one which guaranteed freedom of religion, freedom of opinion, freedom of expression, freedom of thought; regardless of creed, race, or ethnicity.

These rights are universal and fundamental in having a working and peaceful society. In reality, what existed in the Islāmic world, now exists here. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, in many ways, is more Islāmic than the rules and regulations of any Islāmic country! It is not because Canada has adopted Islāmic philosophy, but rather that Canada has chosen to protect basic human rights and freedoms and give respect to all its citizens!

Multiculturalism

To further illustrate, Canada is a society where we can hold our values, beliefs and cultural traditions and still call ourselves proud Canadians. We do not have to give up who we are in order to be Canadian. We are Canadian because of who we are and what we become together. We see examples of our vast multi-cultural society in everyday life. From the peaceful exchanges we share with strangers on the street, to encounters with friends who may not share the same beliefs as we do, Canada is a country where we are constantly exposed to people of different backgrounds.

For instance, Canada alone has over 200 languages and ethnicities that have been documented to reside here: "In fact, 13 different ethnic origins were reported to have passed the one million person mark, in 2011."⁸ It is remarkable how Canada touches almost every ethnicity in the world. But what is even more amazing is how we also respect each in its uniqueness.

There are many instances in which Canada has upheld its dedication to respect the religious practices of all. One such example is in 1990, the federal government removed the ban on wearing turbans, which previously prevented Sikhs from joining the RCMP. This was a victory of Canadian values due to that fact that the Sikhs were previously forced to choose between their religious expression or their work uniform.

Victories like these are also victories to be celebrated on Canada's 150th because they define us as a country. These victories are

what drives us, what inspires us, what motivates us, and most of all what is of value to us. These Canadian values allow us to maintain a multi-cultural society and continue to peacefully co-exist with each other.

Refugee Resettlement

In the last few years, Canada has been praised for its policies and goals in supporting other countries specifically with regards to immigration. These initiatives are not only critical for healthy relationships with the rest of the world, but it also maintains and encourages growth in a multicultural society.

Martin Luther King Jr. once noted that: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"⁹

Canada has proven itself to be a global leader in providing aid overseas, and over the years providing a safe new home to refugees. For example, the Underground Railroad which "was a network of routes and safe houses throughout Canada that helped up to 30 000 enslaved Africans escape the United States in the 1800's"¹⁰. Canada was a safe place for these slaves who had had everything stripped from them.

The same can be said for Aḥmadi Muslims who have found a safe place in Canada, a place free of hate and persecution, a place where we can profess and practice our faith freely. Canada opened its arms with the promise of a better and safer life, just as it did with refugees from the United States in the past, and as it does today with Syrian refugees.

In recent years the government and communities across Canada have resettled over 40,000 Syrian refugees.¹¹

In relation to this, between 2003 and 2013, Canada ranked second in the world in accepting refugees resettled by UNHCR¹². Keep in mind that Canada only represents approximately three percent of the world's GDP – so these numbers are very meaningful. This is how Canada sets aside its differences and welcomes strangers into our home for them to call it their own home.

This is what defines us as a country and gives us the badge of a peaceful and inclusive country. These are the practices that the children of immigrants will always remember, and carry with

them for generations to come – and that is our legacy!

The refugees come to Canada not only because they need safety and security, but also for a better and brighter future. The future that guarantees freedom of religion, freedom of conscience, and opportunities to excel in all walks of life. Indeed we all can agree that this great country has given us all of this and so much more.

Conclusion

Ladies and gentlemen, Canada is a country that advocates for every person, to speak openly and confidently about whatever inspires or drives us. Canada is a country that creates opportunities for learning and teaching of our respective cultures and values. Canada is a country that provides a safe and free environment that welcomes all races, ethnicities, genders, physical abilities, religious beliefs, and political beliefs.

In view of these cosmopolitan qualities of Canada and in particular the value in which people of different religions and different faiths can live together peacefully, I am reminded about the statement of Hazrat Mirzā Tāhir Aḥmadth, the fourth Khalīfa of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamā‘at. In admiration of Canada, he prayed that may “the whole world become Canada, and that Canada becomes the whole world”¹³.

These are the words of a man of God who envisioned Canada as a positive force that could unite the world by being a global leader and flag bearer of these universal values. It is a prayer that we have to uphold and aid in its ultimate realization. This matter should not be taken lightly. As Canadians and as Aḥmadi Muslims it is our duty to help Canada promote, spread and affect people around the world with

our core Canadian values of true respect for one another.

Fifteen hundred years ago, the following words resonated in the desert of Arabia:

O Ye mankind, you are all brothers and are all equal. None of you can claim any privilege or any superiority over any other. An Arab is not to be preferred to a non-Arab, nor is a non-Arab to be preferred to an Arab; nor is a white man to be preferred to a coloured one, or a coloured one to a white, except on the basis of righteousness”¹⁴.

O People, it is true that you have certain rights with regard to your women, but they also have rights over you . . . Do treat your women well and be kind to them for they are your partners and committed helpers”.

I ask you, ladies and gentlemen, to look around in which country is this being followed? These were the instructions of the Holy Prophet Muḥammad^{sa} to all Muslims and indeed all mankind at his Farewell Address. Its essence is not being followed in any Muslim country, yet it is being followed here in Canada!

Living in this blessed and beautiful country, we should ask ourselves how we should celebrate Canada’s 150th? As Muslims, we take a cue from the Holy Qur’ān and the example of the Perfect Exemplar, Prophet Muḥammad^{sa}. Allāh, the Exalted states in the Holy Qur’ān:

“The reward of goodness is nothing but goodness.”¹⁵

This concept of gratitude should be further viewed in the light of the saying of the Holy Prophet Muḥammad^{sa}: “He who is not grateful to people can never be truly grateful to God”¹⁶.

Now, I call upon you and I call upon your children and your future grandchildren. It is our duty to help Canada protect these rights and to spread these rights around the world. How can we do this?

As the Worldwide Head of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamā‘at, Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad^{aa} has continually advised that we should involve ourselves in education and careers that benefit mankind. We need to become doctors, researchers, scientists, agriculturalists, lawyers, journalists, philanthropists and politicians, not for the sake of chasing the dollar, but rather in helping to put more good in the world.

The best way to thank Canada is through our love and unconditional service and unflinching loyalty to this great country. We cannot just do this with mere words but with our actions. We must provide unwavering commitment to uphold these values for Canada and all of mankind. This love, loyalty, and service to Canada is indeed part of our faith as mentioned by the Holy Prophet Muḥammad^{sa}: love and loyalty to one’s homeland is part of faith.

The Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamā‘at has accepted the Reformer of the latter days, and Hazrat Mirzā Ghulām Aḥmad^{as}, the Promised Messiah and Imām Mahdī^{as}, also shared these Canadian values that I have mentioned today and it is our responsibility to protect and export these values. In reality, these values are our values. All Canadians would agree with our motto: “love for all, hatred for none.”

Let us help Canada spread this message here and abroad. This is our way of giving back to Canada on the occasion of its 150th year of Confederation. We can celebrate by giving back through service, teaching our children the love



“I have always remained impressed with Canada’s aspirations to establish an all-embracing society sensitive to the wants of others, always willing to welcome those who are oppressed, and to help the needy and destitute.”



“May the whole world become Canada and Canada the whole world.”



and loyalty to this beautiful country, and by motivating them to serve this great nation in all its good ways!

Though our numbers are small in Canada, we should be proud of what we have already been able to accomplish in service to this country.

To note, we are that community that conducts several blood drives each year earning us the title of the number one faith community in the country in this regard. We are that community who raises hundreds of thousands of pounds of food each year for various food shelters across Canada. We are that community, in spite of being small, that has sponsored over 400 Syrian refugees and lent help and support to Canada's immigration and refugee system. We are that community that has a sister charity, Humanity First, that has a local food bank, a job training center and provides international disaster relief as Canadians. We are that community who come to the aid of communities when it is needed, as shown through our response to the Fort McMurray wildfires when we donated \$100,000 to support our fellow Canadians. We are that Community that has started an initiative called Run for Canada that now has seven runs across Canada, all to raise funds for local healthcare. We are that community that has pledged to raise two million dollars for the future Vaughan Hospital, where our headquarters are located.

And this we do with our meager numbers and pocket books. Our goal should be to do more than any other group in Canada, and we will do this because we love this country and want the world to become

Canada!

To remind us about our respect for Canada and our duty to Canada, I close with these words of the Worldwide Head of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community, Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad^{aa}, the one and only Khalifa of Islām:

I have always remained impressed with Canada's aspirations to establish an all-embracing society sensitive to the wants of others, always willing to welcome those who are oppressed, and to help the needy and destitute.¹⁷

He prays that:

May Allāh enable this quality to remain forever. May you, the people and government of Canada, continue to live up to the expectations of justice, and to display open-heartedness, so that, as a result, the bounties of God Almighty, conferred upon you, continue forever!¹⁸ Amīn!

(Endnotes)

1. <http://ahmadiyyagazette.ca/Articles/loyalty-to-ones-country.html>
2. The Holy Qur'ān 30:23
3. The Holy Qur'ān 49:14
4. <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2015/11/26/diversity-canadas-strength>
5. <https://www.mtlblog.com/news/16-powerful-quotes-from-justin-trudeaus-prime-minister-acceptance-speech>
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10. <http://www.metronews.ca/news/canada/2015/10/27/what-milestones-could-be-marked-for-canada-150-feds-come-up-with-expanded-list.html>
11. <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2017/06/20/statement-prime-minister-canada-world-refugee-day>
12. http://www.conferenceboard.ca/commentaries/immigration/default/15-01-21/why_does_canada_accept_refugees.aspx
13. https://www.alIslām.org/khilafat/fifth/Essential_Guidance_for_Troubled_World-20081126MN.html
14. Islām and Human Rights, Ch. Sir Muḥammad Zafrullah Khan, Pages 41-42
15. The Holy Qur'ān 55:61
16. Sunan Abī Dāwūd 4811
17. Huzoor Anwar's^{aaa} letter to Prime Minister of Canada on Canada's 150 Years Celebration
18. https://www.alIslām.org/khilafat/fifth/Essential_Guidance_for_Troubled_World-20081126MN.html



Financial Sacrifices

*Lal Khan Malik Şāhib
Amīr Jamā'at Aḥmadiyya Canada*



When contributing towards the building of a House of Allāh, one is actually building a home in Paradise as stated by the Holy Prophet^{sa}. For its 50 year Anniversary, Jamā'at Aḥmadiyya Canada pledged to offer a very special gift to Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V^{aa} – the gift of building new mosques.

Currently, Masjid Baitul Rahmat, Saskatoon is in the phase of final completion, and Masjid Mubarak, Brampton is under construction. In addition to this, there is also a plan to convert Namaz Centres across Canada into buildings that look like proper Mosques.

Members of the Jamā'at are requested to pray that Allāh Almighty may remove every obstacle in the building of these mosques! May Allāh enable us to contribute generously for these mosques! And may He enable us to complete them in a timely and excellent manner! Amīn!

By the Grace of Allāh, the construction activity is now moving rapidly. As such, there is an urgent need to turn our attention towards increasing our pledges and starting payments in the National Mosque Fund (NMF).

On November 11, 2005, our beloved Imām, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V^{aa} stated the importance of building of mosques in foreign countries:

During our days of adolescence, one of the contribution heads listed in Taḥrīk Jadīd was Foreign Mosques. Usually, when children were given some cash amount by the elders in celebration of passing the exams, the children would be sure to offer some amount of chanda in this head (i.e. Foreign Mosques); otherwise, they would contribute towards it from their allowance or pocket expense. (Khutbāt Masroor, Vol. 3, pp. 665-666)

Then, Huzoor Anwar^{aa} further said:

If every year, the auxiliary organizations and the Jamā'at draws their attention to offer Chanda in this contribution head, at the occasion of passing their exams, not only will they be developing the habit of financial sacrifices for building the House of Allāh, they would also be building a bright future by absorbing the Grace and Blessings of Allāh! If parents also educate their kids and strongly encourage them, Allāh Almighty would also free them of certain anxieties that they have [for their kids], especially in this environment. (Khutbāt Masroor, Vol. 3, pp. 665-666)

While members of the Jamā'at (the men and women) offer financial sacrifices under various contribution heads, they are also requested to contribute in the National Mosque Fund, according to their capacity. Likewise, in their occasions of happiness - such as gaining employment or promotion in careers/jobs, buying a new home, or success of the kids in school/college/university – they can attain the pleasure of Allāh by contributing, according to their means, in this blessed National Mosque Fund. May Allāh enable us to do so! Amīn!

“Currently, Masjid Rahmat, Saskatoon is in the phase of final completion, and Masjid Mubarak, Brampton is under construction.”



رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّاتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ وَاجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا

'Our Lord, grant us of our wives and children the delight of our eyes, and make us a model for the righteous.

اے ہمارے رب! ہمیں اپنے بیویوں اور اپنی اولاد سے آنکھوں کی ٹھنڈک عطا کر اور ہمیں متقیوں کا امام بنا دے۔

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 “He alone can keep the Mosques of Allah in a good and flourishing condition who believes in Allah,
 and the Last Day, and observes Prayer, and pays the Zakat, and fears none but Allah”
 (The Holy Qur’an 9:18)

NATIONAL MOSQUE FUND

THE HOLY PROPHET^{sa}

“O ye people, praise Allah. Whoever builds a mosque for Allah, Allah, the Exalted, shall build a house for such a one in paradise.” (Sahih Muslim)

THE PROMISED MESSIAH^{as}

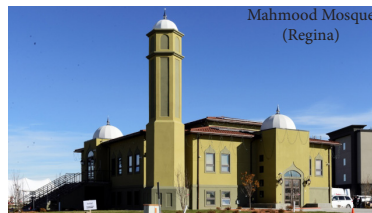
“At this time our Jama’at is in great need of mosques. These are the houses of Allah. Wherever our Jama’at builds a mosque it will result in progress of the Jama’at. If there is a village or a city that has a smaller number of Muslims or there is no Muslim, and we want Islam to flourish there, we should build there a mosque. Then Allah will bring more Muslims to that place.” (Malfoozat Vol. 4, p. 93)



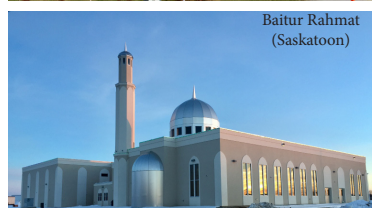
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Mubarak Mosque, Brampton
(Construction in process)



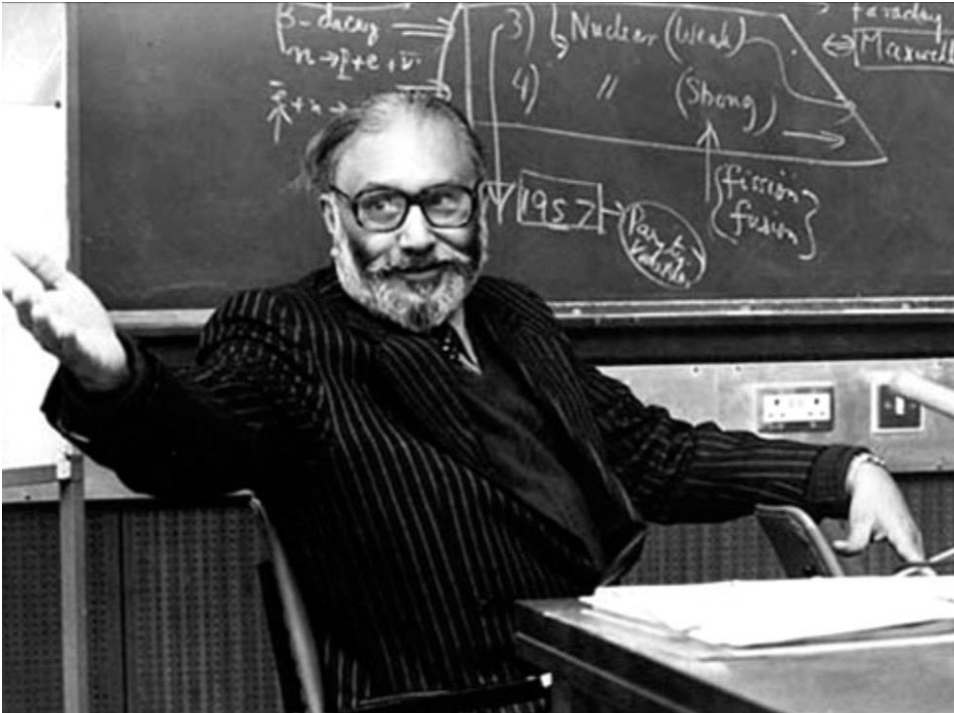
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THOU ANY FLAW? AYE,
LOOK AGAIN, AND YET
AGAIN, THY SIGHT WILL
ONLY RETURN UNTO
THEE CONFUSED AND
FATIGUED.**

THE HOLY QUR'AN (67: 4-5)



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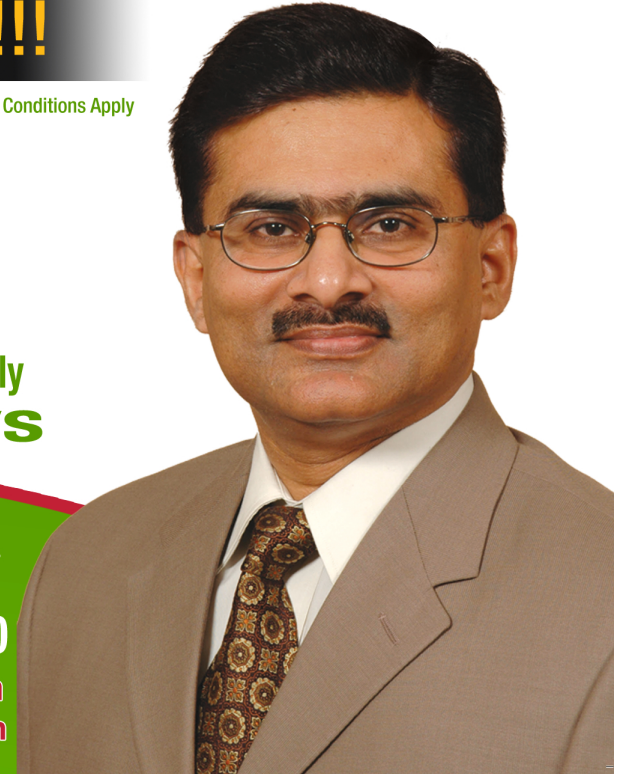
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