

An-Nisaa'

LAJNA IMĀ'ILLAH CANADA
VOLUME 28 MAY - AUGUST 2016 ISSUE 2

وَأَمَّا بِنِعْمَةِ رَبِّكَ فَحَدِّثْ ۝

AND THE BOUNTY OF THY LORD, PROCLAIM (93:12)



Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at



Please note locations are not exact and are approximate.
Prepared by Farzana Sanori.

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An-Nisaa'

A magazine for the moral and spiritual training of
Lajna Imā'illah Canada

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Amīr Jamā'at Ahmadiyya Canada:
Lal Khan Malik

President Lajna Imā'illah Canada:
Amtul Noor Daud

National Secretary Ishā'at:
Dr. Amtul Qudoos Farhat

Editor:
Sadiqa Hifsa

Proofreader:
Ansa Talat

Layout & Formatting:
Sadiqa Hifsa

Cover-page Design by:
Wardah Ahmer

Graphics Designing:
Farzana Sanori

Manager:
Laiqa Ahmed

Publisher:
Jamnik Graphics

From the Holy Qur'ān

The English translation of the Arabic verses
is rendered by Maulvi Sher Ali Sāhib^{ra}.

وَإِذْ كُنْتُمْ قَلِيلٌ مُّسْتَضْعَفُونَ
فِي الْأَرْضِ تَخَافُونَ أَنْ يَتَخَطَّفَكُمُ
النَّاسُ فَأُولَئِكَمُ وَيَدُكُم بِئْصَرِهِ
وَرَزَقَكُم مِّنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ لَعَلَّكُمْ
تَشْكُرُونَ ﴿٢٧﴾

And remember the time when you were few and deemed weak in the land, and were in fear lest people should snatch you away, but He sheltered you and strengthened you with His help, and provided you with good things that you might be thankful. [8:27]

Hadīth: Saying of the Holy Prophet^{sa}

Forty Gems of Beauty, pages 140-141

Narrated by Ḥaḍrat Abū Dardā, Allāh be pleased with him:

Said the Prophet of Allāh (Blessings of Allāh be on him and His peace): “Nothing weighs heavier in the scale of God than the excellence of conduct.” (Abū Dāwūd.)

Explanatory Note:

Excellent social behavior is half the faith. Islām has laid tremendous emphasis on it, so much so, that according to this Ḥadīth, the Holy Prophet^{sa} declared that there was nothing weightier in the Divine scale than excellent conduct. In another Ḥadīth, he says that whoso was not grateful to man was not grateful to God. In fact, excellence of social conduct constitutes the basis of every virtue; even spirituality is but an advanced state of good conduct. It is therefore that our Chief has laid so much stress on the improvement of social conduct and in this behalf the Aḥādīth reported are far too many to be enumerated. Besides, in so far as the expression of social ethics through individual conduct is concerned, Islām does not omit to satisfy the rights of any claimant. From God down to men and from among men, from the monarch down to the humble servant, good conduct has been enjoined on all. Rights of officers, of subordinates, of the father and of the son, of friend and of foe, of man and of beast, in short of each

(Continued on page 47)

A Note from the Editor

“I shall carry your message to the ends of the earth.”

On February 20, 1886, the Promised Messiah^{as} published an announcement, which stated:

“God Almighty then gave me the good news saying:

God will maintain your name with honour till the day when the world comes to an end and will convey your message to the ends of the earth. I shall exalt you and shall call you to Myself but your name will never be erased from the face of the earth.”

[Announcement of February 20, 1886, Majmu‘ah Ishtiha-rat, vol. 1, pp. 102–103; Tadhkira, pg. 108]

Moreover, Allāh the Almighty revealed to the Promised Messiah^{as} in 1898, as mentioned in Tadhkira:

I shall carry your message to the ends of the earth.

[al-Hakam, vol. 2, nos. 5–6, March 27 and April 2, 1897, p. 13 and al-Hakam, vol. 2, no. 24–25, August 20–27, 1897, p. 14—Tadhkira; pg. 405]

These great revelations were vouchsafed to the Promised Messiah^{as} many times by Allāh the Almighty. In fulfillment of these prophecies, the message of the Promised Messiah^{as} and the true Islām Ahmadiyyat, has reached all corners of the Earth, including Canada. Though, there were some Ahmadi families already present in Canada, as early as 1959, the Muslim Ahmadiyya Jamā‘at was officially registered and established in Canada in 1966. Thus, it makes 2016 as the 50th year of Jamā‘at’s establishment in this great country.

Lajna Imā‘illah, an auxiliary organization of Jamā‘at for women above the ages of 15 years,

was created by Hazrat Musleh Mau‘ūd^{ra} in 1922. The purpose of founding this organization was to promote the spiritual and moral training of women. Hazrat Musleh Mau‘ūd^{ra} was a visionary, and foresaw that to encourage progress among women, they must have their own platform and be given the opportunity to serve their faith, increase their knowledge and assist in the propagation of the message of the Promised Messiah^{as}. Thus, even when Lajna members migrated to various countries of the world; they continued this torch of serving their faith by being part of Lajna Imā‘illah. The same is true for Canada!

Among many other commemorative programs, this present issue of An-Nisaa’ is being published to celebrate the progress of Jamā‘at Ahmadiyya in Canada in general, and Lajna Imā‘illah Canada in particular.

In this issue, you will read articles on the general history of Lajna Imā‘illah Canada, as well as on the early members of Lajna who performed outstanding work in the service of their faith. There are also interesting pieces on the establishment and building of various Majālis across the country including Ottawa, Calgary, Edmonton, Lloydminster and Barrie. There are also articles that outline the progress of various departments such as Ishā‘at, Ta‘līm, Tarbiyat and Tabligh throughout the years. Some pieces are on building Mosques in the communities and growing up as an Ahmadi in Canada.

I hope you enjoy this magazine and give us your feedback to make further improvements.

Spiritual Treasures from the Writings of the Promised Messiah^{as}

The following excerpts are taken from The Essence of Islām: Volume II, pg. 335 - 336. (available online at www.alislam.org/books); a compilation of extracts from the writings, speeches, announcements and discourses of the Promised Messiah^{as}, translated into English by Hazrat Chaudhry Muhammad Zafrulla Khan^{ra}.

DIVINE DECREE AND DETERMINATION

It should be remembered that though everything has been determined by Divine decree, yet this does not exclude science and knowledge as everyone has to acknowledge that the use of appropriate medicines, through the grace and mercy of God Almighty, benefits the patient. In the same way everyone who is bestowed comprehension of the Divine has to acknowledge as the result of experience that prayer has a relationship with acceptance. This is a mystery which has been demonstrated through the experience of millions of the righteous and our experience has demonstrated the hidden reality that our prayers have a magnetic quality which attracts the grace and mercy of God, though we may not be able to convince others of this verity through logical reasoning.

[Ayyam-us-Sulh, Ruhani Khaza'in, vol. 14, pp. 240-241]

It is not within the power of man to transcend the bounds of Divine decrees and scheme of things. [Brahin-e-Ahmadiyya, Part V, Ruhani Khaza'in, vol. 21, p. 3]

Man is subject to Divine decree. If a human design should not be in accord with the design of God, no amount of effort can succeed in putting it into effect; but when the time of the design of God arrives, that which had appeared most difficult becomes easily available.

[Brahin-e-Ahmadiyya, Part V, Ruhani Khaza'in, vol. 21, p. 3]

Two Types of Divine Decrees

Divine decrees are of two types; one may be described as suspended, and the other as absolute. The operation of a suspended decree may be averted by the grace of God Almighty through prayer and almsgiving. The operation of an absolute decree cannot be averted through prayer and almsgiving, though God Almighty bestows some other benefit in return for them. In some cases God Almighty causes a delay in the operation of a decree. The knowledge of these two types of divine decrees can be gathered from the Holy Qur'ān. [Malfuzat, vol. I, pp. 157-158]

The Holy Qur'ān has set out certain matters for the establishment of the principle that God Almighty is One and is the source and goal of everything from which foolish critics have deduced the doctrine of compulsion. He is the *causa causans* and is the Provider of all means. This is the reason why God Almighty has in some cases described Himself as the Cause of all causes in the Holy Qur'ān, without mention of intervening means. A perusal of the Holy Qur'ān discloses that at certain places these means have also been clearly specified so that man should pay heed to them. Besides, the Holy Qur'ān specifies the punishment of evil and lays down penalties. If there was to be an unalterable system of Divine decrees and determination and man was to be under absolute compulsion what justification was there for these punishments and penalties?

Excerpts of Friday Sermons by Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V^{aa}

Huzoor^{aa}'s Tours of Canada and Views about Canadian Jamā'at

Sermon delivered on July 9, 2004

Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V^{aa} spoke on the spiritual and temporal triumph of his first Canadian tour. Huzoor^{aa} briefly described the various Jamā'ats established close to the Baitul Islām mosque. He commended the excellent conduct of the inhabitants of the Peace Village, and their excellent sense of civic duties. Huzoor^{aa} commented on the high standard of the entire organization of the Jalsa Sālāna and in particular Huzoor^{aa} praised the efficient way meals were served. Huzoor^{aa} mentioned that a number of Canadian dignitaries attended the Jalsa and made extremely favourable comments about it. Huzoor^{aa} also stated that these triumphs were for all to observe; but the bigoted religious scholars of Pakistan cannot see these and they continue to mislead the Muslim *ummah*. Huzoor^{aa} said we should pray that the Muslims are freed from their snare.

Sermon delivered on July 8, 2005

Citing the high level of devotion, sincerity and a sense of sacrifice of the Canadian Jamā'at Huzoor^{aa} mentioned laying foundation stones for three mosques there and mentioned that the entire expense for the mosque in Vancouver will be met by a single sincere Ahmadi. The other mosque will be built in Calgary and this is planned to be the largest mosque in Canada. The third foundation stone was laid in the town of Brampton. Land plots for mosques are purchased in Edmonton, Lloydminster and Saskatoon. In addition the Canadian Jamā'at has purchased two buildings that shall be converted for Jamā'at usage.

Sermon delivered on July 11, 2008

Huzoor^{aa} mentioned that he has been to Canada twice before, it is a vast country with huge distances between cities and a two hour time difference within the country. The Jalsa Sālāna was attended by 15,000 people.

The Canadian Jalsa also received wide media coverage. Five major newspapers of the country covered it as well as the radio, TV and Internet. Huzoor^{aa} said the presence of the Khalīfa of the time increases the exposure. This year Allāh facilitated extraordinary ways in this regard and the Ahmadis were quite amazed at how the media coverage exceeded their expectations. A reception was held by the Jamā'at to which ministers, Premier of Ontario and other dignitaries came. Huzoor^{aa} gave an address on the peaceful teachings of Islām based on the Holy Qur'ān, ahadīth and the teachings of the Promised Messiah^{as} and also urged people to recognize the One True God. This reception was attended by more than five hundred guests and with the grace of Allāh it left a very good mark. Huzoor^{aa} said many Christian priests and university professors came up to Huzoor^{aa} and expressed their appreciation and said they had learnt many new things about Islām.

Huzoor^{aa} also said that he forgot to mention that the Canadian Jamā'at was most exemplary in their sincerity. Their devotion and sincerity is ever on the increase. When Huzoor departed from Toronto the emotional state of the huge crowd of people gathered there was quite moving. May Allāh continue to increase their sincerity and may they take the message of the Promised Messiah^{as} to the world.

Sermon delivered on July 20, 2012

Huzoor^{aa} said that two events were held in Canada. One was the inauguration of Tahir Hall. Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh spoke in light of the teachings of Islām at the reception and received many positive reviews from the guests. A governmental organization had promised to give 2.5 million Canadian dollars towards the construction of Tahir Hall. When Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh came to know of this he said the money should be returned with thanks. With God's grace the Jamā'at was enabled to accomplish the work at the cost of several million dollars in spite of the fact that there are many on-going mosque building projects. Canadian Jamā'at has a great spirit of sacrifice and is managing all the projects at considerable cost. May God bless them. The Jāmi'a had outgrown its building. Now new offices and classrooms have been added. Seeing this progress, one is filled with Hamd. May God make each member of the Community truly grateful and one who engages in Hamd.

in his last sermon about some organizational matters. During mulaqats as well as through letters emotional members of the Jamā'at apologized profusely to Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh. Huzoor^{aa} said if there was any displeasure, it was aimed at the relevant departments and their office-holders and not members of the Jamā'at. If it was not for the love and sincerity of the members of the Canadian Jamā'at, the Jalsa would have been moved to USA. Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh said he had no complaint with the members of the Jamā'at there. Some mistakes were made during Jalsa or from among the members, as it can be at places, there were complaints regarding noise from a section of ladies. All this can be put right by the office-holders and the duty-holders' attention. If anyone needed to apologize, it were the office-holders and some duty-holders. While they did not think about, the ordinary Ahmadis were anxious that Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh had expressed displeasure.

With the grace of God, seeing the love and sincerity of the Canadian Jamā'at, one's heart is filled with Allāh's Hamd (praise). (Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh, Friday Sermon, July 20, 2012)

Due to good relations with the Jamā'at, the chief minister of Ontario insisted to hold a reception for Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh. When he was told that due to shortage of time and travelling distance this was difficult to accommodate, he altered the plan and held the reception at a hotel near where Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh was staying. At the reception, he spoke highly of the Jamā'at. Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh also spoke for 15/20 minutes on the teachings of Islām. In Canada, the office-holders as well as ordinary Ahmadis have good connections with people outside the Community and these are ever-improving. It should be remembered that this is only with the grace of God and not due to anyone's personal efforts.

With the grace of God the Canadian Jamā'at has great level of sincerity and devotion. Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh had expressed some displeasure

With the grace of God, seeing the love and sincerity of the Canadian Jamā'at, one's heart is filled with Allāh's Hamd. The population of Peace Village has increased. Huzoor^{aa} said he thought perhaps there were a thousand Ahmadī homes there. This has also increased its vibrancy. God has granted amazing people to the Community of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace), their love and devotion to Khilāfat is intense. With Ramadan approaching Huzoor^{aa} returned home although he wanted to stay on for a few more days. He said it is also God's Grace that the Canadian Jamā'at has overgrown their Jalsa venue, they should think about extending their Jalsa venue. The thought should not be how it will happen. God will make it happen as long as we are truly grateful to Him.

Historical Achievements of Lajna Ishā'at

An-Nisaa' Delivered to Every Ahmadi Home in Canada

By: Amtul Qudoos Farhat, National Secretary Ishā'at Lajna Imā'illah Canada

By the Grace of Allāh and special prayers of Huzoor Anwar (may Allāh be his Helper!) Lajna Imā'illah Canada has achieved another milestone in the history of Ishā'at Canada.

As we all know, previously An-Nisaa' was provided only to those members who subscribed to it. Now the Ishā'at department will provide An-Nisaa' free of cost, to every home where at least one Lajna member resides. The magazine will be sent to them by mail. This is an adjunctive step to Chanda Ishā'at, which has been implemented this year as per the proposal number three of Majlis Shūrā 2015.

The An-Nisaa' issue covering the period of January to April 2016 was mailed via Canada Post to all Ahmadi homes in Canada for the first time, and was received by all Lajna members across the country with great jubilation and sense of being blessed. Al-Hamdolillah!

This step has resolved many previous issues related to subscription, distribution, dispatching and delivery of An-Nisaa' to various Majālis.

This blessed step puts an increasing responsibility on all of us as Lajna members. The printing and mailing costs of three issues of An-Nisaa' per year for every member requires that we all must pay our Chanda Ishā'at regularly and in a timely manner. Chanda Ishā'at is \$5 per member per year. May Allāh enable us to progress in financial sacrifices for the cause of Ishā'at Islām. Amin!

An-Nisaa' on Al-Islām Website

Another development is availability of An-Nisaa' on the official website of Jamā'at Ahmadiyyat at Al-Islām website: www.alislam.org. You can now

read An-Nisaa' online by going to the Periodicals section of Al-Islām website.

For this purpose, a special website of An-Nisaa' has been created where other publications of Lajna Imā'illah Canada can also be accessed. Many issues of An-Nisaa' are already available and further archives are being developed. The direct link to An-Nisaa' website is: www.annisaa.ca.

A Team Work

Kindly remember all those in your prayers who gave their time and skills to achieve these major milestones in the history of Lajna Imā'illah Canada. They include all local presidents, all local Ishā'at Secretaries, National Majlis 'Āmila, the editorial team of An-Nisaa' and above all our Respected National President Amtul Noor Daud Sāhiba.

Special thanks goes to Maryam Basharat Sāhiba and her team members. They worked with great dedication to develop a database of mailing addresses of all Lajna members across the country.

My special thanks also goes to Attiya tul Qudoos Sāhiba for developing our website and facilitating its launch. She is now engaged in developing archives.

Also, I am especially grateful to Mubashar Khaild Sāhib, Manager Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada, who facilitated the mailing process via Canada Post; as well as to Masood Nasir Sāhib who facilitated the posting of link of An-Nisaa' website to Al-Islām website. I thank each and everybody involved from the core of my heart. May Allāh reward you immensely!

Outstanding Early Members of Lajna Imā'illah Canada (1962 - 1989)

By: Tahira Chaudhry, Amtul Shakoor Arshad

" Surely, men who submit themselves *to God* and women who submit themselves *to Him*, and believing men and believing women, and obedient men and obedient women and truthful men and truthful women, and men steadfast *in their faith* and steadfast women, and men who are humble and women who are humble, and men who give alms and women who give alms, and men who fast and women who fast, and men who guard their chastity and women who guard *their chastity*, and men who remember Allāh much and women who remember *Him* — Allāh has prepared for *all of* them forgiveness and a great reward." (Ch. 33, v. 36)

This verse is an inspiration to Muslim women that they can attain a great reward from Allāh if they follow His commandments and serve their faith and humanity. We can see this example in our fore-

mothers from the eras of early Islām and Ahmadiyyat. Their spiritual daughters continued this tradition of service to Islām and humanity when they came to a foreign land in very small numbers with no existing Ahmadiyya mosques or established community, yet they sowed the seeds for what we now see as fully blossomed trees. They helped establish Jamā'at Ahmadiyya and specifically Lajna Imā'illah in Canada. Today, we continue our humble efforts and services by standing on the shoulders of these giants. By gaining an insight into their lives and achievements, we are thankful to them for their contributions and we are reminded of their dreams for us to continue to build upon their legacy.

The following are some of the outstanding pioneer members of Lajna Imā'illah Canada. There are many more members who are not listed here but worked tirelessly alongside

these women. We pray for them that may Allāh accept their efforts and reward them tremendously.

Ayesha Ataullah Begum Sāhiba (First president, Lajna Imā'illah Canada, 1963-1975)

When Ayesha Begum Sāhiba arrived in Montreal in 1962, there were a few Ahmadi families already living in the city. She and her husband (Mr. Ataullah Advocate Sāhib) invited these families to their house for congregation and Friday prayers. She also wrote to Choti Apa (Hazrat Maryam Siddiqah Begum Sāhiba, President Lajna Imā'illah Central, Rabwah) to ask for permission to establish Lajna Imā'illah along with a request for literature and rules for the auxiliary. Upon receiving the permission, she was chosen as President Lajna Imā'illah Montreal in 1963 and remained so for almost 3 years until she moved to Toronto in 1965, where she served as the

president Lajna Imā'illah Toronto until 1974. At the time, Toronto president was also considered the National president for Lajna Imā'illah Canada.

Besides Montreal and Toronto, she also established Lajna Imā'illah in Bramalea and Ottawa and kept in touch with Lajna members from 7 locations. She was known for being very hardworking, punctual and a great speaker. Later on in life, she suffered from blindness, but she did not let that limit her work in any way. She had memorized a large part of the Holy Qur'ān and kept a collection of audio recordings of Khulafa's sermons as well as articles and poems, which she listened to often and played in meetings. She met her Creator in September of 1985 at 81 years of age.

**Attiya Isa Jan Sāhiba
(Second president, Lajna
Imā'illah Canada, 1975-
1981)**

Attiya Isa Jan Sāhiba came to Toronto in 1975 and was elected Sadr Lajna Imā'illah Toronto in the same year. During her term, she reached out to 10 branches in Canada. She paid special attention to education and training of Nāsirātul Ahmadiyya. She loved the Holy Qur'ān and taught it others. One of her most admirable

qualities was her habit of helping people without letting others know. She worked dutifully as the president until 1981, after which she remained a life-long honorary member of Majlis 'Āmila. She passed away on 5 October 1989 at the age of 75.

**Attiya Shareef Sāhiba
(Third president, Lajna
Imā'illah Canada, 1981-
1985)**

After coming to Canada in 1970, Attiya Sharif started serving the Jamā'at as Secretary Finance Lajna Imā'illah in 1972 while she was also employed at the time. Since then, she served in many capacities, such as: Acting President for Aisha Begum Sāhiba when she went to America, Vice President Lajna Imā'illah Canada, Secretary Finance and Secretary Nāsirāt. Some of her outstanding achievements include: opening the first bank account for Lajna Imā'illah with \$4,000 in 1974, organizing children's classes at the mission house in 1977 and holding meena bazaars to fundraise for Baitul Islām mosque fund.

She was elected President Lajna Imā'illah Canada in November 1981. She toured Western and Eastern Canada, which helped her establish personal connection with the

members from all over the country. She regularly wrote to President Lajna Imā'illah Central (Rabwah) on the occasion of every Jalsa Sālāna and Ijtimā' to request for prayers and messages for Lajna Imā'illah Canada. She also had the privilege and honour to invite and host some of the most esteemed Lajna Imā'illah members from Rabwah to Canada's Jalsa Sālānas. She was also responsible for collecting and selling jewelry donations to raise money for the mosque fund. Every year the Meena Bazaar revenue increased under her supervision. She earned an award for her hard work by winning the first position for best performance in foreign countries Lajnaat for 1983-1984. Later, she served as President Lajna Imā'illah Scarborough and Secretary Finance Lajna Imā'illah Canada.

**Naima Mirza Sāhiba
(Assistant Missionary In-
charge, 1985-1986)**

Naima Mirza Sāhiba came from Pakistan in 1981 and started to serve as Secretary Tehrike Jadid in 1982. She was made Assistant Missionary In-charge in 1985 for a period of time when due to some circumstances, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh IVth had terminated Majlis 'Āmila Lajna Imā'illah Canada. All Lajna activities

continued as per usual, which were overseen by a 3-member committee including Attiya Shareef Sāhiba, Khadija Yusuf Khan Sāhiba of Guyana and Naima Mirza Sāhiba. When Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh IV^{ra} came to Toronto to lay the foundation for Baitul Islām mosque, Naima Mirza Sāhiba was incharge of the Lajna activities. She also served as President of Lajna Imā'illah Brampton in 1987, National Secretary Ta'lim in 1996-1997 and President of Lajna Imā'illah London, Ontario in 2005.

Mahmooda Mian: (Fourth President, Lajna Imā'illah Canada, 1986-1989)

Mahmooda Mian Sāhiba came to Toronto in 1968. She is the daughter-in-law of Aisha Ataullah Sāhiba and remained her right-hand person throughout her life. She helped her write articles (published in Misbah) and recorded tilawat and nazm cassettes for her. She served as General Secretary Lajna Imā'illah Canada and also assisted with other departments. She was elected President Lajna Imā'illah Canada from 1986 to 1989. During her term, she placed many copies of the Holy Qur'ān in educational institutions. She initiated Nusrat Jahan Sports for Lajna and An-Nisaa' magazine - a publication of Lajna

Imā'illah Canada. She also held the first Lajna Interfaith event on the topic of Founders of Religion. Jashne Sadd Sala Tashakkur (100 years of Ahmadiyyat) celebrations were held under her direction throughout the year, starting with Tahajjud prayers to enter the new century on March 23, 1989.

Bushra Ijaz Sāhiba

After traveling half the world, Bushra Ijaz Sāhiba settled in Winnipeg, Manitoba. She served as President Lajna Imā'illah Winnipeg for almost 23 years until 1995. She moved to Zambia for 2 years and then came back to Toronto and served as National Secretary Ta'lim until her last day on December 26, 2003. Her passions included writing articles and letters to newspapers, lecturing in universities and institutions on Islāmīc teachings and arranging interfaith events and discussions.

Rasheeda Hussain Khan Begum Sāhiba

She came to Toronto in 1963. In 1965, she became the first General Secretary of Toronto. Aisha Ataullah Sāhiba, president at the time would ask her to record Tilawat, Nazm and speeches. She also served as Secretary Finance and performed any other work given to her by Aisha Sāhiba as she

lived in close proximity to her. She continued her dedicated services for Jamā'at until her last day.

Ismat Mirza Sāhiba

She came to Brantford in 1967. She assisted her late husband Mr. Mirza Mushtaq Ahmad Sāhib with Jamā'at work who was the president of Brampton Jamā'at for 15 years. She herself served as General Secretary, Secretary Finance and President for her halqa. She also served as the Lajna Imā'illah National General Secretary. She kept in touch with President Lajna Imā'illah Central (Rabwah) via mail. Her records of these letters have been very helpful in compiling the history of Lajna Imā'illah Canada.

Qamar-ul-Islām Choudhry Sāhiba

She came to British Columbia in 1966 as the first Ahmadi Muslim woman there. She worked in many departments including serving as the General Secretary and then as President Lajna Imā'illah Vancouver from 1981-1983 and again in 2000. She continues to serve Jamā'at diligently.

Rashida Sayal Sāhiba

She came to Toronto in 1967, then moved to Hamilton and eventually settled in Ottawa.

Lajna Imā'illah Ottawa was established in 1976. She served as the first General Secretary for 15 years. She focused on children's education and held their meetings and classes regularly. She was elected as the president of Lajna Imā'illah Ottawa in 1991 and served in that capacity for 10 years. She is known for her great poetry, hospitality and service to humanity.

Amna Choudhry Sāhiba

She came to Toronto in 1959 and after a few years moved to Montreal where she was elected as the Lajna Imā'illah President in 1964. In 1971, she moved to Saint John, New Brunswick and two years later, to Ottawa where she settled. When Zulfaqar Ali Bhutto declared Ahmadis Non-Muslims in Pakistan, she went to the High Commission of Pakistan in Ottawa and presented a protest note on behalf of Jamā'at Ahmadiyya. She also wrote dozens of letters to newspapers in protest. In 1976, she became President Lajna Imā'illah Ottawa with a unanimous vote and served dutifully for 15 years.

Mubarika Sheikh Sāhiba

She came to Brantford from Nairobi in 1965 as the first Ahmadi Lajna there. By 1967, there were 3 families living in Bramalea and they elected her

as the first President Lajna Imā'illah Bramalea. In 1974, Bramalea had 10 Ahmadi families and Brantford was made a separate Majlis. In 1975, she became the President for Lajna Imā'illah Brantford until 1979 when she moved to Brampton.

Naseera Rasheed Mirza Sāhiba

She arrived in Calgary on 24 July 1969. At the time there were only 2 Ahmadi families living there. She was selected as the first President of Lajna Imā'illah Calgary in 1976. She also served as the General Secretary and Secretary Handicraft there. In 2004, she moved to Edmonton and continues to serve Jamā'at in many capacities, including teaching the Holy Qur'ān.

Bushra Bari Sāhiba

She came to Toronto in 1975 and started to work as General Secretary and Secretary Misbah. She then moved to Calgary in 1977 and served there as President Lajna Imā'illah Calgary and General Secretary. She continues to work hard and innovatively to serve Jamā'at.

Tahira-tul Bushra Virk Sāhiba

She started to work as the first Secretary Nāsirātul Ahmadiyya

in 1974 and started holding meetings for Nāsirāt separately from Lajna. The number of Nāsirāt grew from 7 in 1974 to 24 in 1976. Every year Nāsirāt syllabus was published in The Ahmadiyya Gazette and their tests were taken quarterly. By the Grace of Allāh, these Nāsirāt are now excellent mothers of the next generation.

May Allāh bless these exemplary pioneer women of Jamā'at Ahmadiyya Canada. By the Grace of Allāh, there are now 85 Majālis of Lajna Imā'illah Canada running efficiently with the help of Allāh Almighty and with the efforts of thousands of Lajna Imā'illah volunteers.

By gaining an insight into the lives and achievements of the early members of Lajna Imā'illah Canada, we express our gratitude to them for their contributions; and we are reminded of their dreams for us to continue to build upon their legacy to serve Islām and Ahmadiyyat.



My Helping Hands in Service of Islām Ahmadiyyat (2010 – 2016)

By: Amtul Noor Daud Sāhiba, President Lajna Imā'illah Canada

And say, ‘O my Lord, make my entry a good entry and *then* make me come forth with a good forthcoming. And grant me from Thyself a helping power. (17:81)

Allāh Almighty has taught this prayer in the Holy Qur’ān, in which we seek from Him the “helping power”. *By the Grace of Allāh*, in fulfilment of this prayer, Allāh Almighty has helped me with a group of dedicated members who have worked as a team and embarked on this journey of serving in the cause of Allāh as the members of National Majlis ‘Āmila Lajna Imā’illah Canada since the year 2010-2011.

I have been asked to write about some members whose services are commendable, and contributed to the progress of Lajna Imā’illah Canada. In this article it is difficult to write in detail about everyone. I will briefly mention the services of my dear and humble National ‘Āmila members, but to do justice with them in this limited space is almost impossible. Therefore, throughout the article you may find that some members’ contributions are briefly touched upon, while for others only names are mentioned. Please accept my apology in this regard as I have to follow the limitations of the article otherwise everyone is equally dear to me.

Everyone in the team of National Majlis ‘Āmila Lajna Imā’illah Canada is a gem. It is difficult to distinguish one over the other. Each one of them served in their capacity in the best possible manner and fulfilled duties diligently. It has always been a great display of teamwork. As in the bouquet of flowers, each flower has its own fragrance and own beauty but collectively all the flowers add

to the beauty of the bouquet -- similarly each member of National Majlis ‘Āmila have their own qualities; however, once working collectively as a team, they give strength to National Majlis ‘Āmila Lajna Canada as a whole.

To begin with I had the support of National ‘Āmila members whose names had been approved by Syedna Hazrat Khalifatul-Masīh V (May Allāh be his Helper!) in 2010-2011, which included: Attia Momin Sāhiba appointed as National General Secretary, Fareha Hamid Sāhiba - Assistant National General Secretary, Amatul Salam Malik Sāhiba - National Secretary Ta’līm, Munaza Khan Sāhiba - National Secretary Tarbiyat, Naheed Khokhar Sāhiba - National Secretary Tablīgh, Saadia Mahdi Sāhiba - National Secretary Nāsirāt, Farah Daood Sāhiba - National Secretary Māl, Azra Bajwa Sāhiba - National Auditor, Shabana Shafiq Sāhiba - National Secretary Sanat o Dastakari, Talat Khalifa Sāhiba - National Secretary Waqf Jadīd, Meena Nasir Sāhiba - National Secretary Tahrīk Jadīd, Nasia Qureshi Sāhiba - National Secretary Diyāfat, Amtul Qudoos Qudsia Sāhiba - National Secretary Ishā’at, Mahwish Chaudhry Sāhiba - National Secretary Tajind, Amtul Hafeez Rana Sāhiba - National Secretary Khidmat Khalq, Mubarika Mian - National Secretary Nau-Mubai’at, Saima Ahmed Sāhiba - National Secretary Sehat Jismani, Naumana Khan Sāhiba - Mu’āwina Sadr, Faiza Ahmed Sāhiba - Mu’āwina Sadr Incharge Waqifat Nau, Tahira Naseem Sāhiba - Mu’āwina Sadr Incharge Rishtā Nāta, Amatul Rafiq Zafar Sāhiba - In Charge Ta’līm-ul Qur’ān classes and Amtul Latif Malik Sāhiba - Honorary member.

We started this journey with the prayers of Syedna Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V (May Allāh be his Helper!) and with the support of these members.

It was the first time for Attia Momin, Farah Daood, Fareha Hamid, Munaza Khan and Saadia Mahdi Sāhibā to work as National Secretaries. I am highly indebted to **Attia Momin Sāhibā** as whenever I asked her for assistance, she was always there, even if it was in middle of the night. She prepared all my power point presentations beautifully to be delivered at various occasions. She ran the department well and had regular communication with local Majālis and prepared thorough reports on time to be submitted to Huzoor Anwar (May Allāh be his Helper!). She was well supported by Fareha Hamid Sāhibā as Assistant General Secretary.

Munaza Khan Sāhibā worked really well as National Secretary Tarbiyat. She mobilized the youth and made strong connections with them which in turn proved very fruitful in having strong connections with Jamā'at. Munaza used new ideas for the Tarbiyat of the Lajna members. Tarbiyat camps for college and university girls, Friday Sermon quizzes and presentations for girls were some of her initiatives. She also developed Peer Mentors initiative to keep inactive girls attached to Jamā'at with the help of active Lajna members.

Saadia Mahdi Sāhibā served incredibly well as National Secretary Nāsirāt and introduced many new initiatives for the training of Nāsirāt; most importantly National Nāsirāt Tarbiyat Workshops. In these workshops, Nāsirāt were taught about their moral and religious expectations with the help of very interesting, interactive and informative presentations. Nāsirāt Sleep-over at Ijtimā' was also introduced during the time of Saadia Mahdi Sāhibā as National Secretary Nāsirāt.

Farah Daood Sāhibā took the very difficult task of becoming National Secretary Māl and fulfilled it to the best of her abilities. She is still serving in this capacity. Among all 'Āmila members she visits Bait Maryam almost every day. She learned her

job very eagerly and performed very well! For the convenience of members she has designed a fridge magnet outlining all the obligatory and non-obligatory Chandas. Some of you might have that magnet in your homes. The magnet and its details helped members remember the prescribed rates of their mandatory chandas. Her efforts along with the local secretaries of Māl were pretty successful in achieving 100% Chanda collection in some Majālis.

Azra Bajwa Sāhibā served as an auditor. She was very experienced in her job and guided Farah Daood Sāhibā in learning things with regard to the Finance department.

Amatul Salam Malik Sāhibā has been serving as National Secretary Ta'lim for a long time. She is also one of the Nā'ib Sadr (Vice President) as well. She is very sincere and righteous member of the National Majlis 'Āmila. She has been a Sultan e Naseer in the true sense; who supported and co-operated with me at all times. Under her guidance, Ta'lim department published thorough syllabus with reference material included. Al-Muslimat workshops were an initiative of Amatul Salam Malik Sāhibā and these workshops have been proving successful for the knowledge and moral training of Lajna Imā'illah Canada. Amatul Salam Malik Sāhibā has raised the standard of Ijtimā'at and changed the format making it beneficial for all the Lajna members in attendance and not for the participants only.

Naheed Khokhar Sāhibā, a most humble person, has been serving as National Secretary Tablīgh and Nā'ib Sadr for past several years. She introduced new ideas in Tablīgh and encouraged more and more members to become Dā'i-ilallah! Tablīgh, workshop, Focus Events, Holy Qur'ān Exhibitions, Interfaith Symposia, and very successfully held Peace Conferences are some of her achievements.

Amtul Qudoos Qudsia Sāhibā served as National Secretary Ishā'at for many years; she also made progress in the Audio and Video side of

Lajna Imā'illah Canada. She trained many girls in this field who are now capable of running the programs of Audio video very well. She produced a series of Al-Muslimat Program - a panel discussion on various Tarbiyat and current affair topics. She also produced REAL TALK Canadian version. She is serving as Incharge Media team these days. The Canada wide campaign of Jes Sui Hijabi was launched under the leadership of Qudsia Sāhiba and all the major TV and Radio channels all across Canada gave extensive coverage of this campaign, *Alhamdulillah!*

Nasia Qureshi Sāhiba, worked hard as National Secretary Diyāfat and always handled difficult situations very well. Her support at times was very meaningful for me. She always made sure that members are served well during lunch and dinner time at all the events of Lajna. She has strong leadership skills which proved helpful in successfully handling the Diyāfat department.

Talat Khalīfa Sāhiba the most soft-spoken, polite and quiet member works as Secretary Waqf Jadīd very well. She has an honour of being a member of National 'Āmila of almost all the National Presidents of Lajna Imā'illah Canada. By the Grace of Allāh and due to her sincere efforts Lajna always exceeded in their target of Waqf Jadīd and the collection is always more than previous years.

Meena Nasir Sāhiba is also very dedicated member of National Majlis 'Āmila. She takes her responsibilities very seriously and fulfils them with commitment. She has served as National Secretary Tahrik Jadīd with previous National Presidents as well. Her contributions and efforts towards the department are very significant as every year the collection of Tahrik Jadīd of Lajna has grown remarkably well.

Mahwish Chaudhry Sāhiba another dedicated member has worked well as National Secretary Tajnid. She has always been a helping hand for other secretaries as well. She is always ready to do whenever she has been asked to do a certain job. It is her special quality that she never refuses any

request. She is currently serving as National Secretary Waqf Jadīd and working well in her sphere of responsibilities. It is during her time that Saff e Saum has been introduced in Waqf Jadīd as well with the approval of Huzoor Anwar (May Allāh be his Helper!). With Saff e Saum members can pay under \$300 for Waqf Jadīd.

National Secretary Khidmat Khalq - **Amtul Hafeez Rana Sāhiba** commonly known as Seema is a true picture of a humble servant. She devotes her entire time serving the members of Jamā'at in one way or other. My words cannot encompass the service that has been carried out by Seema so selflessly. Whenever, we are in desperate situation Seema is always there with her smiling face to help. She is always on her toes and on her phone to help members far and wide regardless of day or night. She has done a lot in settling the families of Shuhada in Canada as well as new comers from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Thailand and Syria. She is at the forefront for setting up, winding up and cleanliness of facility before and after the event. She has gathered prayers of members in abundance due to her selfless service for them. She has introduced the system of HELP LINE, with which she collects used items from members and provides it to the other members in need. She has settled countless families in this way by providing them house hold items including furniture as well. She has driven a truck herself for picking up the items of donations from member's houses.

Mubarika Mian Sāhiba – served as National Secretary Nau-Mubai'at and Nā'ib Sadr Lajna Imā'illah Canada. She is also one of the senior members who served in National 'Āmila in various capacities in previous years. As Secretary Nau-Mubai'at she worked well to keep the new sisters connected with Jamā'at and helped them in their educational and religious needs. On several occasions I sought advice from her being a Nā'ib Sadr and she has always given me sincere advice which in turn proved fruitful and right for that particular matter. She is now an honorary member of National Majlis 'Āmila Lajna Imā'illah Canada.

Shabana Shafiq Sāhiba our National Secretary San`ato dastakari is a very lovely personality. She has worked hard for organizing arts and crafts competitions for Lajna and Nāsirāt. She herself taught sewing and stitching to the members in the classes. She took National Meena Bazaar to new heights and by the Grace of Allāh we have been able to organize Meena Bazaar in International Center for past 6 years now! Shabana Shafiq Sāhiba also entertains us with her poetry during the mushairah organized by Lajna Imā`illah Canada.

Saima Ahmed Sāhiba served well as National Secretary Sehat Jismani and Naumana Khan Sāhiba served well as Mu`āwina Sadr. They performed their assigned tasks in timely manner.

Faiza Ahmed Sāhiba and Tahira Naseem Sāhiba served as Mu`āwina Sadr as well. Faiza served as Incharge Waqifat Nau. She has mobilized the department and through her dedication and sincere efforts brought a revolutionary change in the activities. Memorization classes for the whole Qaseeda and last 25 chapters of the Holy Qur`ān, was the brain child of Faiza Ahmed Sāhiba. Numerous Waqifeen and Waqifat have benefitted from these classes and even now these classes are running successfully all across Canada. She has activated the Waqifat of 15+ age group and established the organization of regional Waqifat Ijtimā`at on solid grounds. She has started YouTube channel Waqifat Nau Canada with which every week the video clips of the classes of Huzoor^{aa} with Waqifeen and Waqifaat are sent to everyone. The channel has been watched by members in other countries as well and they are also benefitting from this service.

Tahira Naseem Sāhiba also provided good services as Incharge Rishtā Nāta and always helped me in whatever help I required from her. She has learned Urdu typing on my request and since then actively helps in typing letters and articles for An-Nisaa' in Urdu.

Amatul Rafiq Zafar Sāhiba a well-known scholar person is our Incharge Ta`limul Qur`ān

Classes all across Canada. She is distributing this spiritual water in the form of Dars-ul Qur`ān, selflessly and physically going to the Majālis as well as teaching over the phone. She used to take the Qur`ān class from Baite Maryam during her tenure as a National Sadr when she had to come to the office, however, for the past 6 years it has been her extreme dedication that she has regularly been coming to Bait Maryam on Tuesdays just to take the Qur`ān Class and teach the books of Promised Messiah^{as}. At this point I must mention the commendable effort of her husband who regularly brings her for the class every week. May Allāh give him long healthy life. Amīn! Amatul Rafiq Zafar Sāhiba has completed the teaching of the translation of the whole Holy Qur`ān twice in this period. She has been taking classes in Brampton, Mississauga and over the phone where members from various majalis all across Canada participate. She has always been a great support and always gave right advice and suggestions on different matters pertaining to Lajna and Nāsirāt Canada.

Amatul Latif Malik Sāhiba - wife of respected Amīr Sāhib Canada, has been an honorary member of National `Āmila and an active member of the team of Rishtā Nāta in Lajna. She has been a great support for us with her valuable advices and helps in match-making for Rishtā Nāta team.

Added to this caravan later in 2011-2012 was Shahida Khan Sāhiba as National Secretary Sehat Jismani, Sadia Chaudhry Sāhiba as Assistant General Secretary, Naureen Sohail Sāhiba as National Secretary Nau-Mubai`at, and Asma Noon Sāhiba – National Secretary Diyāfat in 2012-2013. Naila Jamil Sāhiba, joined the National `Āmila team in 2013- 2014 as National General Secretary and Maryam Basharat Sāhiba as National Secretary Tajnid.

Shahida Khan Sāhiba has been working with true dedication as National Secretary Sehat Jimani. She has worked hard to make this department active and productive for the physical well-being of members. Along with Volleyball tournaments, she has introduced Health Symposia

for the knowledge and the healthy life of Lajna. She has produced various power point presentations with the help of Attia Momin Sāhibā for the interest and knowledge of members. Nusrat Jahan Sports Day is also organized in orderly manner for the benefit of Lajna. For the first time, a picnic was arranged for Lajna at Bradford facility of Jamā'at and Lajna enjoyed a lot. Another first time initiative in the history of Lajna is the upcoming inter-regional volleyball tournament which is being organized in Calgary on August 6 to 7, 2016 and teams from Toronto, Vancouver, Saskatoon and Edmonton are travelling to Calgary to play the matches.

Sadia Chaudhry a Waqifa, was the youngest in all 'Āmila members and was very dear to all of us. She has provided incredible support to all the National Secretaries of various departments along with fulfilling her own responsibilities as Asst. General Secretary. She accompanied me to the visits of local majalis most of the time.

Naureen Sohail Sāhibā has been serving as National Secretary Nau-Mubai'at and Nā'ib Sadr Lajna Canada. She has mobilized the Nau-Mubai'at sisters, arranged regular conference call classes for education and for the regular connection with Nau-Mubai sisters. She has also contacted the Ghanian sisters in Canada and got them involved in Lajna. This year on the occasion of Meena Bazaar the Ghanian and Syrian sisters had put up the food stalls which proved very successful. Later on she took care of the Nau-Mubai sisters of Jamaica and Belize the two countries assigned to Canada Jamā'at.

Diyāfat is most difficult and a must-have Department. Since **Asma Noon Sāhibā** has taken this responsibility as National Secretary Diyāfat, mashaAllāh she has proved to be the right choice. She works very hard in all circumstances including in the times of pressure and stress. My heart is filled with prayers and gratitude for her. Whenever any event is about to happen, she always has a detailed discussion with me as well as all the National Secretaries so that she can meet their re-

quirements. Her organizational skills are very strong and in advance prepares for the needs of the event. There is a beauty in her work and the presentation is remarkable. Cleanliness is always maintained while preparing for Diyāfat. The hosting of National Majlis Shūrā guests is commendable effort of Asma Noon Sāhibā and her team. Besides it, throughout the year she is always busy in serving for one event or other. For Jamā'at her services for Out of Cold program every year is worth mentioning.

After Attia Momin Sāhibā, **Naila Jamil Sāhibā** was appointed as National General Secretary. Her knowledge and administrative skills are very strong; she worked well to further the organization of Department General Secretariat. She has developed a good rapport among members and very diligently guided local general secretaries towards the better functioning of the department. In the organization of National Majlis Shūrā after Attia Momin Sāhibā, the contribution of Naila Jamil Sāhibā and Sadia Chaudhry was exemplary. She is also working for the website of Lajna Canada along with Hiba Sāhibā of Kingston Majlis.

Maryem Basharat is also a Waqifa, who is serving as National Secretary Tajnid. She is also very humble and dedicated person. She helps local Majālis with all their Tajnid issues and is currently Incharge of making photo ID cards for Lajna, which is a very extensive and time consuming task.

With these members our journey continued year after year and in 2013- 2014, the caravan was joined by Amtul Qudoos Farhat Sāhibā as National Secretary Ishā'at and Saema Shah Sāhibā - as National Secretary Nāsirāt. In 2014-2015 Nighat Mahmood Sāhibā was appointed as National Secretary Tarbiyat, Mansoorā Rauf Sāhibā as National General Secretary, Asia Nisar Sāhibā as National Auditor and Tahira Malik Sāhibā as Mu'āwina Sadr and In charge Properties. I am grateful to these sisters for working very diligently for their departments.

Amtul Qudoos Farhat Sāhiba is MashaAllāh very talented and dedicated member and took the department to new heights right from the beginning. We have received several letters of appreciation for the department of Ishā'at from Syedna Hazrat Khalifatul-Masīh V^{aa}. In this short span of time she has produced 10 story books, regular quarterly magazine of An-Nisaa' and Special Issue of An-Nisaa' on the title of 10 Blessed Years of Khilāfat e Khamsa. There are other 10 books on Sahabiyaat (Companions) under the process of printing. Pen to Preach is another segment introduced by Dr. Farhat Sāhiba under which Lajna writes response letters to the allegations raised on Islām or Holy Prophet^{sa}. First time in the history of Lajna Canada in June 2016 the magazine of An-Nisaa' has been mailed to every household in Canada due to the efforts of Dr. Farhat. The website of An-Nisaa' has been established and the previous issues of An-Nisaa' have been made available online. Dr. Farhat is very humble and sweet person of our team. She has taken forward the legacy of holding Mushairah very well, which was previously organized by Amtul Qudoos Qudsia Sāhiba as the former National Secretary Ishā'at. Dr. Amtul Qudoos Farhat Sāhiba herself is a poet.

Saema Shah Sāhiba has been working very effectively as National Secretary Nāsirāt. She efficiently manages the activities of Nāsirāt and has introduced new innovative ideas, programs and activities for Nāsirāt for their religious and moral upbringing. She has brought fun activities such as fun fair, jumping castle and reptilian show at Nāsirāt Ijtimā'.

Nighat Mahmood Sāhiba - for the Department of Tarbiyat Nighat Mahmood has produced very informative and catching presentations for the girls. She has also introduced the system of regular surveys through which we can obtain current data on our members in various fields of Tarbiyat. She has organized Tarbiyat Camps for university and college-going girls. The camps have been very popular among girls and very well attended due to the topics and presentations introduced in an en-

tirely unique and interactive manner. She has accompanied me to Nāsirāt classes held on various Tarbiyat issues.

Mansoor Rauf Sāhiba is MashaAllāh another talented member of the team and is serving as National General Secretary. She has introduced a new approach to the department. She has modified the reporting format, increased the team to fairly large numbers and broadened the horizon of the department in technical side. The long awaited mastery over the technical side of the online reporting system of Lajna has now started to be managed by Lajna under the supervision of Mansoor Rauf Sāhiba. Maryam Butt Sāhiba is helping in this task. The administrative side in the organization of Majlis Shūrā has advanced through her. With the help of Farzana Sanory Sāhiba, a new system has been designed which facilitates the sending of approval of delegates and generating the list of the Shūrā delegates. For the implementation of the approved recommendations of National Majlis Shūrā, Mansoor has worked extensively. She has also worked very hard in producing the extensive syllabus and guidelines booklet for office bearers of Lajna Canada. She is also in the process of designing an online Holy Qur'ān course for Lajna which is also a recommendation of National Majlis Shūrā 2015.

There are some tasks which almost every one can carry out, but there are some duties which can only be performed by someone with unique skills. **Asia Nisar Sāhiba** – National Auditor is one of those members. Since being assigned the task of audit, she has done it so diligently that I am amazed with the amount of work she has corrected, fixed and organized. Sometimes she starts after Fajr to look into accounts, and carries on until Zuhr time. She has helped a lot in organizing the finance side of Lajna.

Tahira Malik Sāhiba – In Charge properties has been a very huge helping hand. She looks after the requirements and needs of the properties of Lajna including Baite Maryam and Baite Nusrat on a regular basis. She is very responsible member and

I became carefree once I ask her to do a certain task. She makes sure that it is done in a timely manner and herself takes keen interest in maintaining both the properties in good condition.

Lastly the National 'Āmila team was joined by **Yousra Ahmed Sāhiba** in 2015-2016 as Assistant General Secretary. She has been working well and sharing the work load of Mansoorah Rauf Sāhiba. She also has expertise in Audio and Video which is why she is of great assistance when setting up audio/video at various events.

These are just small glimpses of the services of National 'Āmila members. They have done a lot more than mentioned. I pray from the bottom of my heart for all the National 'Āmila members who have served in any capacity any time of the year. May Allāh reward all of them immensely and shower His choicest blessings on all of them *Amīn!*

Besides National 'Āmila members I am obligated to the Regional Presidents of Lajna Imā'illah Canada for the full support and co-operation from . All Regional Presidents have worked very hard in their respective regions to supervise the activities of Lajna Imā'illah Canada.

Initially there were 9 regions only. By the Grace of Allāh the Jamā'at has continued to grow and for that reason regions were further divided. Calgary was separated from Prairie and became a new region. The regional Sadr for Calgary is **Amtul Qayyum Sāhiba**. The current regional Sadr for Vancouver is **Sarah Laeeq Sāhiba** and for Prairie **Bushra Aftab Sāhiba**.

Similarly, Peel North became Brampton region with **Samina Bushra Sāhiba** as Regional Sadr and Peel South became Mississauga region with **Nasia Qureshi Sāhiba** as the Regional Sadr.

Eastern Canada was further divided into Eastern Ontario and Quebec region with **Yasmin Malik Sāhiba** and late **Nasira Rafiq Sāhiba** as Regional Presidents respectively. After the demise of Nasira Rafiq Sāhiba, **Fehmeeda Kausar**

Sāhiba is serving as the Regional Sadr of Quebec region.

GTA Center and GTA East were merged and became Toronto region with Ramla Qureshi Sāhiba as the Regional Sadr.

York region was further divided into three regions as Peace Village - Regional Sadr, **Shafi Chatta Sāhiba**; Vaughan Region - Regional Sadr, **Amtul Shafi Khalifa Sāhiba**; and Northern Ontario - Regional Sadr, **Shamim Rehman Sāhiba**.

All of the Regional Presidents have co-operated and supported the Markaz immensely in carrying out the activities of Lajna. They are working very hard to organize various events with the cooperation of all local presidents.

I am also grateful to all the Local Presidents Lajna Canada. It is not possible to describe their incredible service here in this small article; however, each and every local Sadr is in my prayers. The credit goes to all of them as they are the ones who work really hard at local level to prepare the crop of Lajna and Nāsirāt that is growing and flourishing in all corners of Canada. May Allāh shower His choicest blessings on all them and reward them in abundance *Amīn!*

There are some more names worth mentioning here. **Rafiq Khan Sāhiba** and **Farrukh Dildaar Sāhiba** have served in the Nusrat Jahan Library located at Baite Maryam. Both these members have given their time and energy to keep the library organized and in functioning condition. They were helped by Amtul Rashid Jamil Sāhiba and other team members who have helped them in typing and cataloguing of the books.

Shakeela Tahir Sāhiba is one of the prominent Lajna members who served with me as incharge of An-Nisaa' for many years. She worked very hard to bring out the regular issues of An-Nisaa' for the knowledge and interest of Lajna.

Amtul Shakoora Sāhiba is working hard for several years on compiling History of Lajna Canada and has completed the task until 1984.

Sadiqa Hifsa Sāhiba is the long-time serving editor of English section of An-Nisaa', well supported by **Farzana Sanory Sāhiba** who is serving as the editor of Urdu section. Both these sisters offered their extensive services including time and energy for bringing the An-Nisaa' magazine. Mubashra Sāhiba was the distributor of Lajna for some time and assisted us well.

The list will be incomplete without mentioning **Asifa Chatta Sāhiba's** efforts as incharge of the Handicrafts and for preparing items for Maryam Shadi Fund. She has been working regularly and diligently for her assigned tasks. **Nusrat Awan Sāhiba** is taking regular computer classes for Lajna. **Amtul Rashid Sāhiba** is also great helper. She has always helped us and cooked hot and delicious food at Baite Maryam. **Farhat Chaudhry Sāhiba** is assisting us in the capacity of In-Charge new-comers and integration committee. She has facilitated a lot of interactions with Syrian Families. **Tahira Chaudhry Sāhiba** is incharge Salāt Committee. She is regularly helping in promoting etiquette of Salāt and the mosque.

In the end I would like to wholeheartedly extend my gratitude to all the sisters who have worked hard and co-operated with me in any capacity in fulfilling our responsibilities. I pray that may Allāh accept the humble efforts of everyone and reward them abundantly Amīn!

I seek forgiveness of Allāh for my shortcomings and pray that He cover my faults and I seek forgiveness from the members for unintentionally hurting anyone or if I missed mentioning anyone's name here. The actual reward lies with Allāh, the Almighty. May we be the true followers of Islām and fully act upon the advices of Syedna Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V (May Allāh be his Helper!) so Allāh Almighty and Khalīfa e Waqt be pleased with us and Lajna Canada become an exemplary Lajna in the whole world. Amīn!

Regional and Local Presidents

Lajna Imā'illah Canada 2010-2016

Currently, the total number of Lajna Majālis in Canada are eighty five (85). Some original Majālis, with passage of time have been divided further into two or more Majālis. The following table includes the names of some of the parent Majālis as well. Thus the total number appears ninety one (91). Some presidents have served in parent Majlis as well as in the new Majlis. Some presidents have worked for more than one region and their names may appear in both regions of their service.

I have tried to make this table as accurate as possible; some parts with help of my memory alone. So human error is always possible and I apologize for that in advance; for Allāh is the All Knowing, All Seeing and the greatest Reward Giver! May Allāh reward all of these sisters abundantly. Amīn!

Region: GTA Center and GTA East later became Toronto

Majlis	Name of President
<i>Regional Presidents</i>	Amtul Qayyum Ijaz, Ramla Qureshi, Naeema Tahira
Abode of Peace	Tahira Siddiq, Amtul Qayyum Ijaz
Emery Village	Zahida Imtiaz
North York	Shella Ahmed, Sajida Imran
Rexdale	Ayesha Faheem
Scarborough	Anisa Zahid, Amtul Wassay Amjad
Toronto Central	Fouzia Sultana, Shazia Rafiq
Toronto East	Musart Jabian
Weston Islington	Fozia Mubashar, Rashda Mazhar
Weston North East	Azra Janud
Weston North West	Rashda Khan, Robina Ahmed
Weston South	Bushra Nasir, Ghazala Basharat, Lubna Mansoor

Region: Peel North later became Brampton

Majlis	Name of President
<i>Regional Presidents</i>	Bushra Khokhar, Samina Bushra
Brampton Castlemore	Khola Chaudhary, Majeeda Tariq
Brampton Centre	Rashida Mirza, Shahida Azher
Brampton East	Nadia Hina Nazir
Brampton Flower Town	Naima Iqbal
Brampton Caledon	Shazia Kahloon
Brampton Heart Lake	Samina Bushra, Mutahira Farooqi
Brampton Peel Village	Najma Mirza, Shahida Nasir
Brampton Springdale	Fehmida Syed

Region: Peel South later became Mississauga

Majlis	Name of President
<i>Regional Presidents</i>	Amatul Saboor, Nasia Qureshi
Malton	Nusrat Mirza, Amtul Shakoor Malik
Mississauga East	Ayesha Ahmed, Farkhanda Amna
Mississauga North	Sadaf Zia, Bushra Ata
Mississauga South	Khalida Mubashir(late), Amtul Karim Syed
Mississauga West	Bushra Rashid, Farzana Qaiser

Region: York Region which later became Northern Ontario

Majlis	Name of President
Regional President	Shamim Rehman
Barrie	Maidah Ahmad
Bradford	Amtul Mujeeb Saqib
Durham	Bushra Sadiqa
Markham	Shahida Khan, Maria Ahmed
Newmarket	Naureen Sohail, Aisha Safeer
Peterborough	Faiza Aleem
Richmond Hill	Atiyya Khan, Tayyaba Tahira
Sudbury	Farhana Chaudhry, Zahida Pasha

Region: York Region which later became Peace Village

Majlis	Name of President
<i>Regional Presidents</i>	Amatul Rafiq Tahira, Shafi Chattha
Peace Village Center (later split into Center East and Center West)	Shafi Chattha(before becoming regional sadr)
Peace Village Centre East	Tahira Chaudhry, Rubina Chaudhry
Peace Village Centre West	Sadya Malik
Peace Village East	Fouzia Khalid, Nudrat Mansoor, Sadia Mahdi
Peace Village West	Amtul Rashid, Samina Saeed
Peace Village South (later it split into South East and South West)	Nusrat Rabbani
Peace Village South East	Amtul Salam, Baseerat Mansoor
Peace Village South West	Lubna Abid

Region: Western Ontario

Majlis	Name of President
Regional President	Atia Sahi, Zahida Balouch
Brantford	Rudaba Ayesha Sahi
Burlington	Fatima Mumtaz, Qudsia Waqar
Hamilton North	Maryam Siddiq Khan, Amtul Basit, Bushra Muzaffar
Hamilton South	Zahida Balouch, Samina Sana
Kitchener-Waterloo	Tahira Khalid
London Ontario	Amtul Jamil, Saira Zafar, Amna Zafar
Milton-Georgetown	Misbah Tariq, Sammer Mian
Oakville	Sumera Ghazenfer, Mecsooda Mirza
St. Catharines	Fouzia Waseha
Windsor	Abida Mansoor, Ain-ul-Farast Malik
Woodstock	Urfa Sardar

Region: Quebec

Majlis	Name of President
Regional President	Late Nasira Rafique, Fehmeda Kousar
Montreal Centre	Nasira Rafiq, Kousar Asif Tanveer
Montreal East	Fehmeda Kousar, Zara Rana
Montreal West	Perveen Ilyas

Region: York region -Vaughan

Majlis	Name of President
Regional President	Amtul Shaafi Khalifa
Maple	Amtul Shafi Khalifa, Nighat Mahmood, Atiya Raja
Vaughan East	Asifa Syed, Bushra Sami ullah, Attiya Noor Tahir
Vaughan West	Arifa Rasheed
Vaughan North	Samia Yasmeen
Vaughan South	Asia Nisar
Woodbridge	Shahida Tasneem

Region: Eastern Canada which later became Eastern Ontario

Majlis	Name of President
Regional President	Yasmin Malik
Cornwall	Asma Sami, Nighat Sehar
Kingston	Hannah Munawwar, Mishall Rehman
Ottawa (later split into East and West)	Humaira Nazir
Ottawa East	Sadia Sial
Ottawa West	Kudirat Oluwatosin Salam Alada

Region: Calgary(included in Prairie before becoming a separate region)

Majlis	Name of President
Regional President	Fouzia Zakaria, Amtul Qayyum
Calgary Martindale	Noreen Bajwa, Saeeda Sultana
Calgary North East	Amtul Rauf, Bushra Bari
Calgary North West	Mubarika Kaleem, Khalida Noori
Calgary Saddle Ridge	Aysha Virk, Tayyaba Amjed
Calgary South	Munaza Qureshi, Amtal Naseer Rushda
Calgary Taradale	Nuzhat Virk, Amtul Mateen Tariq, Saima Mahmood
Calgary West	Shazia Chaudhry, Nazia Rafi

Region: Prairie

Majlis	Name of President
<i>Regional Presidents</i>	Fozia Zakaria, Bushra Aftab
Edmonton (later split in East and West)	Samina Mian , Fozia Khawaja, Nudrat Mansoor
Edmonton East	Tajalli Sahir
Edmonton West	Nudrat Mansoor
Fort McMurray	Shabana Isma
Lloydminster	Shamsa Shahid, Rizwana Ahmed
Moose Jaw	Rabia Ahmed
Regina	Shazia Rehman, Attia tul Ilm
Saskatoon (later split in North and South)	Bushra Aftab, Tahira Jamshed
Saskatoon North	Amtul Qayyum Tahir
Thompson	Nusrat Chaudhry
Winnipeg	Alia Sadaf, Atiya Khawar

Region: Atlantic Canada

Majlis	Name of President
Regional President	Noor Jahan Qureshi
Halifax & New Brunswick	Noor Jahan Qureshi, Sarah Haneef
Newfoundland	Yasmin Boodhum. Dr. Alia Ismat , Lubna Mahmood
Sydney-Nova Scotia	Dr. Shera Haq, Nadia Hammad, Dr. Mehmooda Naeem

Region: British Columbia later became Vancouver

Majlis	Name of President
Regional President	Razia Sarfraz, Sarah Laeeq
Vancouver	Sadia Ahmed, Ansa Bajwa, Saeeda Shah
Vancouver Surrey North	Ruqaiya Bajwa
Vancouver Surrey South	Zahida Buttar, Razia Sarfraz
Vancouver Surrey West	Sarah Laeeq, Faiza Ahmad
Abottsford	Bushra Zafar

Majlis-e-‘Amila Lajna Imā’illāh Mulk

National Executive Committee of Lajna Imā’illāh Canada 2010-2016

Office Held	Name of the Office Bearer	Year of Service	Office Held	Name of the Office Bearer	Year of Service
Sadr (President)	Mrs. Amtul Noor Daud	2010-2016	Secretary Tahrik Jadid	Ms. Meena Nasir	2010-2016
Nā’ib Sadr (Vice President)	Mrs. Mubarika Mian Mrs. Naheed Khokhar Mrs. Naureen Sohail Mrs. Amatul Salam Malik	2010-2013 2014-2016 2013-2016 2014-2016	Secretary Waqf Jadid	Mrs. Talat Khalifa Mrs. Mahwish Choudhry	2010-2011 2011-2016
General Secretary	Ms. Attia Momin Miss Naila Jamil Mrs. Mansoor Rauf	2010-2012 2013-2014 2014-2016	Secretary Sihat Jismāni	Ms. Saima Ahmed Mrs. Shahida Khan	2010-2012 2012-2016
Nā’ib General Secretary	Ms. Fareha Hamid Miss Sadia Chaudhary Mrs. Yousra Ahmed	2010-2011 2011-2015 2015-2016	Secretary Tarbiyat Nau Mu-bā’iāt	Mrs. Mubarika Mian Mrs. Naureen Sohail	2010-2011
Secretary Tā’lim	Mrs. Amatul Salam Malik	2009-2016	Muhasiba Māl	Mrs. Azra Bajwa Mrs. Asia Nisar	2010-2014 2014-2016
Secretary Tarbiyat	Mrs. Munaza Khan Mrs. Nighat Mahmood	2010-2014 2014-2016	Honorary Member In Charge, Tālimul Qurā’n Classes	Mrs. Amatul Rafiq Zafar	2010-2016
Secretary Khidmat Khalq	Mrs. Amtul Hafeez Rana	2010-2016	Honorary Member	Mrs. Amtul Latif Malik Mrs. Mubarika Mian	2010-2016 2013-2016
Secretary Māl	Mrs. Farah Daood	2010-2016	Honorary Member In Charge Media & Audiovisual Team	Ms. Amatul Qudoos Qudsia	2013-2016
Secretary Nāsirāt	Mrs. Saadia Mahdi Mrs. Saema B. Shah	2010-2013 2013-2016	Mu`āvin Sadr	Mrs. Naumana M. Khan	2010-2012
Secretary San`at wa Dastkāri	Mrs. Shabana Shafiq	2010-2016	Mu`āvin Sadr In Charge Property	Mrs. Tahira Malik	2013-2016
Secretary Tabligh	Mrs. Naheed Khokhar	2010-2016	Mu`āvin Sadr In Charge Waqifāt Nau	Mrs. Faiza Ahmed	2010-2016
Secretary Ishā`at	Ms. Amatul Qudoos Qudsia Mrs. Amtul Qudoos Farhat	2010-2013 2013-2016	Mu`āvin Sadr In Charge Rishta Nāta	Mrs. Tahira Naseem	2010-2016
Secretary Tajnīd	Mrs. Mahwish Chaudhry Mrs. Mubarika Mian Mrs. Maryem Bajwa	2010-2011 2011-2012 2013-2016			
Secretary Diyāfat	Mrs. Nasia Qureshi Mrs. Asma Noon	2010-2012 2012-2016			

History of Lajna Imā'illah in Ottawa

By: Sadia Sial, President Ottawa East

The first Ahmadi families' arrival dates in Ottawa are as follows:

- Aziz Ahmad Sāhib and his wife Farhat Nasim Ahmad (Pre 1950)
- Mazhar Mahmud, and Iffat Mahmud (1958)
- Latif Chaudhary and Amina Chaudhary (1959-61, 1973)
- Muhammad Ashraf Sial and Rasheda Sial (1969)

The first two families lived in Ottawa, but were not aware of each other. In 1969 Ashraf Sial and Rasheda Sial arrived in Ottawa, and contacted both families. Latif Chaudhary Sāhib and Amna Chaudhary Sāhiba moved away, but returned to Ottawa in 1973. By 1973 there were about four families living in Ottawa, who would meet regularly.

Monthly meetings were held in each other's homes. However, ladies were mere attendees and not active participants in these meetings. Only once, a Christian lady, married to an Ahmadi, especially requested to read the English translation of Surah Al-Fatiha at a meeting.

Start of Ta'lim Classes: Rasheda Sial started weekly Ta'lim and Tarbiyat classes for children at her house. A few books on hand were photocopied.

Formal establishment of Lajna Imā'illah Ottawa Branch started with the blessed visit of Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh III^{rh} to Canada in 1976. With only two members, the first Lajna meeting/election took place. Mrs. Amna Chaudhary became the first President of Lajna Ottawa, and appointed Rasheda Sial as the General Secretary.

Amna Chaudhary Sāhiba remained president for 15 years.

First Visit of Hazrat Sahibzada Mirza Tahir Ahmad (Khalīfatul-Masīh^{rh} IV): Before becoming Khalīfa, Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmed (Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh^{rh} IV^{rh}) blessed Ottawa Jamā'at with a private visit in 1978, spending a few days in Ottawa with his family; sightseeing; visiting Ahmadi families; as well as meeting Dr. Antonio Gualtieri, the author of 2 books on Ahmadiyyat. After becoming Khalīfa, Huzoor blessed Ottawa twice with his visit.

In 1990, Chaudhary Munir Ahmad (presently with MTA in Washington) was appointed first missionary-in-charge in Ottawa, and the rented Missionary residence was used as a namaz centre, for Lajna classes, dars, Friday prayers, and meetings. First Nāsirāt classes also started in this house. For a long time there was just one 'nasirah' in Ottawa who attended Lajna classes. With more girls in Jamā'at, the lone Nasirah, Sadia Sial, became the first Nāsirāt Secretary.

Under the guidance of Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh IV^{rh}, Chaudhary Munir Ahmad Sāhib also became instrumental in negotiating and obtaining a farmhouse with 100 acres at an extremely good price in 1991, for the first Ahmadiyya Namaz Centre for Ottawa Jamā'at. This Centre has been blessed with the visits of Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh IV^{rh} and Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V^{aa}.

Lajna Ottawa members, came forward with an unprecedented zeal to obtain this property, and generously contributed money, and donated

their precious jewelry. Two newly-wed members set an example by sacrificing their entire wedding jewelry for the sake of a house of God.

Tayyebah Habib Sāhiba, General Secretary Lajna, made special efforts to arrange a very successful first Lajna Ottawa Ijtimā' in 1997. Our first Interfaith Symposium was also held there.

Lajna Ottawa elections were not held again until the appointment of Mrs. Amtul-Rafiq Tahira Sāhiba as National President, who conducted elections in Ottawa in 1991. Rasheda Sial was elected as the new president; she served 3 consecutive terms for almost 9 years to the length of allowable tenure. In 2001, Mrs. Tayyebah Habib Sāhiba became president. Lajna Imā'illah saw a tremendous growth in numbers in those years, with more needs and challenges, with many extended family members, immigrants, as well as refugee families making Ottawa their home.

Local Presidents (in chronological order): Amna Chaudhary, Rasheda Sial, Tayyebah Habib, Yasmin Ahmad Malik (later President Eastern Region), Tayyebah Habib, Humaira Nazir, Sadia Sial (last Sadr Lajna Ottawa), Kudrat Khamis (Ottawa West).

The Namaz Centre was used for gatherings, prayers, meetings, etc., as well as the Missionary's residence, however, it could not be rezoned as a mosque. Therefore, an old school was purchased, and converted to the first mosque in Ottawa, Baitun Naseer. Again, Lajnat opened their hearts and purses to pour out anything they could afford for the mosque. There are members who went under debt to build a house of God.

In 2016, Ottawa Jamā'at was reorganized into 2 majalis. Most of the original families living near Baitun Naseer constitute Lajna Imā'illah Ottawa East, residents of the west end are now

Lajna Imā'illah Ottawa West.

Ottawa Lajna achievements over the years include regular Interfaith symposiums, Humanity First fundraising, community outreach and opening of Nasir Academy school.

Resources:

- Hazrat Hafiz Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masīh IIIth (visit to Canada in 1976): alislam.org
- Personal visit by Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmedth. to Ottawa in 1978, and visits to Canada as Khalifatul-Masīh IVth: Review of Religions January 2013, The Ahmadiyya Community in Canada, by Lal Khan Malik Sāhib, Amīr Canada.
- Visit of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masīh V^{aa} to Ottawa in 2004: Review of Religions January 2013, The Ahmadiyya Community in Canada, by Malik Lal Khan Sāhib, Amīr Canada.
- Interview with Amna Latif Sāhib, the first President Lajna.
- Unpublished Notes on History of Lajna Imā'illah in Ottawa by Rasheda Sial, first General Secretary.
- Verification of dates regarding Murabbi/Mission House, from Chaudhary Munir Ahmad, first Missionary in Charge in Ottawa in 1990.
- Details of financial sacrifices from the notes of Rasheda Sial, president Lajna at that time, who received the jewelry and had it assessed.
- Purchase of Property for Baitun Naseer, Aleem-ud-Deen Ahmed, President Ottawa East.

Accomplishments of Lajna Imā'illah Lloydminster

By: Naurin Mangla, Lloydminster

The City of Lloydminster is known as the "Border City" since it is located on the Saskatchewan-Alberta border. It is the only single community in Canada split by a provincial boundary. Sabah Mirza Sāhibā was the first Lajna member to move to Lloydminster with her husband in 1992 after she had gotten married. In 1993, Sabah Mirza Sāhibā's family also moved to Lloydminster from Swift Current, Saskatchewan; making Lajna membership 3 and Nāsirāt 3 as well. Before the establishment of Lloydminster Jamā'at, it was part of the Edmonton Jamā'at. They travelled to Edmonton to attend Friday prayers, Eid prayers, Ijtimā', and other events.

By 2003, National Sadr Sāhibā of the he time proposed the idea of creating Lajna Imā'illah Lloydminster and appointed Saeeda Mirza Sāhibā as Sadr Lajna of Lloydminster and suggested Naurin Mangla Sāhibā's name as General Secretary.

First 'Āmila Meeting was held at Saeeda Mirza Sāhibā's home in October 2003. Saeeda Mirza Sāhibā's house and Sabah Mirza Sāhibā's house were used as the first Namaz Centers for the Jamā'ati events. Lloydminster Lajna organized their first Jalsa Seeratun Nabi^{sa} in 2004. Prior to this all the Jamā'ati events were combined with men because all the members consisted of one family. Lloydminster Lajna started to organize at least one Jalsa Seeratun Nabi annually. In 2004, Saeeda Mirza Sāhibā was the first delegate to represent Lloydminster Jamā'at in the National Majlis Shūrā. In 2004, the first presentation on Islām Ahmadiyyat was given at E.S. Laird School, a local junior high school, in which basic knowledge of Islām was given to grade 7 students. At this time, there were only a few Muslim families residing in Lloydminster and there was a lot of curiosity about the Muslim culture, belief, and the traditions. In 2005, the Lloydminster Jamā'at was

blessed to be graced by the presence of Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V^{aa}. All the Lajna members had the opportunity to meet with Huzoor^{aa} and derived benefit from his visit. In 2006, Lajna organized their very first local Meena Bazaar. By the Grace of Allāh with each passing year, more guests have been attending the Meena Bazaar event.

With the help of Allāh Almighty we held our first Local Lajna Ijtimā' in 2007 with support and direction from Fozia Zakria Sāhibā (Prairie Region Sadr at the time). In 2007, under Sehate Jismani department, Lajna Imā'illah Lloydminster booked the local swimming pool on the weekly basis for Lajna members to take swimming lessons. Lloydminster Lajna Imā'illah organized women's only Interfaith Symposium in 2008 at Lakeland College. A variety of faiths were represented at the conference which included Islām, Hinduism, and Christianity. The event continued annually for the next seven years.

In 2012, Lloydminster Lajna became part of a very positive event called, 'Operation Christmas'. In this project, Lajna members prepared boxes filled with necessity and gift items to send over to third world countries for underprivileged children.

In 2015, Lajna of Lloydminster actively took part in many Tablīghi events such as 'Je Suis Hijabi' campaign, participated in Cultural Day at schools, and organized Qur'ān Exhibitions. After many years of hard work and prayers the Lloydminster Jamā'at was blessed with a mosque; Baitul Amaan. To raise funds for the local mosque Lajna Lloydminster organized a garage sale and performed duties for three days and raised over two thousand dollars. On January 1st, 2016 we offered Namaz Tahajud in Baitul Amaan in which a large number of members participated. May Allāh Almighty accept prayers and services of the Lloydminster Lajna Imā'illah and make them the recipients of His blessings. Amīn.

Lajna Barrie

Building Bridges in Barrie

By: Hania Ahmad, Barrie

Located in Central Ontario, Barrie is a beautiful small city on the western shore of Lake Simcoe. It is known for its breathtaking waterfront and sandy beaches. Today, Barrie stands at a population of roughly 130,000 and is one of Canada's fastest growing cities.

Beginning of Barrie Jamā'at

By 2002, three families had moved to Barrie. Another family was living in Moonstone and one family was living in Utopia. Initially Barrie was part of Newmarket Jamā'at which included Newmarket, Barrie, Sudbury, Moonstone, Tottenham, Bradford and Innisfil. Attiya tul Qudoos Sāhiba was the first appointed Lajna President of this united Majlis and Hamedā Munir Sāhiba was the first General Secretary.

In 2004, Barrie was separated from Newmarket Jamā'at and given the status of a Majlis by itself. This newly created Barrie Jamā'at included Innisfil, Stayner and Moonstone. The first local 'Āmila of Barrie Jamā'at included Hamedā Munir Sāhiba as the local President; Dr. Amtul Qudoos Farhat Sāhiba as the Vice President and Attiya tul Qudoos Sāhiba as the General Secretary. Initially, Lajna membership was approximately 10 which increased steadily to 57 at present.

The first Namaz Centre was at Fozia Noushahi Sahibs's house. The first Friday prayer of Barrie Jamā'at was held in August 2003 in which two men and one Lajna participated. The prayer was led by Taufiq Ahmad Malik Sāhib who had recently moved from Memorial University, Newfoundland with his family. This center has been used for prayers for more than a decade. Lajna meetings were held in various Lajna homes.

Major events:

In 2002, Barrie as part of Newmarket Majlis held a French fries stall at the National Meena Bazar in the open ground of Baitul Islām mosque.

In 2003: First Local Meena Bazar was held at the residence of Ashifa Sheikh of Newmarket.

In 2004: First Jalsa Seerat-un-Nabi was held at the residence of Dr. Amtul Qudoos Farhat in which three Non Ahmadī ladies participated.

Between 2006 - 2010 Attiya Bashir of Moonstone who works with OPP (Ontario Provincial Police Department) arranged various talks at OPP office in Orillia in which Tanya Khan (late), the National Tabligh Secretary, was invited to answer questions. Attiya Bashir also arranged many tours for OPP members to Baitul Islām mosque.

2006: A team of National Majlis 'Āmila joined Barrie Musleh Mau'ūd Day. The team consisted of National President; Mrs. Amatul Rafiq Zafar, National Secretary Ishā'at; Mrs. Qudsia Hameed, National Secretary Sanat Dastkari and National Secretary Māl Mrs. Badar Bajwa.

2009: Barrie Majlis started organizing a Tabligh Booth at the 'Celebrate Barrie' festival. The booth is held every year since then and always attracts hundreds of visitors. The festival is hosted by the city of Barrie every summer.

From 2009 to present day, Lajna Barrie also participates in the annual Waterfront Cleanup Day organized by the city.

In 2010 Maidah Ahmad was elected as President and relations with interfaith groups and community organizations were extended. Visits were made to Synagogue, Churches and Women's Shelter.

Mrs. Sadiqa Bushra has served as Vice President as well as General Secretary with her.

2011: A team of National Majlis 'Āmila came to Barrie and conducted the Al Muslimat workshop on February 27, 2011. The team consisted of National President, Mrs. Amtul Noor Daud, National Secretary Ta'lim, Mrs. Amtul Salaam Malik Sāhiba and her assistant Mrs. Nadia Mahmood Sāhiba, and National Secretary Tarbiyat, Mrs Munaza Khan Sāhiba.

In the same year Lajna Barrie arranged a public window display at the Barrie Public Library lasting for two weeks. The display consisted of a copy of the Holy Qur'ān, Islāmic artefacts, important and poignant Jamā'at literature as well as photos of the Promised Messiah^{as}. In the same year a Holy Qur'ān exhibition was held with Newmarket Majlis in Newmarket library.

In the same year, a group of Lajna took a tour of the Am Shalom synagogue in Barrie. Following this, we were invited to a fundraising event held at the synagogue in support of women in Africa on October 22, 2011. The relationship continued to strengthen over the coming years and twice Lajna Barrie participated in Mitzvah Day. On Sunday September 18, 2011, Lajna Barrie, alongside the Jewish congregants, took part in Barrie's first Great Canadian Shoreline Clean up. Following this, on October 20th 2013 we once again worked together to clean up a local park; Shalom park.

2011: A joint collaboration between Barrie, Richmond Hill, Newmarket and Bradford Majālis culminated in two interfaith events being held in St. Mary's Anglican Church in Newmarket on April 23, 2011 and September 28, 2013.

Starting the same year we held regular food drives and on the occasion of Eid in 2011, and presented to the local food bank with food hampers. Lajna Barrie liaised with the local Women and Children's shelter and committed to providing the shelter with dinner for 30 women and children on the first Monday every month. This initiative was very warmly received and we often received

"Thank you" cards in the post.

2011-2013: Lajna Barrie held Book Stall at the Annual Peter Silveira's Interfaith Breakfast organized by a local MP.

2013: Principal Aisha academy; Mrs Sheila Malik visited Barrie and held a question answer session with members. Two Lajna members (Naila Jamil and Sobia Jamil) were already studying in Aisha Academy at the time.

March 2013: Subsequent to Annual Peter Silveira's Interfaith Breakfast, Lajna Barrie developed a close relationship with female congregants of the local Lutheran church. Dr. Amtul Qudoos Farhat was invited to speak at the Westside Evangelical Lutheran Church of Barrie. A basic introduction of Islām and Ahmadiyyat was presented, followed by a very fruitful question and answer session.

With our increased profile, came two fantastic opportunities for us. Firstly, from 2013, we have been invited twice to participate in Cultural Days, organized by the City. Secondly, we have worked alongside the City's Recreation Department to initiate a female only swimming session. This received a lot of media attention and bore fruition on September 30, 2013 with the first ever female only swimming sessions becoming available for the public.

September 2013: two Lajna members were appointed to the office of National Majlis 'Āmila. Being a Majlis away from Markaz, it was a great honour for Lajna Barrie. Dr. Amtul Qudoos Farhat was appointed as National Secretary Ishā'at and Naila Jamil was appointed to the office of General Secretary.

November 2014: Lajna Barrie participated actively in the Solidarity Rally in front of Barrie City Hall to condemn the terror attack at Parliament Hill and the National War Memorial in Ottawa.

November 2014: Lajna Barrie actively participated in the annual Muslims for Remembrance Day

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50-Year History of Lajna Imā'illah Edmonton

By: Dr. Fozia Zakaria, Edmonton

Lajna Imā'illah Edmonton is among one of the largest Majālis of Jamā'at Ahmadiyya, Canada. Jamā'at Edmonton was established in April, 1977 during the visit of the USA Missionary, Masood Ahmad Jehlami Sāhib. However, it is recorded that Ahmadis were present in Edmonton earlier than 1966. Total number of members was 58 at the time of establishment.

Lajna Imā'illah was established in 1978 and respected Aziza Abdullah Sāhiba was appointed as first president for Lajna Imā'illah Edmonton. Her "Āmila comprised of Amatul Shafi Chaudhary Sāhiba (General Secretary) and Farhat Maqbool Sāhiba (Secretary Māl). Farhat Maqbool Sāhiba is recorded as first Lajna of Edmonton Jamā'at. Total Lajna members at that time were only 5.

With the establishment of the Jamā'at and auxiliary organizations, Ta'lim and Tarbiyat activities including Nāsirāt and Atfal classes were initiated. These classes were held at East Glen School and Harry Ainlay Composite High School for 3 years.



**First Ahmadiyya Center Edmonton
Jamā'at (February 1984-April 1997)**

Initial Salāt center was at the residence of Maqbool Ahmed Sāhib. Later, as the need arose, an office space was rented in February 1984, called "Ahmadiyya Muslim Centre". This centre was inaugurated by Respected Naseem Mahdi Sāhib, Amīr Jamā'at Canada. With the Grace of Almighty Allāh, Edmonton Jamā'at was blessed with its first Mosque in April 1997. It was a church that was converted into a mosque and the beautiful name "Bait-ul Hadi" was given to it. It also comprised of a missionary house.



By the Grace of Allāh, Edmonton Jamā'at has been blessed with the visit of two Khulfa e Ahmadiyyat. Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masih IVth visited Edmonton Jamā'at in September 1986 and November 1987. He led prayers; held Majlis e Irfan; and also delivered a lecture on the topic of "Future of Mankind" to non-Ahmadī Muslims. Hazrat Khalīfat-ul Masih V^{aa} visited Edmonton Jamā'at in 2005 and stayed at Bait-ul Hadi. He also met the local families during this visit.

Lajna Imā'illah Edmonton held their first Annual Ijtimā' in 1985. Edmonton Lajna also benefited with the visit of National Presidents during this period. The first National Lajna President who visited Edmonton Majlis was respected Mahmooda Mian Sāhiba in 1987.

Highlights of other achievements and celebrations are as follows:

1979	First Jalsa Sālāna Western Canada, Edmonton
1988	First Lajna Session at Jalsa Sālāna Western Canada
1989	Golden Jubilee Celebrations
1992	National President Amtul Rafiq Tahira visited for the first time
1996	First Lajna Meena Bazaar
1997	First Lajna Interfaith Symposium
2000-2005	First local Lajna monthly Newsletter published Establishment of four Halqaja'at for Lajna Imā'illah Edmonton 25 th Jalsa Sālāna Western Canada held in Edmonton (2003) National President Amatul Rafiq Zafar Sāhiba visited Edmonton for first time
2006-2012	Holy Qur'ān Exhibitions organized National President Amtul Noor Daud Sāhiba visited for first time Khilāfat Jubilee Celebrations (2008)
2014	First Annual Health Symposium Affiliated with Canadian Blood Services, Primary Care Network and Alberta Health Service
2015	Division of Edmonton Jamā'at into East and West
2016	Edmonton participated in Canada wide #JeSuisHijabi campaign, got media coverage and interview with CBC Edmonton



Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV delivering a lecture on "Future of Mankind" (1986 at Ahmadiyya Centre Edmonton)

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IVth delivering lecture on "Future of Mankind" (1986 at Ahmadiyya Centre Edmonton)

(Continued from page 26)

campaign and a Peace and Harmony Rally at the local City Hall. These events were projected by the local media, Alhamdulillah!

In December 2015 Lajna held a Je Suis Hijabi booth at the 1st Annual Interfaith Symposium of Barrie Jamā'at at the Army Navy and Air Force Centre in Barrie.

May 2016: National President Amtul Noor Daud Sāhiba and National General Secretary Mansoor Rauf Sāhiba joined us in our Local Ijtimā'.

Today we are 57 in number. We have always worked with great unity, mutual respect and a deep desire to make a positive difference in our community. May Allāh enable us to grow to-

gether as a strong solid Jamā'at and help us positively convey the message of true Islām and Ahmadiyyat locally and all around Canada! Amīn!

Resources:

- <https://themuslimtimes.info/2014/11/28/barrie-faiths-come-together-to-say-peace-for-all/>
- <https://themuslimtimes.info/2012/11/09/building-better-bridges-in-barrie-ontario/>
- <https://themuslimtimes.info/2013/11/09/barrie-faiths-come-together-to-say-love-for-all-hatred-for-none/>
- <https://themuslimtimes.info/2013/03/20/in-barrie-we-talk-to-each-other/>
- <https://themuslimtimes.info/2014/11/09/ahmadiyya-barrie-speaks-out-against-violence-and-terrorism/>
- <https://themuslimtimes.info/2014/11/07/amj-remembrance-day-campaign-in-barrie-on/>
- <https://themuslimtimes.info/2014/11/07/amj-peace-harmony-rally-building-bridges-in-barrie/>

Building of Lajna Imā'illah Calgary

By: Bushra Bari, Calgary North East

I moved from Toronto to Calgary in February, 1977. At that time there was no Jamā'at organization in Calgary. The local Ahmadis had requested to the USA Mission to conduct Jamā'at elections, as the Jamā'at in Canada was under the USA Jamā'at. At that time there were around eleven Lajna members in Calgary. However, there was no Lajna activity except once in a while when Lajna members used to meet each other at dinner functions at Lajna member's houses. However, in such gatherings, no Lajna meeting was held.

At the request of the Calgary members, Maulana Muhammad Siddique Sāhib Gurdaspuri, Amīr Jamā'at, USA sent Mukkaram Masood Ahmad Jehlami Sāhib to Calgary to conduct the elections. On April 10, 1977 he conducted Sadr Jamā'at, Qaid Khudammul Ahmadiyya, and Sadr Lajna elections all in the same hall. The whole Jamā'at had been earlier informed about the holding of the elections. Six Lajna participated in the elections and I, Bushra Bari, was elected as Sadr Lajna, Calgary, and Bushra Ilyas Sāhiba was appointed as Secretary Maal. The Lajna members who participated in the elections were: Bushra Ilyas, Sarwat Munawar, Aini Sayed, Rubi, Naseera Mirza and myself (Bushra Bari).

The first Lajna meeting was held on April 10, 1977, immediately after the elections. After the elections, Lajna started holding meetings at the house of Chaudhary Muhammad Ilyas Sāhib. Programs from the men's side were listened to by the Lajna; this system of meetings continued until February 1978. After that the local Jamā'at rented two

rooms for holding meetings, one for the Jamā'at and the other for the Lajna. Thus, Friday Prayers, monthly meetings of the auxiliaries and children's classes were regularly held there. This place was used for the Jamā'at activities until January, 1979. In October, 1978, the Calgary Jamā'at purchased a place which required some repair work. Therefore, the opening of this center occurred in January 1979 by respected Mansoor Ahmad Bashir Sāhib, Amīr and Missionary Incharge, Canada. Mr. Ross Elger, the Mayor of Calgary participated in the opening ceremony. This was the first Mission House which was purchased in Canada. The Lajna and Nāsirāt regularly used to go there for Friday Prayer and other Prayers.

In October, 1979, the late Hazrat Chaudary Muhammad Zafrulla Khan Sahib^{ra} came to Calgary to participate in Religious Founders Day program which was chaired by him in the University of Calgary. At this occasion Lajna Calgary also met Hazrat Chaudhary Sahibra. In 1980, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh III^{rh} visited Calgary. Soon it was felt that the Calgary Jamā'at was increasing in size and a bigger place was needed to carry on the Jamā'at activities. Therefore, a Church was purchased in August 1988; which was more than enough for the size of the Jamā'at at that time. Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh IV^{rh} had blessed this place with his visit in 1989. The building had a Hall dedicated for Lajna activities in which more than 150 Lajna were able to offer Prayers.

Soon this place also became insufficient for the growing population of Jamā'at. In July 2001, four

acres of land was purchased in the city for the purpose of building a mosque. The foundation of the mosque was laid by Huzoor^{aa} on June 18, 2005. The Lieutenant Governor of Alberta participated in the foundation-laying ceremony. By the Grace of God, through extraordinary sacrifices made by the Canada Jamā'at, a beautiful House of God, which was named Baitun Noor Mosque, was built in 2008. The mosque cost sixteen million dollars to build. Finally the day came when our beloved Imam, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V^{aa} came to Calgary for the opening ceremony held on July 4, 2008. On July 5, 2008, Mr. Stephen Harper, the Prime Minister of Canada came to Calgary to meet

Huzoor^{aa} and to participate in the opening ceremony of the mosque.

The Calgary Lajna which had just six members in 1977, has grown to having 914 members presently. All Lajna members possess spirit of spiritual competition and are fully devoted to the Khilāfat. As a reward for their humble services to Islām and Ahmadiyyat, God Almighty has blessed them extraordinarily through monetary means and has blessed their progenies. May God Almighty grant more opportunities to serve the Jamā'at and Ahmadiyyat. Amīn!

Presidents of the Lajna Imā'illah Calgary (One Unit) from 1977 to 2005

Name of President	Period of Service	Number of
Bushra Bari	April 1977 to September 1981	5 years
Naseera Mirza	October 1981 to September 1983	2 years
Bushra Bari	October 1983 to September 1985	2 years
Amatul Rashid Shaukat	October 1985 to September 1987	2 years
Bushra Bari	October 1987 to September 1996	9 years
Zakiyya Sarwat	October 1996 to September 1998	2 years
Bushra Bari	October 1998 to September 2004	6 years
Maimoona Mubarika	October 2004 to September 2005	1 year

At the end of 2005 with the approval of Huzoor^{aa} Calgary was divided into three Majālis. The following three Lajna Presidents were elected:

- Bushra Bari President Lajna Calgary North East
- Maimoona Mubarak President Lajna Calgary South West
- Shahida Safeer President Lajna Calgary North West

In 2009 the Presidential system was dissolved in Calgary Jamā'at and the Amarat system was adopted. The Calgary Jamā'at was divided into seven chapters. Each chapter has its own president and Amatul Qayyum Sāhiba is the regional president.

Some Historical Milestones of Ishā'at Department over 50 years

By: Dr. Amtul Qudoos Farhat, National Secretary Ishā'at

In the initial years of Lajna Imā'illah Canada, there were no local publications of Jamā'at. Members subscribed to Misbah, the monthly Urdu magazine published from Rabwah. National Majlis 'Āmila included Secretary Misbah who would collect Misbah subscription and distribute the magazine among subscribers. Bushra Bari was appointed Misbah Secretary for the year 1975-1976 and there were 10 subscribers of Misbah at the time which increased to 15 in 1976. In 1976 Amtul Karim Khalīfa was appointed as Misbah Secretary and subscribers list rose to 30.

In 1979, the title of Misbah Secretary was extended to include Ishā'at. Mrs. Amtul Karim Khalīfa was appointed as Secretary Misbah and Ishā'at. From 1982, two separate secretaries were appointed for the first time: one for Tabligh & Nasharo Ishā'at and the other for Misbah. Mrs. Aneesa Danyal became Secretary for Tabligh and Nashro Ishā'at and Mrs. Rahat Malik as Secretary Misbah and Tajneed.

Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh III^{rh}'s visit to Canada

In 1976 Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh III^{rh} visited Canada. This visit had positive effect on Ishā'at. Publication of Ahmadiyya Gazette which had already been initiated became more regular and Lajna members began contributing to the magazine. The Annual report of Lajna Imā'illah 1976-77 was published for the first time in Ahmadiyya Gazette this year. Members also wrote for Misbah and an article by Mrs. Bushra Virk, Secretary

Misbah was published in Misbah of May 1978.

The telephone and address directory of Ahmadiyya Jamā'at Canada was published in December 1978 and it included names of Lajna as well.

First Nashro Ishā'at & Tabligh activity

According to Lajna report of 1981-1982, Lajna Imā'illah placed 100 copies of the book Teachings of Islām in various hotels in Canada.

First Ilmi Nashist (Educational Forum)

The first Ilmi Nashist(Educational Forum) was organized by Amīr Sāhib and Missionary In-charge of the time on November 14, 1982 in the Mission House. This meeting was organized on the request of Lajna Imā'illah. Lajna members wished to enhance their religious knowledge for Tabligh purpose.

First Formal Plan of Propagation (Ishā'ate Islām ka Mansooba)

1982-1983: Hazrat Sayyeda Maryam Siddiqā Sāhibā, Sadr Lajna Imā'illah Markaziyya, asked Lajna Canada to send a plan of programs for the Departments of Ishā'at and Tabligh. This was in view of an address delivered by Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh III^{rh} at Lajna Ijtimā' in 1982. English translation of this address was sent to all countries. Lajna was told to devise programs according to the country they live in. It was also stated that Canada has great potential for the propagation of Islām.

On April 17, 1983 a formal plan of propagation of Islām (Ishā'ate Islām ka Mansooba) was prepared in a meeting called by the National President, Mrs. Attiya Sharif Sāhiba. Following proposals related to Ishā'at were included in the plan:

Proposal No 1

- ♦ Distribution of pamphlets about Islām Ahmadiyyat on a large scale via postal service.
- ♦ Stickers should be made bearing telephone number of Mission House along with Love for All Hatred for None and Ahmadiyya movement in Islām. Every car owned by an Ahmadi man or women should display it.
- ♦ Tabligh day should be celebrated
- ♦ Non Ahmadi and non-Muslims should be invited to interfaith meetings
- ♦ Pamphlets on Pardah should be printed and distributed among people.

Proposal No 2

- ♦ An annual calendar of year round programs should be prepared in which date for every event (Jalsa Seertun Nabi, Musleh Mau'ud day, Masih Mau'ud Day, Khilāfat Day, Ijtimā' Nāsirātul Ahmadiyya, Ijtimā' Lajna Imā'illah and Annual Convention.) should be entered.

Proposal No 3

- ♦ At that time, Misbah was received by Misbah Secretary and then distributed. It was suggested that the names and addresses of all subscribers of Misbah should be sent to Markaz so that Misbah was mailed directly at their home address.

The same year an Urdu speech on propagation of Islām and our responsibilities was delivered at the Jalsa Sālāna by a Lajna member.

The first response letters of Lajna Canada: Letters to President Ziaul Haq and his wife

In 1984, when Ziaul Haq regime restricted activities of Ahmadīs under new clause of section 298 C & B of Pakistan constitution, some members and president of Lajna Imā'illah Canada wrote letters to the President Ziaul Haq and his wife Sahfiqa Ziaul Haq on May 14, 1984.

The same year (1984) many copies of the Holy Qur'an with English translation were placed in various libraries.

First Ishā'at and Tabligh report

The first Ishā'at and Tabligh report was submitted for 1982-1983. The Ishā'at and Tabligh Secretary reported following activities:

- * Publication of 1000 pamphlets, some were distributed to homes, rest were sent by mail.
- * Three copies of the Holy Qur'an were gifted to non-Muslims.
- * Copies of the book Islāmi Asool ki Philosophy (The Philosophy of Teachings of Islām) was placed in the waiting rooms of various clinics.
- * A pamphlet called "What is Ahmadiyyat" was distributed in various apartments and buildings.
- * 500 car stickers of Love for All and Hatred for None were sold to Ahmadīs for display on their car.

Ishā'at activities gradually expanded in subsequent years. It included regular Book Stalls by local Majālis, publication of some books and translation works.

Issuing of An-Nisaa'

The publication of quarterly magazine An-Nisaa' was initiated in 1988 under the National President Mrs. Mahmooda Mian Sāhiba.

In 2004, Mrs. Qudsia Hameed was appointed as National Secretary Ishā'at. Kindly see a separate tabulated report of activities during her tenure in which some pioneer developments took place in the departments of Audiovisual, MTA and the National Media Team.

2013 - To Date

Dr. Amtul Qudoos Farhat was appointed as the National Secretary Ishā'at in 2013. By the Grace of Allāh, over a short period of time multiple milestones have been accomplished.

Special edition of An-Nisaa' on "The First Blessed Decade of Khilāfat-e-Khamisah 2003-2013"

A special edition of An-Nisaa' on "The First Blessed Decade of Khilāfat Khamisah 2003-2013" was published in May 2015.

The concept of the issue was proposed by National President Mrs. Amtul Noor Daud Sāhiba. It was a very blessed publication since all the topics covered in this edition were sent by the office of Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V (may Allāh be his Helper). Masha Allāh! It was a huge research publication with more than 500 pages and more than 20 topics on various aspects of the golden era of the first decade of Khilāfat Khamisah. It was the first publication of its kind around the globe. Three drafts were submitted to Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh^{aa} before its final approval. Alhamdolillah, National President, National Secretary Ishā'at and editors along with their dedicated teams worked very hard for months to produce this research publication.



Huzoor Anwar^{aa} sent two letters of heartfelt advice, appreciation and prayers for all teams. Alhamdolillah!

Publication of Books

In the same year, eleven books were published; nine of them were stories of Sahābayat (companions) of the Holy Prophet^{sa} for children.

Two other Special editions of An-Nisaa'

Another special issue of An-Nisaa' was published in August 2015 on the theme of "The Holy Prophet^{sa}" and yet another special issue on Ten Conditions of Bai'at was published during same period.



Pen to Preach Bulletin

A bulleting named 'Pen to Preach' was started in 2014 to respond to controversial issues in media. In first two years 3001 responses were submitted and around 50 bulletins were sent out.

Chanda Ishā'at

Chanda Ishā'at was proposed by Ishā'at department and passed by Majlis Shūrā in 2015. It was approved by Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V^{aa} in December 2015 and implemented from 2016 at the rate of 5 dollar per member per year.

An-Nisaa' in Every Lajna Home

The issue of January-April 2016 was the first ever issue of An-Nisaa' which was sent by Canada Post to every Lajna home in Canada. This was a historic step for the Department of Ishā'at, Lajna Imā'illah Canada.

An-Nisaa' was made available on Alislām Website

By the Grace of Allāh, An-Nisaa' was made available online on May 7, 2016 under the tab of Periodicals. (www.alislam.org/library/periodicals/)

An-Nisaa' website was launched on April 28, 2016. The website was designed by Attiya tul Qudoos from Bradford Majlis. (www.annisaa.ca)

We are going through a commemorative year of 50th anniversary of Jamā'at in Canada. The special edition of An-Nisaa' you are reading is our first commemorative effort in this regard and Insha Allāh a new series of books is on its way for publication. Kindly remember Ishā'at in your valuable prayers.

Resources:

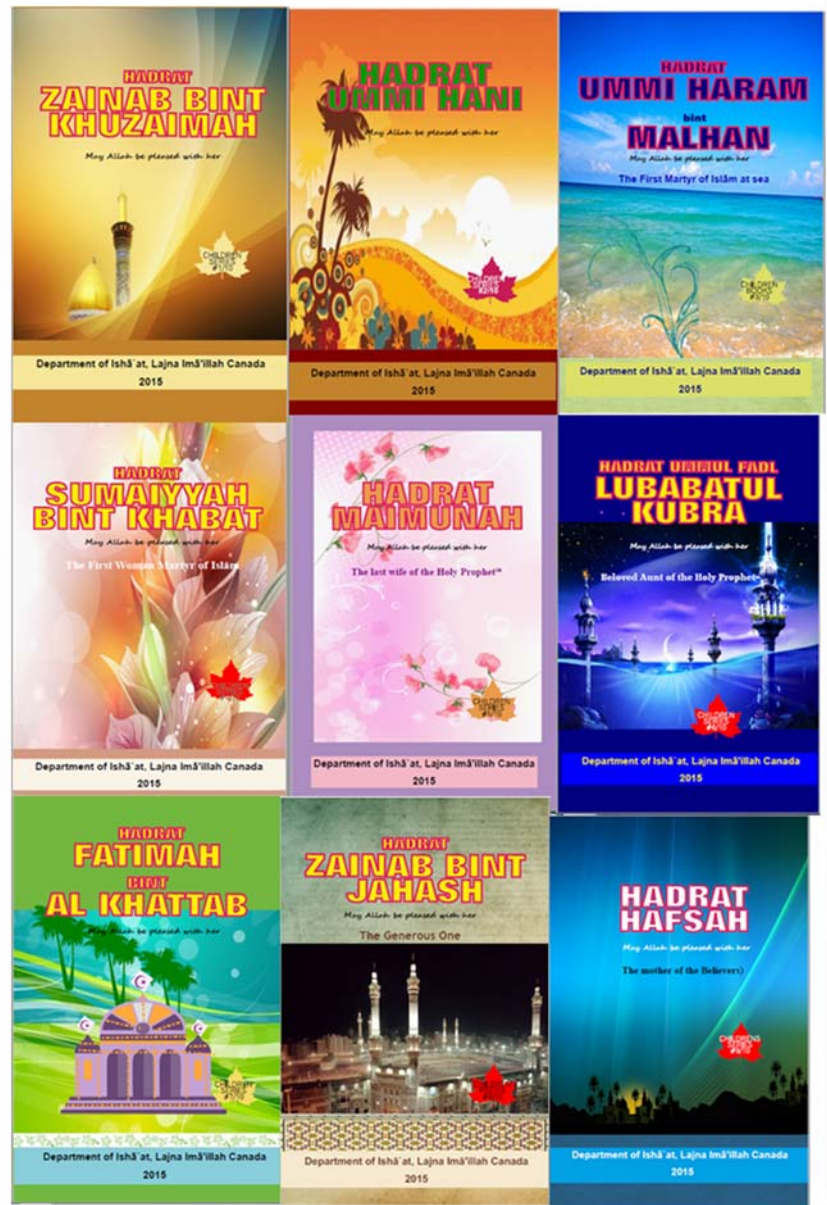
- History of Lajna Imā'illah Canada (1962-1984) Vol: 1 by Mrs. Amtul Shakoor Sāhiba and Mrs. Amtul Latif Khurshid Sāhiba (former Secretary Ishā'at Lajna Imā'illah Markaziyya and former editor of Misbah)
- Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada
- Annual Reports of Ishā'at Department, Lajna Imā'illah Canada



An-Nisaa'

An-Nisaa' Lajna Imā'illah Canada

[An-Nisaa](http://www.annisaa.ca)



Ishā'at and Audiovisual: Significant Milestones from 2004 – 2013

By: Amtul Qudoos Qudsia,
Incharge MTA, Audio/Video, and Media Relations Team

In the article below some achievements of the Department of Ishā'at, spearheaded by Amtul Qudoos Qudsia, between years 2004 and 2013 are mentioned. Major accomplishments have been categorized in a section following by the initiation date for that activity.

Book Stalls — July 3, 2004

Huzoor^{aa} had instructed in an 'Āmila meeting that Jamā'at books should be present in every home. As per this instruction of Huzoor^{aa}, Lajna Imā'illah undertook the task of sending books across Canada for holding Book Stalls at local levels.

Children's Musha'irah—2004

The first ever Children's Musha'irah was held this year.

Donations- — 2005

The chanda donated for the purpose of adding announcements in An-Nisaa' magazine was sent to Markaz to be used towards Ishā'at initiatives.

An-Nisaa' — Continued since 1988

The An-Nisaa' magazine continued to be distributed during this period by hand across Canada to 76 Majālis. It featured research letters, important reports, valuable articles and published Sermons of Khulafa.

Translations of Books —2005

Many books were translated in English such as Adab Hayat [Etiquette of Life], Seerat Hazrat Amma Jan^{ra}, The Sacred Legacy, and Seerat Maulana Sher Ali Sāhib and Konpal [book for children].

Response Team — 2005

A response team was established upon instruction of Huzoor Anwar^{aa}. Approximately 150 members volunteered and were selected for this task, who wrote letters to media.

First Holy Qur'ān Exhibition — 2005

The first Holy Qur'ān exhibition was held in Maple



Library located in Vaughan, Ontario.

First Lajna MTA Studio — 2004

The first Lajna MTA Studio was established in Baite Maryam, and a documentary on Peace Village was the first to be produced in this first Lajna Imā'illah studio.

MTA Team Work—December 2005

Following are some of the topics that MTA Canada, Lajna team worked on:

- Documentaries
- Health/Sports
- Huzoor's visits to Canada

- Produced a Niagara Falls program
- First Aid
- Sunday School documentary

During one of his tours to Canada, Huzoor^{aa} also came to Lajna MTA room and advised the Lajna MTA Team to create and produce 50 programs and to leave the men behind in this work.

MTA International Programs

Around 14 programs were created for MTA International and were televised. Multiple poems were written and videos were created for Markaz and they were televised.

Real Talk — October 2010; 2012

This program was recorded under instructions from Markaz. Three episodes of Real Talk aired in 2012; the topics discussed were growing up as young Muslim Women in the West, Womens' Rights and Liberation, Multiculturalism and Religious Diversity.



Al-Muslimat — 2009

This program was produced by Lajna as the second series of shows by MTA Lajna Canada. Eight show episodes aired on MTA International multiple times.

Khilāfat Jubilee — 2008

During the Khilāfat Jubilee year, the following accomplishments were made:

- ♦ Journey to Islām Ahmadiyyat documentary played on Khilāfat Jubilee Dinner in the presence of Khalifatul-Masīh V^{aa}.

- ♦ Poem videography for MTA International was created.
- ♦ Unforgettable Khilāfat Jubilee Mushairah related to the love of Khilāfat was held.
- ♦ A production in the memory of Shuhada Lahore was made.
- ♦ Musha'irah and Children's pictures were used to create Khilāfat e Jubilee Calendar.
- ♦ A Nazm CD was created for Khilāfat Jubilee.
- ♦ Souvenirs were also made and distributed.

Canada Day — December 2007

The Canada Day celebration were recorded by Lajna for a Talk Show.

First Media Relations Training — March 2013

The First Media Relations Training was held in March 2013; all work in the preparation of this course was done by Lajna Media Team.

Audio Video Training — 2013-2014

The local Majālis took part in many Audio/Video training sessions. As a result, local programs were developed. Local Musha'irah programs were introduced and some girls were invited to participate in the National MTA Team.

On a Regional level, a 4-month training program



was held for Lajna members to learn various techniques, programs and Audio/Video tasks.

National Lajna Ijtimā' — 2014-2015

MTA team prepared programs for National Lajna

Imā'illah Ijtimā' on topics such as:

- ♦ Namaz Etiquette
- ♦ Purdah – for Tarbiyat Department
- ♦ The Life of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him)

MTA Audio/Video Training Manual — 2012

A Training Manual was created for MTA Audio/Video. This manual was distributed to Lajna members interested in training and working in MTA department. Approximately 50 members received benefit from this training manual.



New MTA Canada Studio — 2015

Lajna Team has been provided a space for their independent work in the new MTA Canada Studios. There, members record and edit programs. Training is also held there for new members. The studio is equipped with the latest technology and the Lajna team is able to learn new techniques on an ongoing basis to improve their skills and abilities.

Special Videos

Ice fishing video and ice games were also produced for broadcasting.

Live Recording

Lajna MTA Team covered Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper!)’s arrival in Canada during his tours. Lajna MTA Team also broadcast Jalsa Sālāna live from Women’s side every year. A special Nazm recording is usually done for this occasion.

Editing and Green Technology — 2015-2016

Lajna MTA Team has worked on a very detailed and technical editing for men’s programs. Lajna has also excelled in green technology editing for men’s programs.

Media Relations

Lajna Media Relations Team handles all the social

media initiatives. Weekly reports by Lajna team members are compiled for National and International reports.

Je Suis Hijabi — 2015

The first ever Lajna-led media relations campaign, “Je Suis Hijabi” was highly successful in raising awareness of Muslim Women in Canada. News from this campaign were broadcast across local, regional, national and international news networks. This campaign was led nation-wide by Lajna volunteers and spearheaded by the core Media Relations Team and Lajna coordinators. This campaign to date was one of the most successful ones gathering a viewership of millions worldwide.

Astonishing Story of the Prophet

Lajna MTA team worked to recreate content to present at a Seeratun Nabi Jalsa, titled, Astonishing Story of the Prophet. This program featured many speakers and had lots of visual representations, videos, Nazms and pictures to accompany the speeches. Lajna Audio/Video team was responsible to run the program as well as for setting-up and wrapping-up.

Thank you to the following people for being a part of editing magazines, MTA A/V team members, playing the role of Na’iba, and coordinating Media Relations work.

Saadia Mehdi, Hena Malik, Uzma, Khola, Hena Shaikh, Filza Ijaz, Talat Sadiq, Nusrat Javaid, Shaafi Khalifa, Fouzia Qamar, Amatul Mateen Wadood, Maham Ahmed, Bushra Ali, Hira Ahmad, Samitah Chaudhary, Rashda Ahmed, Maryem Shahid, Shakila Tahi, Sadiqa Hifsa and many more.



Milestones in the Area of Tabligh from 1967 to Present

By: Nahid Khokhar, National Secretary Tabligh

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at was established in Canada in 1966. From 1966 to 1982 Lajna was paramount in helping the Jamā'at in all the Tabligh events held. A timeline of some mile stones is given here.

1967: Chaudhary Zafrulla Khan Sahib^{ra} visited Canada for the first time. The first Tabligh event was held and Lajna participated in its organization.

1969: On New Year's Day, the Holy Qur'ān was read in Brantford and reported in the Newspaper; picture of Mubarika Sheikh Sāhibā's family and her daughters was posted on the cover of the paper.

1971: Lajna gave 12 copies of the Holy Qur'ān to University Professors. 15 copies of the Holy Qur'ān were given to other institutions.

1976: Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masih III^{rh} visited Canada for the first time. The First Jalsa Sālāna was held this year.

1977: Huzoor^{rh} again visited Canada with Begum Sāhibā, and a National Tabligh event was held once again with Lajna helping in many aspects of the organization.

1978: At our second Annual Jalsa Sālāna, Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad^{rh} and Chaudhary Zafrulla Khan Sahib^{ra} attended and a Tabligh events was held.

1980: Lajna gave some copies of the Holy Qur'ān to a Citizenship Oath ceremony for the event and new citizens. Lajna also provided the refresh-

ments for the event.

1981: The first official National Tabligh Secretary was assigned to the Jamā'at.

1982: Mrs. Anisa Daniyal Sāhibā was appointed as the first National Lajna Tabligh and Ishā'at Secretary.

The first annual report stated the following:

- ◇ 1000 pamphlets were prepared and distributed for Tabligh.
- ◇ Copies of books, 'Death of Hazrat Isa^{as}' and 'Philosophy of the Teachings of Islām' were given by working women to colleagues.
- ◇ Love for All Hatred for None stickers were distributed to be placed on cars.
- ◇ We had a new Ba'it this year also.

1983: On February 6, Lajna held a Seeratun Nabi Jasla with 20 Non-Ahmadi guests who attended and participated in the event. It was held in English and Urdu.

In April of the same year, a special National Lajna Majlis 'Āmila meeting was held to discuss Tabligh activities in Canada and how Lajna could participate. It was discussed that Lajna could contribute to Tabligh efforts by:

- ◇ Mailing literature
- ◇ Holding a National Tabligh Day
- ◇ Distributing Love for All Hatred for None stickers

1983-1984: Mrs. Naeema Daud Sāhibā was National Tabligh Secretary.

Annual report showed preparation of flyers for Jamā'at to distribute door-to-door.

- * Copies of the Holy Qur'ān with English translation placed in libraries
- * Copies of the book 'Our Teachings' placed in libraries
- * One Bai'at this year

1984: Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh IVth visited for the first time and the people of Canada heard for the first time about Ahmadiyyat – The True Islām from our blessed Khalīfa of the time.

From 1984 to 1993 Lajna helped the Jamā'at in all Tabligh events. Documentation is not available to confirm the actual activities that were held.

1994: The first Annual report for this year was

found in our archives. Mrs. Nasira Zuberi Sāhibā was the National Tabligh Secretary at that time. This year 21 Bai'ats were reported.

1995: Mrs. Amtul Saboor Ahmad Sāhibā was appointed the National Tabligh Secretary. In her first year of office, 27 Bai'ats were reported. Our most eastern Majlis at that time was Montreal, Quebec.

1995: The first reference to women-only symposia and conferences is found.

2003: Mrs. Naumana Khan Sāhibā was National Tabligh Secretary in 2003.

2004: Mrs. Tanya Khan Sāhibā [may Allāh raise her station in Heaven] was the National Tabligh Secretary until 2008.

Below is a summary of some notable events held under the Tabligh department.

Event Type	Date	Topic	Attendees
World Religion Conference	April 1995	-	26 Non-Ahmadi
Interfaith Symposium	May 1996	-	29 Non-Ahmadi
Conference	October 1996	Seeratun Nabi ^{sa}	-
World Religion Conference	April 1997	-	-
First Urdu Symposium	December 1997	-	24 Non-Ahmadi
Interfaith Symposium	April 1998	-	45 Non-Ahmadi
Interfaith Symposium	May 1999	The Value of Marriage	34 Non-Ahmadi
Conference	September 1999	Seeratun Nabi ^{sa}	
Interfaith Symposium	May 2000	Moral Teachings about Women	46 Non-Ahmadi
Interfaith Symposium	April 2001	Social Structure	43 Non-Ahmadi
Teachers Conference	November 2001	Michael Cranny School in Maple, Ontario	18 teachers in attendance
Center for Diversity	2001	Initiative by Tanya Khan [may Allāh raise her station in Heaven] to visit schools and/or bring students to the mosque to teach them about Ahmadiyyat – the True Islām.	This continues today with regular schools tours

Event Type	Date	Topic	Attendees
World Peace	April 2002	-	42 Non-Ahmadi
First Lajna Open House	February 2004	Bait-ul Islām invited all 5 neighbouring schools at that time	
Interfaith Symposium	April 2004	Role of Religion in Upbringing of Children	50+ Non-Ahamdi
First Dā'iyat (people who call towards Allāh) Database	June 2004	To track Dā'iyat's Tabligh activities	
Focus Event Looking beyond the Veil: Women Stand-up.	May 2009	First Women's AMSA initiative to introduce the topic of Women in Islām to fellow classmates.	Over 60 Non-Ahmadi
Interfaith Symposium	September 2009	First Interfaith Symposium in Sydney, Nova Scotia	109 Non-Ahmadi
Tabligh Pledge Form	November 2009	Based on the financial model of the Jamā'at was introduced	
Interfaith Symposium	March 2010	Edmonton, Alberta held one of its first events which continue annually.	57 Non-Ahmadi
Interfaith Symposium	November 2010	First French Symposium in Montreal, Quebec	Over 80 Non-Ahmadi
Astonishing Story – Beacon of Light	April 2013	National Event held at the Woodbine Convention center in Etobicoke, Ontario	Over 200 Non-Ahamdi
First National Religious Founders Day	May 2014	Held at Aiwan e Tahir for the first time at a national level	Over 80 Non-Ahmadi
Stop the Crisis Event	April 2015	Stop the Crisis was held by Lajna only in Burlington for the first time	Over 50 Non-Ahmadi
Launch of Je Suis Hijabi Campaign	December 2015	Introducing Canada to the Hijab from Vancouver to PEI	
A-Day-Week for Tabligh Program	January 2016	This was launched by Amīr Sāhib in Fall for 2015. Lajna initiatives started in Jan 2016 and will be tracked every 6-months moving forward.	A-Day-Week for Tabligh Program
First National Women's Peace Conference	March 2016	Maple, Ontario with over 9 various women related organizations and 10 Jamā'at tables	Over 90 Non-Ahmadi guests
Women's Peace Conference	April 2016	Held in Ottawa for the first time	Over 50 Non-Ahmadi

References:

- Lajna Tareekh from 1967-1982 - provided by Secretary Ishā'at – Dr. Amtul Qudoos Fahrāt Sāhibā
- National Tabligh Secretary's Annual Reports from 1994-2004
- Guest list logbooks from 1994-2004
- National Tabligh Secretary's Annual Report forms from 2005 to present

Progress of Department Of Tarbiyat (Moral Training)

By: Nighat Mahmood, National Secretary Tarbiyat

Whether the women of Jamā'at Ahmadiyya live in Pakistan, Africa, Far East or the Americas the majority has always been aware that they have to maintain certain standards of morality within society. These standards have been an identification mark for the women of the Jamā'at.

The women of Jamā'at Ahmadiyya that came to Canada have been no different. Whether they were the five women that started the Montreal Branch of Lajna Imā'illah under the guidance of Respected Ayesha Ata Ullah Sāhibā in 1962 or the 7000 plus members today under the guidance of Respected Amatul Noor Daud Sāhibā National President Lajna Imā'illah Canada most of us understand the importance of maintaining high moral standards Alhamdolillah.

In 1962, Mrs. Ayesha AtaUllah Sāhibā was the head of the Montreal Majlis as well as the care taker of the moral training of the women of the majlis. In 1972, Bushra Zafar Sāhibā was the first Secretary of both Ta'lim & Tarbiyat. With the gradual increase in the needs of the Jamā'at the departments of Ta'lim and Tarbiyat were separated in the late 1990's. Today we have a very proactive department of Trbiyat working under the sharp eye of our President who has a finger on the very pulse of Lajna Imā'illah Canada and is working diligently to improve the moral standard of the members. Whether it is repeatedly reminding them to take care of their five daily prayers, or reciting the Holy Qur'ān daily with translation or listening to the Friday sermons of Huzoor (May Allāh be his helper!), or avoiding social ills.

In 1962, the moral training revolved around articles in "Al Fazal" and "Misbah" magazines. In 1978,

the first syllabus was published in "Ahmadiyya Gazette" and now with the blessings of Allāh and the guidance of Huzoor^{aa} we have a separate syllabus for Tarbiyat in both English and Urdu which is used by 85 Majālis all over Canada, Alhamdolillah.

Any correspondence that arrived from Rabwah, Pakistan and later London, England – the National Headquarters of the Jamā'at, has always been full of advice and blessings and the members considered it their duty to follow the directives within these correspondence to improve themselves. These included letters from the Khalīfa of the time and Incharge Lajna Imā'illah Markaziah.

Arrival of visitors, acting as representative of the Khalīfa of the time, like Respected Hazrat Zafarulla Khan Sahib^{ra} in 1978 or Mir Mahmood Ahmed Nasir in 1979 were taken as auspicious times where one could listen to their advice and improve one's moral standards. This practice still continues.

Visits of the Khulāfa are opportunities for us to learn directly from their advice and a source of blessing. Some examples are when Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmed, Khalīfatul-Masīh III^{ra}, came to visit Canada in 1976, and again in 1980. After his first visit, Huzoor^{rh} sent the first Murabbi and Amīr to Canada so the moral standards of the Canadian Jamā'at could be improved. During his visit, Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmed, Khalīfatul-Masīh IV^{rh}, brought attention towards Purdah in western society and re-emphasized the role of the woman as the caretaker of the children. Subsequently, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmed (May Allāh be his helper!) Khalīfatul-Masīh V, has pre-warned us about the ills of social media, motivated the younger members to do proper purdah with pride and urged us

towards self-reformation as the only way to salvation.

As the department of Tarbiyat grew it was deemed mature enough to take on additional responsibilities.

Though now the Lajna section of Rishtā Nāta has an independent Mu'āwina Sadr, initially it came under the department of Tarbiyat. More responsibility was given to the department of Tarbiyat in 2013 when the post of National Incharge Wassaya was introduced.

Today the department of Tarbiyat is doing its best to improve and maintain the high moral standards that our beloved Khalīfa (May Allāh be his Help-

er!) wants us to maintain. Whether this means the institution of Salāt committees to see to the maintenance of etiquettes of Salāt in the mosque or diligent reformation committees that not only guide people when they seem to be floundering but also assist members in the time of personal need or it is the formulation of a syllabus that will guide us all to self reformation, a directive of Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V (May Allāh be his helper)!

May Allāh bless the efforts of all the Tarbiyat Secretaries at the Majālis level as with out them the department could never have been a success. Amīn

Growing up as an Ahmadī Muslim in Canada

By: Maria Sharif, Edmonton East

We all have sentimental connections to something that belongs to us from childhood. For some it maybe photographs, objects, places or memories but one's strongest connection is often to one's homeland. For me that's Pakistan. That is where the foundation of my life was set, where I received some primary education and where the first memories of love and family took root. I moved to Canada in grade 2 and while the memories of Pakistan are vague and few they are the ones that I hold dearest. Often though, it becomes hard to love and appreciate my homeland when they don't appreciate their own people. The torturous treatment of Ahmadīs, the constant persecution it all creates feelings of alienation from my homeland. I lost a family member to the Lahore Massacre and that is when I truly appreciated growing up Ahmadī in Canada. This country has provided us with an abundance of rights and freedoms. This country has given us a safe place to worship and practice our religion. This country serves us better than our own homeland. We are incredibly fortunate to live in this amazing country. Growing up Ahmadī in Canada I never felt any fear because of my religion, and didn't need to worry about violence and acceptance. Through freedom of expression we are able to convey our message of "Love for all and Hatred for none." Being a writer, this is one freedom I appreciate the most. I am able to raise awareness of the unfair treatment of Ahmadīs in Pakistan through my writing. Being a woman living as an Ahmadī in Canada is especially empowering. Women are able to hold interfaith symposiums, debates and open houses to better educate the general public. In Canada our voice is heard. These are all blessing that we take for granted. Ahmadīs in Pakistan lose their lives merely over the fact that they have pledged allegiance to the Messiah of the time. Living in Canada it is our responsibility to act as good citizens of this phenomenal country. Through the power of the pen we need to spread the word of Ahmadiyyat and lift the veil of ignorance. We have the means of accomplishing this task.



Our Beloved Baitud Dua

By: Aasiya Rashid Chaudhry, Vancouver

Dear Baitud Dua:

I was 14 years old--and you were in your infancy of becoming Vancouver's first Namaz Centre. Located in the heart of the Lower Mainland, this tiny parcel of land, where the building was barely 1500 square feet and the parking boasted a capacity of only twenty cars, (twenty five if they were bumper to bumper) would become the epicenter of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at in Vancouver in the next few years.

My father, then President of the Vancouver Jamā'at, Rashid Ahmad Chaudhry Sāhib, needed approval from Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh IVth to purchase this land. Additionally, there were many hurdles ahead - when the minimum wage was \$3.65, arranging for an amount of \$70,000+ was a monumental task! How would a Jamā'at of barely 100 people gather such funds?

My father was a wonderful motivator, planner, organizer, and strategist. With the overwhelming support of the local Jamā'at, a trip to Spain was organized. My father would lead a small delegation, in 1982 to the grand opening of the Spanish mosque, Basharat Mosque in Cordoba.

Muslims had constructed their first mosque in Spain, after 500 years!

This was an incredibly joyous occasion for the Jamā'at, and such was the purpose and agenda of this Vancouver delegation. Graciously, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh IVth granted approval for the purchase of this two bedroom house, granted on

the condition that half of the funds to be provided by the Markaz and the remaining funds to be raised locally.

The Vancouver Jamā'at, with all its might could not generate enough to total this handsome sum of money. Instead, my father, his two brothers and brother-in-law took matters into their own hands - literally. They ended up taking half the mortgage on to their names, splitting the monthly cost, four ways.

Baitud Dua, you were inaugurated in October of 1986, the same year Vancouver became an international destination, with the 1986 World Exposition on Transportation and Communication.

We could now hold regular meetings, listen to Huzoor's sermon (on the Sunday!) via cassette tape and have the foundations laid for the very first generation of Atfal/Nāsirāt classes, led by Pir Waheed Sāhib and his wife Amatul Saboor Sāhiba. Incidentally, the Book of Religious Knowledge, was dedicated to the children of Vancouver during these early years.

Even though this 2-storey building was small and quaint, the unfinished basement did not faze any of us, we were in awe of this place belonging to us. The countless Tarbiyati camps, Iftaris and Ijtimā't became permanent staples of the Vancouver Jamā'at, that we still enjoy to this day – at Baitur Rahman Mosque.

Baitud Dua, you are forever part of history in Vancouver and British Columbia. We will never forget you.

Baitul Hamd Mosque in Mississauga

By: Nasia Mubbasher Qureshi, Mississauga Jamā'at



Baitul Hamd Mosque

Ever since the establishment of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at in Canada, Mississauga has played a pivotal role and early settlers chose Mississauga as their first choice.

During the blessed visit of Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh IV^{rh} to inaugurate the Baitul Islām Mosque on October 17, 1992 in Maple, Vaughan, then-Mayor of Mississauga Hazel McCallion requested Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh IV^{rh}, to have next mosque built in GTA in her City Mississauga. To this Huzoor^{rh} replied, 'yes, Insha'Allāh!'

As the Jamā'at was growing rapidly in Mississauga, the need of having a Central Mosque and Community Center was direly felt. A Mosque committee was formulated, to find a suitable facility, big enough to fulfil the needs of the community for many years to come, and also have ample parking, separate areas to hold various events, washrooms and a dining area.

In December 1998, a local real estate agent approached the Jamā'at about a property which might fulfill our needs. After the visits of Amīr Sāhib and the National 'Āmila, the immediate decision was made to submit the offer to purchase the property with only one condition -- the approval of Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh IV^{rh}. Huzoor^{rh} graciously granted his approval on the very next day. By the Grace of God, the closing date was set on April 26, 1999; and the Baitul Hamd Mosque was inaugurated by then Amīr Sāhib Canada, Maulana Naseem Mehdi Sāhib.

A financial sacrifice scheme was launched to raise the funds necessary to purchase the property; the members of Jamā'at went out of the way to contribute beyond their means — the contributions of Lajna members were exemplary; newlywed brides offered all their jewelry; people sold their belongings; postponed their vacations and major purchases such as homes and automobiles. By the Grace of Allāh in short time all the funds required for the purchase of the House of Allāh were raised prior to the closing date.

After inauguration of the mosque, it became a magnet for young and old members who could now come for prayers — it also attracted the youth community as now we had a community center where other activities, such as meetings, sports activities and regular classes could take place at our own schedule. Some of the activities include:

- ♦ Weekly readings of the Promised Messiah^{as}'s books and open discussion
- ♦ Waqfeen Nau Weekly classes
- ♦ Auxiliary organizations' weekly Tarbiyati and sports program
- ♦ Nasir Academy Peel Region started as Sunday School, meeting the needs of Mississauga, Brampton, Oakville, Burlington and Milton Jamā'at and has been running since January 2003 (Now the Nasir Academy)
- ♦ Training courses by Khuddam ul Ahmadiyya Canada
- ♦ Regional Events for Mississauga and Brampton Lajna Imā'illah

Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalīfatul-Masīh V^{aa}, on his visit to Canada in year 2004 visited Baitul Hamd Mosque and officially inaugurated First Jāmi'a Ahmadiyya, in North America. By the Grace of God, Baitul Hamd, Mississauga had the honour of hosting the Jāmi'a Canada in its facility from year 2003 to 2012. It was later moved to Aiwan Tahir in Maple.

After the departure of Jāmi'a from Baitul Hamd Mosque, the use of the property was reviewed on the direction of Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh^{aa} and various proposals were sent to seek the guidance of Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh. One proposal was to establish a funeral home - due to the increasing financial requirements at very trying time for the families, the respected Amīr Sāhib Canada directed that a funeral home be built. After construction, a funeral home was opened on April 20, 2014, and up un till now it has helped over 90 families to look after their loved ones, and give them a dignified funeral at

very minimal cost.

The National Ta'līm Department under the direct supervision of Amīr Sāhib Canada established first Ahmadiyya Muslim Elementary School in Baitul Hamd Mosque. The Ministry of Education in mid-September 2015 approved this project and on September 2015, the Ahmadiyya Elementary School was inaugurated by Amīr Jamā'at Canada, Respected Lal Khan Malik Sāhib with Grad one (1) to Grad three (3). Moving forward one more grades will be added, with hope that this will become an Ahmadiyya University in future.

The Building has gone through minor changes to accommodate the needs of community; it has an apartment for Murabbi Sāhib's Residence. The property sits on 5.16 acres of prime land, with total constructed area of 28,000 square feet, which is dividable in three (3) separated areas, including cafeteria, and large commercial kitchen. There is also 218 parking spots. In future there is plan to alter the exterior to give a shape of mosque. May Allāh make this building a blessing for Jamā'at and give us wisdom to fulfill our obligation to the Mosque.

We pray that O Allāh! make the Baitul Hamd the guiding light for Mississauga and enable use to build more bigger Mosques to accommodate, all of those people, who will join Jamā'at Ahmadiyya as promised by Allāh for the final Victory of Islām. Amīn!



Baitul Islam Mosque

By: Nazia Khurshid Ahmad and Maliha Shahid, Vaughan Region

Ahmadi Muslims who lived in Toronto prior to the 1990s will remember all of Toronto being just one Jamā'at. Many Ahmadi Muslim children from across Toronto gathered together for their Nāsirāt and Atfal classes at Driftwood School in North York. All members of the Jamā'at congregated at the David and Mary Thomson Collegiate Institute in Scarborough for Ramadan, Jalsas and Majlis Shūrā. We celebrated Eid and other events at Paradise Banquet Hall in Vaughan.



A beautiful night view of Baitul Islām Mosque

As fond as our memories of these places are, our beloved Imām, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Promised Messiah^{as}, has said: “If you want Islām to progress build a mosque... If there are only a few Muslims in a village or a city, build a mosque with good intentions and God will bring more Muslims to that place” (Malfoozat Vol 2, p. 42). In 1992, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh IVth graciously fulfilled the first part of the Promised Messiah^{as}'s wise advice through the inauguration of Vaughan's beautiful and bright Baitul Islām Mosque - a shining star in the Vaughan landscape! Little did we know in those early days how true these prophetic words of Promised Messiah^{as} would ring for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at in Canada.

Ahmadi Muslims who grew up in Toronto in the 1990s will remember what seemed like never-ending drives through picturesque tree-lined streets to get to the Mosque. At the time, the

Mosque seemed to be in the middle of nowhere, surrounded by farmland and forests. And yet, it quickly became the hub for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at of Toronto. Men, women, and children alike flocked to the Mosque for the monthly general body meetings, and the weekly MTA Children's Classes with Respected Maulana Naseem Mahdi Sāhib. For the children, perks included getting to play at the park outside the Mosque by the apple and pear trees, or possibly getting to catch the fireworks at Canada's Wonderland on our drives home from the Mosque on national holidays!

As the years went by and newer residential communities began to pop up around Maple, Peace Village was also established in 2000. As more and more Ahmadi Muslims moved closer to their beloved Mosque, Vaughan eventually became its own Jamā'at within Toronto. The

Mosque went from being a long drive away, to just a short walk away to catch daily prayers. With Allāh's Mercy and Grace, Ahmadīs also settled in the neighbourhoods surrounding Peace Village, throughout the town of Maple. Vaughan Jamā'at eventually became divided into Vaughan East and Vaughan West. Throughout the 2000s, the Vaughan community continued to become divided into smaller Majālis in order to accommodate the growing population of Ahmadi Muslims moving to Maple. The Promised Messiah^{as}'s prophecy was close to fruition.

What about today? What is it like to live around Mosque Baitul Islām in 2016?

Today, so many Ahmadi Muslims live around the Mosque, that every few blocks have been designated as a separate Majlis. The Jamā'ats in Maple have even been divided into two separate regions: the Vaughan and Peace Village regions. In 2012, our beloved Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V^{aa} inaugurated the prestigious Aiwan Tahir right behind the Mosque. This building now serves as an overflow area for prayers, a recreation centre and gym, and also houses Jāmi'a Ahmadiyya Canada and the mission house offices. Today, the streets of Peace Village surrounding the Mosque are constantly bustling with activity - children playing at the parks on either side of the Mosque, families taking strolls, and people walking to the Mosque for the five daily prayers. 'Mosque Tours' led by Lajna members attract hundreds of visitors to the Mosque every year. There are ESL classes held at the Mosque for new Canadians, exercise and yoga classes held for seniors, and mom-and-toddler classes held for babies. At any hour of the day or night, Ahmadi Muslims can be seen in and around the Mosque.

Allāh truly fulfilled the words of the Promised Messiah^{as}. He took Baitul Islām Mosque from its isolated surrounding of farmland and forests,

and transformed it into a hub that attracted more than 2000 Ahmadi Muslims to the town of Maple. Baitul Islām is the heart of our community. It is our home away from home. It is where we go to speak to Allāh, to shed tears in our Sujood (prostrations), and to find peace and solace.

Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad^{rh} once said that it was his hope that "the whole world becomes Canada and Canada becomes the whole world". In just 24 years, Allāh has spread the light of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at in Canada from Mosque Baitul Islām to the far corners of not only Vaughan - not only York Region - but also throughout the entire Greater Toronto Area. Mosque Baitul Islām still serves as the central hub for all Ahmadi Muslims in Toronto, and its light continues to spread and shine outward. As Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V^{aa} once stated, the community of Peace Village around Baitul Islām is like a "mini-Rabwah" within Canada. May Allāh help the light of Mosque Baitul Islām continue to shine throughout not only in Canada, but also throughout the whole world, so that the world may become Canada.

(Continued from page 1)

and every one, have been assigned. And, again, it has been enjoined to discharge these obligations in the best possible manner. Even minor and secondary virtues have not been left out. The Holy Prophet^{sa} went so far as to say that if a person meet his acquaintances with a smiling countenance to please them, it will be considered an act of moral excellence on his part, making him worthy of merit in the eyes of God. On another occasion he advised that thorny or slippery or stinking objects, or stumbling blocks, should be removed from the way lest another brother should suffer thereby. In regard to merciful treatment of others he said, "One who showed not compassion to others would not deserve it of God."