

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF HUQÚQU'LLÁH IN CANADA
CONSEIL DES MANDATAIRES DU HUQÚQU'LLÁH AU CANADA**

May 19, 2023

To the delegates gathered for the 73rd National Convention of the Bahá'ís of Canada

Dear Friends,

With hearts filled with love, the Board of Trustees of Huqúqu'lláh in Canada greets you all at this historic moment for our country, as we celebrate the news of the establishment of a national House of Worship in Canada. We are most grateful to the National Spiritual Assembly for this opportunity to convey our love to you and to share a few thoughts on the Right of God and its implications for daily life.

Every day, each of us encounters a constant barrage of ideals, attitudes and lifestyle choices that are aimed at promoting materialism; it is inescapable. At work, at school, while shopping, as well as in our interactions on social media, our 'wants' are labelled as 'needs' and a life based on material gain is assigned the highest value. We are witnessing the widening of the gap between the extremes of wealth and poverty at a rate never seen before. *“Even with the noblest of efforts to acquire wealth through just means, the ‘widening economic divide between the rich and the poor’ within all of the world’s economies, a sure sign of injustice, illustrates the importance of the law of Huqúqu'lláh as a means to purify wealth gained within such systems and contribute to building a just society.”*¹

In its 1 March 2017 letter to the Bahá'ís of the World, the Universal House of Justice calls on us to be engaged in a constant state of transformation wherein our actions match our ideals. *“If a new model of community life, patterned on the teachings, is to emerge, must not the company of the faithful demonstrate in their own lives the rectitude of conduct that is one of its most distinguishing features? Every choice a Bahá'í makes—as employee or employer, producer or consumer, borrower or lender, benefactor or beneficiary—leaves a trace, and the moral duty to lead a coherent life demands that one’s economic decisions be in accordance with lofty ideals, that the purity of one’s aims be matched by the purity of one’s actions to fulfil those aims.”*² With firm belief in the fundamental principle of the oneness of humanity and aware that our actions and choices impact our brothers and sisters throughout the world, the Right of God, when integrated into our daily lives, becomes a practical means to help Bahá'ís bring their lives into conformity with the high ideals we espouse.

This law extends far beyond the calculation of our surplus wealth, and is much more than a simple financial transaction. It is a powerful tool for bringing spiritual principles into our material lives. The practice of reflecting individually on what expenditures are necessary and which are not can help us act with moderation, preventing wasteful spending and the accumulation of debt. *“By nurturing self-discipline and concern for the betterment of others, this mighty law enhances social consciousness. Our young generation no longer considers Huqúqu'lláh merely as a material means of expanding the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, but rather as a multidimensional injunction that binds together love and law with the goal of serving humanity”*³. Applying the Right of God in our daily lives influences the conversations that we have in each other's homes and how we approach the society-building activities in our communities. Considering our wants and needs changes our interactions with society; we begin to consider others' needs before our pleasures, we make moderate choices, we control our lower nature by calling on our spiritual nature ahead of our material needs. *“Examining*

one's life to determine what is a necessity and then discharging with joy one's obligation in relation to the law of Ḥuqúqu'lláh is an indispensable discipline to bring one's priorities into balance, purify whatever wealth one possesses, and ensure that the share which is the Right of God provides for the greater good."⁴ This law, not meant to cause hardship, but rather to be the means of attracting the blessings and bounties of God, should be a source of joy and radiance for all of us.

Dear Friends, the members of this institution, the Representatives and Deputy Trustees, stand ready to support each believer in fostering a deeper understanding of the tenets of the Law and its application in our daily lives. We invite every Canadian Bahá'í to reflect on how the Law of the Right of God has impacted, and will continue to impact, their daily life — and beyond this, how it can have a profound effect on us not only as individuals, but also as families, communities, and members of institutions.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

The Board of Trustees of Ḥuqúqu'lláh in Canada

¹ The International Board of Trustees of Ḥuqúqu'lláh, 7 September 2014 letter to all Boards of Trustees of Ḥuqúqu'lláh

^{2,4} The Universal House of Justice, 1 March 2017 letter to the Bahá'ís of the World

³ Dr. 'Alí-Muḥammad Varqá, 27 September 2007 letter to a conference on the Right of God in Canada