

# Applicant Submission

**Company Name: Bab Ul Hawaij Cultural & Spiritual Center of Calgary**

Applicant's Name: Faizan Kazmi

Date: Thursday, September 15, 2022

Bab Ul Hawaij Cultural & Spiritual Center of Calgary, a registered charitable organization (Charity# CH193010856595 with its previous location at #404 4656 Westwinds Drive NE, has been operating in Calgary for the past 8 to 9 years. In addition to meeting our local community's cultural and spiritual needs, we have been offering faith-based education to our youth through the Sunday school. Moreover, the Bab Ul Hawaij Cultural & Spiritual Center has also served the greater needs of our Calgary community by being one of the largest donor to the Calgary Food Bank, and has helped several Syrian refugee families in their settlement in our city

For the past several years, due to our increasing membership and the influx of fellow Muslims from other parts of Canada, our population has increased significantly thus making it impossible for us to accommodate them in our current space. Limited parking space and logistical fire and safety code regulations have thus compelled us to seek a larger place at a location which would be easily accessible from all four quadrants of the City. This place is located only one block away from the Deerfoot, thus making the premises easily accessible to all patrons from across the city of Calgary and also Airdrie. We also considered easy bus route accesses and the current location meets the needs of our patrons who live in the vicinity of these premises. Moreover, one of rationale behind the purchase of this current property 3025 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE was its close proximity to other places of worship. The objective behind this choice was that our community, and specially our youth will be better integrated to invoke interfaith dialogue, cooperation, collaboration with people of different faiths. This would allow them to join hands in rendering services directed towards the greater good of our society at large. Another reason behind the choice of this place was to ensure the traffic-related safety of our patrons – especially the children, and to avoid any transport congestion other distractions to our neighbouring places of worship and the business.

Please note that in terms of usage and the occupancy, our Sunday School functions only one day of the week (three to four hours/week) and for 9 months, whereas our religious gatherings (not exceeding more than 70 days/year) are to occur in the evenings - after the conventional work hours (i.e. after the sunset and for three to four hours only). Thus, the place will be used primarily for regular Friday Prayers, lectures and seminars during couple of months of special historic significance and to host interfaith conferences, charity fundraising etc.

We also feel that our presence in the neighbourhood will support local businesses and contribute to supporting the economy.

Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.