

SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF CALGARY

5 September 2017

To Calgary's School Administrators

Among your student population are members of the Bahá'í Faith. The Bahá'í Faith is an independent world religion founded by Bahá'u'lláh, and the Báb, His Herald. Throughout the year there are eleven Holy Days that Bahá'ís commemorate as they are associated with significant events in the lives of Bahá'u'lláh and the Báb. Generally, Bahá'ís are exempt from work on nine of the Bahá'í Holy Days, and we respectfully request permission for your Bahá'í students to be excused from school as well.

With the implementation of the Badí' (Bahá'í) calendar the days on which Bahá'í Holy Days are now commemorated are different from those listed in most currently available calendars. In the coming years, existing calendars, and in particular the Multifaith Calendar used in many Canadian schools, will reflect the correct dates. In the meantime, however, you may wish to refer to the below list of Bahá'í Holy Days for the 2017-2018 academic year, which are also published on the Bahá'í Community of Canada's official website at <https://www.ca.bahai.org/being-bahai/holy-days>.

21 October 2017	Birth of the Báb
22 October 2017	Birth of Bahá'u'lláh
21 March 2018	Naw Rúz (Bahá'í New Year)
21 April 2018	First Day of Ridván Festival
29 April 2018	Ninth Day of Ridván Festival
2 May 2018	Twelfth Day of Ridván Festival
24 May 2018	Declaration of the Báb
29 May 2018	Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh
10 July 2018	Martyrdom of the Báb

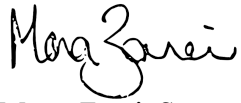
The Holy Days are observed only on the dates given above; should they fall on a weekend, the students need not be excused on the proximate school days. The students are expected to make up any work they have missed as a result of their being excused from school for their religious observance.

The essential message of Bahá'u'lláh is that of unity. The Bahá'í Faith, the youngest of the world's independent religions, has more than five million believers worldwide, has established its administrative institutions in over 200 independent states and major territories, and has embraced believers from virtually every cultural, racial, social, and religious background. The Bahá'í Faith has been present in Canada since 1898 and was established in Calgary in 1954. Information about the worldwide Bahá'í community can be found at www.bahai.org.

The collective affairs of the Bahá'í community are administered by democratically elected councils at the local, regional, national and international levels. The Bahá'í Faith has no clergy. Authority is vested in the elected institutions, rather than with the individuals who serve as their members. The Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Calgary is the elected body administering the affairs of the Bahá'í community of Calgary.

We hope favorable consideration will be given to this request. The Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Calgary would be happy to respond to any inquiries that you may have.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mona Zarei". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mona Zarei, Secretary
The Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Calgary