



January 27th 2014

Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua
City of Vaughan
Level 100
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan
L6A 1T1

Your Worship,

**Re: Application for rezoning and development
Islamic Shia Ithna Asheri Jamaat of Toronto
Lot 14, Concession 2, 9000 Bathurst Street, Vaughan, Ontario**

As a resident of the City of Vaughan and a member of the Islamic Shia Ithna Asheri Jamaat of Toronto (the ISIJ of Toronto), I would like to express my strong support for the zoning application that is before the Council for approval.

This project is very important to us because it is a realization of a long awaited dream and the vision of the members of the community most of whom initially participated in the purchase of the 28 acre property some twenty years ago and those who have joined later to develop it. For a young organization to reach here, it took a lot of courage, sacrifice, perseverance, and absolute faith in the values of justice and equal opportunity typical of all Canadians who wish to better themselves. We believe this development will contribute directly to the local economy by way of creating jobs and incomes to the residents as well as to the Municipal and Provincial Revenues. It also aims to provide for community based social and other ancillary services that will lessen the burden and free up the resources for local government agencies and social organisations.

The ISIJ of Toronto is a community of over 5000 strong and the majority of its membership resides in the City of Vaughan and the Town of Richmond Hill. We have a long and proud history of community involvement and a very good track record of excellent neighbourliness. We have received recognition and awards even going back to our days at the old Center on 7340 Bayview Avenue. The guiding principles our organization espouse and promote the core Canadian values of equality, fairness, tolerance and peace for all. We are known to be a very progressive and socially responsible community that is a role model for other faith based organizations in the area and abroad.

We are extremely grateful for the cooperation that we have received from the City of Vaughan in the past and we consider ourselves fortunate to be part of the milieu that contributes to its diversity and richness. We have every confidence that the Council will look at this application in light of its past decisions that have allowed similar communities as ours to thrive and bring prosperity to the City and do us all proud.

Sincerely,

Sajjad Huda, HBSc, MPHARM
12 Little Hannah Lane
Vaughan, Ontario
L6A 0E3