



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WINNIPEG
GLOBAL COLLEGE & DIALOGUE SPACE

May 12th, 2014

Gerald Filson
Director of Public Affairs
Baha'i Community of Canada

Dear Gerald:

Scant days ago, the world marked the 450th Birthday of the great English bard, William Shakespeare, among whose most treasured observations is that *"there is a tide in the affairs of (all), which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune."*

Since hearing of the extraordinary gesture of good will and reconciliation of Iranian Ayatollah Masoumi-Tehrani, I find Shakespeare's observation has been playing incessantly in my mind, compelling me to write in commendation of his gracious words of apology and reconciliation to the Baha'i Community of Iran and the world; and for his gift to the Universal House of Justice of the calligraphic Baha'i text on the beauty of religious harmony.

His words and his gift augur a rising tide of reconciliation, peace and hope among religions upon which all people of good will must surely comment and act, not for fortune, but in faith.

After the better part of two centuries of intolerance and persecution by authorities Persian and Iranian, the Ayatollah's graciousness and courage is a demonstration of the peace and mercy which lie at the heart of Islam, and which, as in all our faiths, are too often set aside for reasons of power, politics and prejudice.

May Allah preserve, protect and bless Ayatollah Masoumi-Tehrani all his days, and may this be the beginning of a new era for Baha'i in Iran and worldwide.

With every good wish and the hope for every blessing,

I remain yours faithfully

(The Rev. Prof. Dr.) James Christie
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