

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, MOST GRACIOUS, MOST MERCIFUL

ISLAMIC FORUM OF CANADA

200 ADVANCE BOULEVARD, BRAMPTON, ONT, L6T 4V4, CANADA
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INTRODUCTION

Allah, Subhānahu Wa Ta`ālā, has made Zakāt one of the five pillars of Islam. In the Holy Qur'an the command to pay Zakāt is usually mentioned immediately after the command to establish Salah.

Almighty Allah says in the Holy Qur'an:

“Truly those who believe, and do deeds of righteousness, and perform **SALAH**, and give **ZAKAT**, they will have their reward with their Lord. On them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve.” (Surah Al-Baqarah, 2:277)

“Verily Zakat (Sadaqāt) are for the poor (Fuqarā'), the destitute (Masaqin), and those employed to administer (the Zakat funds), and to soften the hearts of those who are inclined to Islam, and to free the captives, and for those in debt, and for the Cause of Allah, and for the wayfarer (traveller). This is a duty imposed by Allah. And Allah is All-Knowing, the Most Wise.” (Surah At-Tawbah, 9:60)

“Those who amass gold and silver (and wealth), and do not spend them in the way of Allah, give them the warning of a painful chastisement.”

“On that Day when it will all be heated in the Fire of Jahannam, and their foreheads and flanks and backs will be branded therewith (and it will be said unto them), Here is what you hoarded for yourselves. Now taste of what you used to hoard. (Surah At-Tawbah, 9:34-35)

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SOME BRIEF POINTS ON THE PAYMENT OF ZAKAAT

Zakaat is one of the most important pillars of Islam. It is a Tax on Assets and must be paid by anyone who owns anything beyond the basic necessities of life. Government income tax does not replace Zakaat. Zakaat is a conscious act of calculating and paying willingly the required 2.5% of your net assets which you have for more than 12 months.

WHAT IS ZAKAATABLE

- 1. The Muslim must pay Zakaat on basically all assets which are not required for your livelihood. Your primary home, car, and tools of your trade are exempt. Other houses, cottages, recreation vehicles, cash, and valuables of all kinds are Zakaatable.*
- 2. The assets must be in your possession for at least one complete Islamic year.*
- 3. Even if you owe money on an asset, the value of the asset minus what is owed on the item is part of your net worth and must be included in your calculations.*

HOW ZAKAAT IS TO BE USED

- 1. The Poor. Those who do not have enough to meet their basic needs.*
- 2. Destitutes. Those who are under hardship and are on the verge of bankruptcy but keep their condition hidden from others. They are usually victims of circumstances beyond their control.*
- 3. Those who administer the Zakaat Fund.*
- 4. Those who continue to need the encouragement of Muslims, for example :*
 - a) Muslims who are wavering.*
 - b) Muslims who live in border areas and need stronger support to resist aggression.*
 - c) Non-Muslims who agree not to fight Muslims, and are otherwise helpful to the Islamic community.*
- 5. Freeing someone from bondage and debt.*
- 6. Those who suffer losses in good faith from persons or circumstances beyond their control.*
- 7. In the way of Allah - FEE SABEELILLAAH-, such as supporting Jihad, Islamic Education, the Masjid, or any good Islamic effort.*
- 8. Travellers who need assistance because of circumstances beyond their control.*

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHEQUE PAYABLE TO :
ISLAMIC FORUM OF CANADA (ZAKAT FUND)
AND MAIL IT TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS.

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TEST OF ZAKAATABILITY FORM

The purpose of this exercise is to determine the Zakaatability of a person's assets. Zakaat is an individual responsibility. Thus each person must calculate the amount of their Zakaat if they own assets in excess of the NISAAB. Nisaab is the equivalent value of 3 oz. of gold (approx. \$15050.00 CDN. per oz.). Therefore the value of NISAAB for a Muslim in Canada will be approx. \$4,500.00. Please check for any variation in gold prices at the time of your calculation.

NOTE

1. *For further discussions about Zakaat and Nisaab and their calculations, refer to the book by Dr. Monzer Kahf: "The Calculation of Zakaah for Muslims in North America", or to some other authority on the subject.*

Now, complete the exercise below and if you reach or exceed the Nisaab amount, fill out the ZAKAAT CALCULATION FORM which is attached.

1. *Do you have cash on hand or in a bank account of a total balance of \$4500.00?*
2. *Do you have shares, stocks, bonds, securities, etc., of a total balance of \$4500.00 ?*
3. *Do you own a business value more than \$4500.00 ?*
4. *Do you own real estate (excluding the house you live in) valued at more than \$4500.00 ?*
5. *Do you own more than \$4500.00 worth of milk-producing or meat livestock animals ?*
6. *Do you own jewelry valued at more than \$4500.00 (including gold, silver, and jewelry certificates) ?*
7. *Do you own more cars than the number of working people in the family ?*

If your answer to ANY of questions 1-7 is yes, AND if the total value of items 1-7 is more than \$4500.00, then YOU MUST FILL OUT THE ZAKAAT CALCULATION FORM and PAY YOUR ZAKAAT.

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ZAKAAT CALCULATION FORM

NOTE

1. Use this form to determine the amount of ZAKAAT due on your wealth and possessions.
2. This form does not cover all Zakaatable items, but only the most common ones; thus, consult a more detailed reference if you have any property not listed in this form.
3. There are many details pertinent to Zakaat calculation. For additional information, please refer to a more detailed reference such as: "THE CALCULATION OF ZAKAAH FOR MUSLIMS IN NORTH AMERICA", by Dr. Monzer Kahf.

DUE DATE

Immediately after one year starting from (a) the first day you acquired the NISAAB for the first time; or (b) the day you paid Zakaat last year. We recommend that you pay your Zakaat in the month of Ramadaan because of the additional blessings received in the blessed month, INSHA-ALLAH.

DATE: _____

ITEM DESCRIPTION

TOTAL AMOUNT/WORTH

1. Cash on hand and in bank accounts	\$ _____
2. Shares, Stocks, Bonds, Securities, etc.	\$ _____
3. Jewelry (Gold, Silver, Jewelry Certificates)	\$ _____
4. Net worth of your business	\$ _____
5. Real Estate (house occupied by you excluded).	\$ _____
6. Value of cars more than the number of working persons in the family.	\$ _____
7. Value of other assets not included above.	\$ _____
TOTAL OF ZAKAATABLE AMOUNT (add 1 through 7)	\$ _____
ZAKAAT AMOUNT (TOTAL AMOUNT X 0.025)	\$ _____

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May Almighty Allah reward you and your family.