Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation

Issue 1 April 1999



ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਆਪਣੇ ਪਿਤਾ ਗੁਰੂ ਤੇਗ ਬਹਾਦਰ ਜੀ ਦੀ ਸ਼ਹਾਦਤ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਗੁਰਗੱਦੀ ਤੇ ਬੈਠੇ ਤਾਂ ਉਸ ਵੇਲੇ ਦੇ ਹਾਲਾਤਾਂ ਨੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਮਹਿਸੂਸ ਕਰਵਾ ਦਿਤਾ ਕਿ ਜ਼ੁਲਮ ਅਤੇ ਜ਼ਬਰ ਦੇ ਖਿਲਾਫ਼ ਇਕ ਬਹੁਤ ਵਡੀ ਤਾਕਤਵਰ ਜਥੇਬੰਦਕ ਕੌਮ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ ਹੀ ਆਪ ਧਰਮ ਦੇ ਨਾਂ ਤੇ ਕੀਤੇ ਜਾ ਰਹੇ ਧੱਕੇ ਅਤੇ ਬੇਨਿਆਈ ਨੂੰ ਦੂਰ ਕਰਕੇ

ਇਕ ਅਜਿਹਾ ਭਾਈਚਾਰਾ ਕਾਇਮ ਕਰਨਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਸੀ ਜਿਸ ਵਿਚ ਜਾਤਾਂ ਵਰਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਵਿਤਕਰੇ ਬਿਲਕੁਲ ਨਾ ਹੋਣ। ਇਸ ਆਸ਼ੇ ਦੀ ਪੂਰਤੀ ਲਈ ਅਤੇ ਭਾਰਤ ਦੀ ਮੁਰਦਾ ਹੋ ਚੁੱਕੀ ਜਨਤਾ ਵਿਚ ਨਵੀਂ ਜਿੰਦ ਜਾਨ ਅਤੇ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹ ਭਰਨ ਲਈ ਆਪ ਨੇ 13 ਅਪ੍ਰੈਲ 1699 ਈਸਵੀ ਨੂੰ ਕੇਸਗੜ੍ਹ (ਅਨੰਦਪੁਰ ਸਾਹਿਬ) ਦੇ ਦੀਵਾਨ ਵਿਚ ਅਮ੍ਰਿਤ ਦਾਨ ਬਖਸ਼ਕੇ ਖਾਲਸਾ ਕੌਮ ਦੀ ਸਾਜਨਾ ਕੀਤੀ। ਦੇਸ਼ ਵਿਚ ਧੱਕਾ ਜ਼ੁਲਮ ਅਤੇ ਬੇਇਨਸਾਫ਼ੀ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਵੇਖ ਕੇ ਆਪਨੇ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦੇਵ ਜੀ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਚਾਰ, ਮਨੁਖ ਜਾਤੀ ਦੀ ਏਕਤਾ, ਬਰਾਬਰੀ, ਸਰਬਦਇਆ ਅਤੇ ਸਰਬ–ਪਿਆਰ ਦੇ ਧਰਮ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਚਾਰ ਕੀਤਾ। ਆਪਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਚਾਰ ਸਦਕਾ ਦੇਸ਼ ਦੇ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਨਵਾਂ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹ, ਨਵੇਂ ਤਰੰਗ ਅਤੇ ਨਵੇਂ ਇਰਾਦੇ ਠਾਠਾਂ ਮਾਰ ਉਠੇ।

ਅਜ ਉਸ ਦਿਨ ਨੂੰ 300 ਸਾਲ ਹੋ ਚੁੱਕੇ ਹਨ। ਸਾਰੀ ਦੁਨੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਕੋਨੇ ਕੋਨੇ ਵਿਚ ਬੈਠੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਇਸ ਦਿਨ ਨੂੰ ਬਹੁਤ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹ ਨਾਲ ਮਨਾ ਰਹੇ ਹਨ। ਗੁਰਸਿੱਖ ਸਭਾ ਸਕਾਰਬਰੋ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਦੇ ਨੌਜਵਾਨ ਬੱਚੇ ਬੱਚੀਆਂ ਨੇ 300 ਸਾਲਾ ਖਾਲਸਾ ਸਾਜਨਾ ਦਿਵਸ ਨੂੰ ਇਕ ਅਨੌਖੇ ਢੰਗ ਨਾਲ ਮਨਾਉਣ ਦਾ ਫੈਂਸਲਾ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ। ਮਈ 1998 ਵਿਚ ਇਕ ਫਾਊਂਡੇਸ਼ਨ ਦੀ ਸਥਾਪਨਾ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਜਿਸ ਦਾ ਨਾਂ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਚਿਲਡਰਨਜ਼ ਫਾਊਂਡੇਸ਼ਨ ਰਖਿਆ ਗਿਆ। ਇਸ ਫਾਉਂਡੇਸ਼ਨ ਦਾ ਮੁੱਖ ਮੰਤਵ ਗ਼ਰੀਬ ਦੇਸ਼ਾਂ ਦੇ ਲੋੜਵੰਦ ਬਚਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਮਾਲੀ ਮਦਦ ਕਰਨਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਮੰਤਵ ਦੀ ਪੂਰਤੀ ਲਈ 'ਫੋਸਟਰ ਪੇਰੈਂਟਸ ਪਲਾਨ' ਰਾਹੀਂ ਪੰਜ ਬਚਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਸਪਾਂਸਰ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਫਾਊਂਡੇਸ਼ਨ ਲਈ \$100,000 ਇਕੱਠੇ ਕਰਨ ਦਾ ਟੀਚਾ ਮਿਥਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਬੱਚਿਆਂ ਨੇ ਜੁਲਾਈ 11 ਤੋਂ ਜੁਲਾਈ 17, 1999 ਨੂੰ ਟੋਰਾਂਟੋ ਤੋਂ ਅੱਟਵਾ ਤਕ 500 ਕਿਲੋਮੀਟਰ ਦੀ ਰੀਲੇ ਦੋੜ ਕਰਨੀ ਹੈ। ਰੈਵੇਨਿਊ ਮਨਿਸਟਰ ਹਰਬ ਧਾਲੀਵਾਲ ਵਲੋਂ ਇਸ ਦੋੜ ਲਈ ਹਰ ਤਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਮਦਦ ਕਰਨ ਅਤੇ ਪਾਰਲੀਮੈਂਟ ਹਿੱਲ ਤੇ ਬੱਚਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਮਿਲਣ ਦਾ ਵਾਅਦਾ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ।

ਜੁਲਾਈ 1998 ਵਿਚ ਬੱਚਿਆਂ ਵਲੋਂ ਅਖੰਡਪਾਠ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਫਾਊਂਡੇਸ਼ਨ ਦੀ ਸ਼ੁਰੂਆਤ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ। ਇਸ ਮੌਕੇ ਤੇ ਡੈਰੇਕ ਲੀ ਐਮ. ਪੀ. ਅਤੇ ਗੁਰਬਖ਼ਸ਼ ਸਿੰਘ ਮੱਲ੍ਹੀ ਐਮ. ਪੀ. ਵਲੋਂ ਬੱਚਿਆਂ ਦੇ ਇਸ ਉਦਮ ਭਰੇ ਕਦਮ ਦੀ ਸ਼ਾਲਾਘਾ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਅਤੇ ਪੂਰੀ ਮਦਦ ਦੇਣ ਦਾ ਵਾਅਦਾ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ।



ਜਨਵਰੀ 1999 ਵਿਚ 300 ਸਾਲਾ ਖਾਲਸਾ ਸਾਜਨਾ ਦਿਵਸ ਮਨਾਉਂਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਇਸ ਫਾਊਂਡੇਸ਼ਨ ਦਾ ਪਹਿਲਾ ਡਿਨਰ ਪਾਇਲ ਬੈਂਕੁਐਂਟ ਹਾਲ ਵਿਖੇ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਜਿਥੇ 500 ਤੋਂ ਵਧ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਨੇ ਪਹੁੰਚਕੇ ਬੱਚਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਹੋਂਸਲਾ ਅਫਜਾਈ ਕੀਤੀ।

ਆਪਣੇ ਗੁਰੂਆਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਸਿਖਿਆਂਵਾਂ ਤੇ ਚਲਦੇ ਹੋਏ, ਸਰਬਤ ਦਾ ਭਲਾ ਮੰਗਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਅਸੀਂ ਆਸ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਸਹਿਯੋਗ ਨਾਲ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਕੰਮ ਵਿਚ ਪੂਰੀ ਸਫਲਤਾ ਮਿਲੇਗੀ। ਇਸਦੇ ਨਾਲ ਹੀ ਬਾਹਰਲੇ ਸ਼ਹਿਰਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਰਹਿਣ ਵਾਲਾ ਕੈਨੇਡੀਅਨ ਭਾਈਚਾਰਾ ਬੱਚਿਆਂ ਦੇ ਇਸ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹ ਭਰੇ ਕੰਮ ਵਿਚ ਸ਼ਾਮਲ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਖਾਲਸਾ ਦੀ 300 ਵੀਂ ਵਰੇਗੰਢ ਮਨਾਉਣਗੇ।



Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation Vision

A Foundation run by children/youth with a vision to help other children meet their basic needs and thereby add meaning to their lives and to carry out the work in the spirit of the teachings of Sikh Gurus.

A NEW FOUNDATION

The Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation is a new foundation established by children and youth as a way of celebrating the 300th Anniversary of the Khalsa and to honour our tenth Guru.

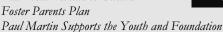
The children and youth decided that our Gurus did so much for us, the least we should do is to tell the world about them and the sacrifices they made. Guru Gobind Singh Ji's whole family sacrificed their lives for the basic principles the free world now enjoys. Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji gave up his life for the right to freedom of worship for others; the four sahibjadas - Ajit Singh, Jujhar Singh, Fatch Singh and Zorawar Singh - gave up their lives rather than give up their faith. The children and youth felt that we needed to do something so out Gurus would feel proud of us and so their sacrifices would not be in vain.

The children and youth initiated this project at the beginning of 1998 and set objectives and direction at a special meeting held on May 18, 1998. In all, 45 children and youth participated in this special meeting and, having laid the path, an Akhand Path was held on July 3 - 5, 1998 by the children as the first step in establishing the Foundation. With the Gurus blessing, the children and youth have continued to plan for the Foundation, and initial sponsorship of five children from across the world was started in the beginning of January 1999. The Foundation's first event was a dinner held on January 23, 1999 (see back page).

Inside this Issue

Foundation Dinner

A New Foundation Board of Directors Toronto Nagar Kirtan Media Coverage Sponsors Run From Toronto to Ottawa





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The establishment of any new organization requires the following:

- Vision
- Administration & Responsibilities
- Policy & Goals
- Planning & Structure

To work on these important activities, a Board of nine members, of which six are youth, was set up on March 15, 1999. The Board members are:

Gagandeep Kaur Babra	905-884-2524
Amardeep Singh Chadha	416-386-3171
Chamkaur Singh Chahal	905-619-2198
Mandeep Kaur Grewal	416-287-8701
Ramjit Kaur Jaswal	416-609-2916
Jasbir Singh Kolhi	416-321-8092
Kunal Singh Parmar	416-493-6360
Ranbir Singh Perhar	905-201-0609
Preetkamal Singh Randhawa	416-297-1605

The Board members were chosen due to their involvement in previous events. They have been working on the responsibilities of the Board as well as addressing any other issues raised by individuals. If you have any questions, give them a call.

TORONTO NAGAR KIRTAN

Taranpreet Kaur Chadha

This year is a very special year for Sikhs around the world. 1999 marks the 300th year of the Khalsa Panth. This special day is called Baisakhi, which is always during the month of April; this year Baisakhi falls on April 14, 1999. On April 25, 1999, more than 80,000 Sikhs from across Ontario and the United States came to the Nagar Kirtan, which was held at the SkyDome. Everyone came to celebrate this event together; not only Sikhs, but many others joined in the colourful parade that wound its way through the heart of Toronto, including Yonge Street.



The celebrations started at 9:00 am when Guru Granth Sahib Ji was brought into the SkyDome. Manpreet Kaur Jaswal led the children from the Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation with the first shabad *Dayh Shiva*.

The children from the Guru Gobind Singh Children Foundation set up two booths at the SkyDome. The children and youth handed out flyers about the Foundation as well as information sheets and registration forms for those interested in taking part in the 500 km relay run-a-thon planned for July. Information about Foster Parents

Plan and the needs of children in poor countries was also displayed. Several youth collected donations from the sangat to support of the Foundation.



Many of Canada's national leaders came to congratulate the Sikhs at the Diwan held at the SkyDome. Paul Martin, Gurbax Malhi, Mike Harris, Dalton McGuinty, and Mel Lastman (wearing a kesri coloured turban) were some of the main federal, provinicial and municipal leaders that addressed the sangat.

MONEY RAISED SO FAR...\$37,157

WANT TO SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION CALL US **TORONTO 416-502-1388 TOLL FREE 1-800-684-0048**

MEDIA COVERAGE

Sunita Bhowmik

Lights, camera, action! The Scarborough Youth Group has suddenly been put into the limelight, or should we say spotlight, as Asian Television Network (ATN) has very generously provided free television coverage for all of the group's events leading up to and including the grand finale, the 500 km relay run-a-thon in July.

January 23, 1999 marked the first televised event put together by the youth consisting of an information dinner held at Payal Banquet Hall. Following the dinner, ATN provided coverage for the Youth's Kirtan Darbar held on March 13, 1999, and the most recent televised event, the Nagar Kirtan, held on April 25, 1999 at the Skydome. ATN proudly supported all the events and allowed the children from the Foundation to cover and report on them.

Although ATN were the first to support the foundation, the general media have been very responsive to this youth project. The foundation has had coverage from the following newspapers: Toronto Star, Nagara (who write very frequently about the youth events), Sanjh Savera, Punj Pani, Voice, and Hamdard. The following radio and TV stations have also been very supportive: Eye On Asia, Ankhila Punjab, Vision, Sur Sagar, Punjab Dee Goonj and Geetmala.

The Foundation is in debt to the media who have helped to get the children and youth exposure to the wider community.

WEB SURFERS

Visit the Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation website that has been set up by Amardeep Singh Chadha at the address below:

www.gursikh.com

SPONSORS

In January, the Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation sought sponsors for the 500 km relay run-a-thon. Since the Foundation is new and youth are involved, it was difficult to obtain corporate sponsors who were willing to make a \$5000 donation. However, with God's grace the following small businesses and individual families were able to support the youth and allow the establishment of this Foundation to proceed.

Brampton Kitchen Cabinets 905-457-8181
Best Electric Company (Surjit S. Sehmi) 416-744-7444
Co-up Auto Body Repairs 905-671-3647
HomeLife Metro (Jagdip (Jas) S. Sidhu) 416-293-5093
Jaguar Insurance Broker (N.S.Chadha) 416-410-9656
Malkit S. Brach Dentist 416-293-5155
Payal Banquet Halls www.payal.com 905-281-8800
Satwant Singh Khosla Barrister & Solicitor 416-499-6202
Scarborough Textiles & Fabric (416)288-8748/742-0010
Taj Supermarket 416-281-7717



In memory of

Mata Kishan Kaur Sidhu

from all her family

Sukdev Singh Toor & family

Liberal MPP Candidate

Bibian Sukhmani Sahib Scarborough Gurdwara
Charan Singh Sahota & family
Darshan Singh Samra & family
Gajenderpal Singh Kalra & family
Gobinder Singh Randhawa & family
Gurmit Singh Rayat & family
Malkit Singh & family
Mohinder Singh Padda & family
Surjit Singh Mann & family
Jasjit & Amanjit Singh Dhillon & family
In memory of Bibi Hardeep Kaur Jaswal from her family

The Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation is forever in debt to these individuals who showed a trust in their children and youth. The foundation has still not given up on corporate sponsors. Gary Singh has come to support the children and youth activities, and is working with the Foundation to approach some of the corporations.

RUN FROM TORONTO TO OTTAWA

Amarpreet Kaur Jaswal



Yes
Toronto
to
Ottawa



1 km, 2 km, 3 km...........500+ km! Once again the Sikh children and youth are back with an even bigger project. This year has significant meaning to all Sikhs as it marks the 300th anniversary of the creation of the Khalsa. The youth have decided to commemorate this event by undertaking a project and establishing the Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation. The Foundation's aim is to help children in need in developing countries through existing international

charities and to serve humanity, thereby following in the path of the Sikh Gurus. Money collected will be used to help children through Foster Parents Plan of Canada. The target set by the group is \$100,000. The major focus of this fundraising effort is a 500-km relay run-a-thon from Toronto to Ottawa. The run will begin Sunday July 11th and will end Saturday July 17th. The route will pass main cities, which include Toronto, Peterborough, Belleville, Kingston, Brockville, and Ottawa with the finish at Parliament Hill.

We are proud Sikh Canadians that would like to carry our Nishan Sahib high in the sky and give other Canadians an opportunity to celebrate with us as we rejoice in this monumental tricentennary.



Children & Youth Come Join Us We Need You!

On Sunday July 17, 1999 we would like children and youth, ages 10 to 21 years to join the 500 km relay run-a-thon along the Rideau Canal to the finish at Parliament Hill

Transportation from Toronto to Ottawa will be provided. This is a great opportunity to help a great cause, have a fun day and visit Ottawa. If you are interested, please call us. Toronto local 416-502-1388 Toll Free 1-800-684-0048

FOSTER PARENTS PLAN

Few of us can escape the pleas to help children suffering throughout the world. We are bombarded with the statistics of these children and the atrocities they face via the newspaper, the evening news, or even televised documentaries outlining the horrors these children suffer, sometimes on a daily basis. The statistics on child poverty, mortality, and illiteracy from the United Nations is very bleak. Most of these children 'dream' of basic things such as love, food, a home, school ... things that most of us who live in developed worlds take for granted. One of the children sponsored through the Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation told us her 'dream' was to go to school. The Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation will provide the way - we all need you to provide the will.

The Foundation will support children within the world who are less fortunate than ourselves by providing them with basic necessities such as food, water, shelter, and education. Since the Foundation does not have the network to carry out the work directly we have chosen to provide support through international children's charities. The Foundation has chosen to support children through Foster Parents Plan of Canada that supports children in over 40 countries through Plan International. The Foundation will support other registered children's charities if sponsors so indicate.

Since the beginning of 1999 the Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation has sponsored five children. The children vary in age, gender, cultural background, religious affiliation, and country. The Foundation is presently sponsoring the following children.

Mignel is a seven-year-old boy who lives in Nicaragua, with six brothers and sisters. Hien is nine years old and lives in Vietnam. She attends the local school and her favourite subject is mathematics. After school she helps with the daily chores.



Emilian is currently in first grade at the local elementary school. At school Emiljan's favourite lesson is music and he dreams of becoming a singer. He likes to play football but is required to help his family by sending the cows to graze. Emiljan is six years old and from Albania.

Samia is a seven-year-old girl who lives in Sudan. She has three brothers and one sister. She spends her spare time playing and skipping

Nirmaya is ten years old and lives in Nepal. She does not attend school because of the family's poor economic status. Her favourite game is Gatta and she helps around the house with chores. Nirmaya has a dream to go to school.



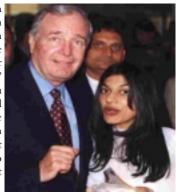
Nirmaya

The Foundation is also supporting Geetha in India through World Vision of Canada at the request of the sponsors. Geetha is six years old and lives in India. She is in grade one and her favorite subject is local language.

It cost \$29 a month to sponsor a child a month. It costs less than a dollar a day to support a child. Can you think of any better way of spending a dollar? Maybe one less coffee for us, but a dream come true for a child.

PAUL MARTIN SUPPORTS THE YOUTH AND THE FOUNDATION

Manpreet Kaur Jaswal from Guru Gobind Singh Foundation Children's approached Paul Martin the Minister of Finance at a dinner in Ottawa. To the youths' surprise, the Minister sent a personal donation commended the efforts the youth were making. It was an inspiration to all the youth that their efforts are taken so seriously and have the support from such important people.





The youth from the Foundation also got a chance to have a picture taken with Prime Minister Jean Chretien after he had unveiled the commemorative stamp for Sikh Canadians at the dinner hosted by Minister Harbans Dhaliwal and MPGurbax S. Malhi, April 19, 1999.

FOUNDATION DINNER

Itasha Kaur Parmar

On January 23, 1999 the children and youth from Scarborough organized an information dinner on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of the Khalsa to launch the Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation and to explain details of the run planned for July 11. The evening was very successful considering it was the first dinner organized by the youth group with over 500 guests.



The youth group sang Dayh Shiva led by Navneet Kaur Jaswal and Taranpreet Kaur Chadha. This was followed by the Canadian National Anthem sung by Mandeep Kaur Grewal. Hari Nam Singh Khalsa opened the evening by explaining the significance of Guru Gobind Singh creating the Khalsa and why all Sikhs across the world will celebrate this great occasion.

Comical entertainment was provided by Thunia Ram, followed by an appetizing dinner during which a raffle was held in aid of the Foundation. Prizes were donated by the families of late Kishan Kaur Sidhu, Balwant Singh Padda, Jagdeep Singh Sidhu, Ravinder Singh Sondh, Darsharan Singh Samra, and Satwinder Singh Virdi.



A highlight of the evening was a play presented by children on the needs of poor children in developing countries, the very children the Guru's Foundation is set up to The play was about children around the world and what they wish for. It traced the story of a young girl in Nepal who is sold as a prostitute by her poor and

unknowing family. The serious message of this play brought tears into the eyes of some who were present that evening.

The play was followed by a presentation of the plans the group had for the establishment of the Foundation and the run in July from Toronto to Ottawa. The evening was closed by speeches of support from Gurbax Singh Malhi MP, Dan McTeague MP, Metro Councillor Bas Balkisoon, Liberal candidate Sukdev Toor, Leonard Howe from Foster Parents Plan, and Gobinder Singh Randhawa. The evening was also made a success by Payal Banquet Hall management who were very supportive of the children and youth during the whole day.

EDITOR – Inderpal Kaur

This is the first publication of the Foundation's newsletter, which commemorates the efforts of children and youth on the 300th anniversary of the Khalsa. We hope to publish two issues a year. The next issue will be coming out in the fall, at Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Gurpurab. If you would like to make any contributions to the newsletter or if you would like to send us any comments or suggestions, please write to us at::

Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation 905 Middlefield Road, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada M1V 4X1