

**BUILDING OUR WHOLE SOCIETY:
RELIGION AND CITIZENSHIP IN CANADA**

**ST PAUL UNIVERSITY, OTTAWA
May 8-9, 2017**

PROGRAM OUTLINE

| TIME | SESSION | DESCRIPTION | SPEAKERS |
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| MONDAY – MAY 8 | | | |
| 9:00-9:30am | Multi-faith prayers Opening | Conference welcome | The Rev. Dr. Karen Hamilton – <i>General Secretary, Canadian Council of Churches</i> Geoffrey Cameron – <i>Chair, Conference Program Committee</i> |
| 9:30-10:45am | OPENING PLENARY 2: Solidarity in Diversity | Canada professes to be a society that celebrates diversity as a social good. As a liberal democracy, however, Canada’s political culture has also been shaped by the Enlightenment concern to police the role of religion in the public sphere. In order to stem the potential for religious conflict and division, both real and perceived, Canada has largely followed a policy of exclusive secularism. This approach restricts religion to the private sphere and seeks to prevent it from influencing public discourse and policy. While such an exclusive secularism may protect a certain level of social unity, it does so at the cost of marginalizing many | Speaker: Dr. Andrew Bennett – <i>Senior Fellow, Cardus</i> Speaker: Dr. Ingrid Mattson – <i>Chair of Islamic Studies, Huron University College</i> Speaker: Palbinder Shergill – General Legal Counsel, World Sikh Organization |

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| | | <p>active and engaged citizens. What is the alternative? Is it possible to have an inclusive secularism, which welcomes religious viewpoints and practices into the public sphere? Can such greater inclusion be achieved while maintaining or even strengthening current levels of social solidarity? If religious insights and practices are not to be excluded per se from the public realm, what requirements might religious citizens still need to meet in order to make a constructive contribution to public dialogue? Are these requirements different in nature from those we might impose on non-religious citizens? How can we develop new ways of talking, thinking, and acting together that foster a more mature collective life?</p> | <p>Moderator: Ron Kuipers – <i>Associate Professor of Philosophy of Religion, Institute for Christian Studies</i></p> |
| 10:45-11:15am | BREAK | | |
| 11:15-12:30pm | <p>WORKSHOP 2.1: Solidarity in Diversity</p> | <p>Exploring how & why faith communities can counter negative coverage of Islam & Muslims in Canadian media</p> <p>This workshop will explore how we understand, react, and counter negative media framing of Canadian Muslims. It will also explore the repercussions of continuous and sustained negative framing on the health of Canada’s pluralistic communities, as well as the influence such stories have on general attitudes towards religion in Canada. The workshop will also look at ways faith communities can work together to counter misconceptions by sharing their stories of solidarity and collaboration in the media. What negative stereotypes are commonly reinforced in popular media when it comes to Islam and Muslims in Canada? How do these negative frames impact on our collective well-being and cohesion? What examples exist of diverse faith communities</p> | <p>Facilitator: Amira Elghawaby – <i>Communications Director, National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM)</i></p> |

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| | | working together for common social justice goals, and how are they shared with wider audiences? What skills and tools are required for faith communities to counter negative messaging about Islam, Muslim – and more generally, religion - in the popular mainstream media? | |
| | WORKSHOP 2.2: Solidarity in Diversity | Balancing the Virtues of Autonomy and Solidarity: An Inter-faith Case for Basic Income? | Facilitator: Dr. Nicholas Olkovich – <i>Assistant Professor, Faculty of Theology, University of St. Michael's College</i> |
| | WORKSHOP 2.3: Solidarity in Diversity | 'Spiritual but not religious' (SBNR) Spirituality, Religion and Citizenship at Canada 150 There are now large numbers of "spiritual-but-not-religious" (SBNR) people in Canada. If religion is to be considered a potentially powerful resource for strengthening citizenship, how do we understand the role of SBNR spirituality in relation to citizenship? Moderated by Sherwood, this workshop brings several SBNR young adults into the conversation in a panel and encourages dialogue with workshop participants. Can the energy of personal motivation and personal spiritual practice become social capital that would strengthen Canadian citizenry? Can SBNR individuals be included in efforts to draw on Canada's religious diversity as a source for strengthening civic engagement, rather than as a threat to social unity? As SBNR individuals connect to each other in new forms of community, can these communities become more outward looking and willing to work in partnerships? | Facilitator: Tom Sherwood – <i>United Church minister</i> |

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| 12:30-1:30pm | LUNCH | | |
| 1:30-2:45pm | PLENARY 3: Reconciliation | The hearings and report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission have helped to move Canada on a path towards reconciliation with Aboriginal peoples. In view of the role churches played in the residential schools, how should they contribute to the process of reconciliation? What about Canada's other religious communities? How should Aboriginal spirituality inform our conversations about reconciliation? Are there different traditions of thought and practice about reconciliation? What kinds of values and principles will help us to live together in unity? | <p>Speaker: Prof. Douglas Sanderson –Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto</p> <p>Speaker: Bishop Mark MacDonald – National Indigenous Bishop, Anglican Church of Canada; North American President, World Council of Churches</p> |
| 2:45-3:00pm | BREAK | | |
| 3:00-4:15pm | WORKSHOP 3.1: Reconciliation | <p>An Act of Re-remembering</p> <p>An Act of Re-Membering is an interactive participatory experience that allows participants to embark on a journey of time and space, and land and body, to “re-member” the story of humanity by encountering the ways that lands and bodies become disrespected, separated, commodified and racialized. This exercise however, also highlights humanity’s participation in the work of resistance, redemption and reconciliation. Often the push to forget or “get over” the past prevents us from living into communities that re-member those who are dismembered. We need radical acts of Remembrance. We seek to create a platform for shared common memory knowing this is also a lens through which we imagine a shared future.</p> | <p>Facilitator: Deanna Zantingh – Keeper of the Learning Circle, Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre, Beausejour, MB</p> <p>Facilitator: Bernadette Arthur – Office of Race Relations, Christian Reformed Church of North America</p> |

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| | WORKSHOP 3.2: Reconciliation | Engaging Indigenous students in contemporary Christian school settings The Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) boasts a membership list of over 100 schools. Over four million students attend their member schools in 100 countries around the world. In Indigenous communities in Canada and other parts of the world, Christian schools are often the only source of formal education. This workshop will explore philosophical viewpoints on culturally responsible education and how this has been implemented in contemporary Judeo-Christian education settings. How do Christian schools in the 21st century protect racialized and indigenous students from the culturally-based ills suffered in the past? How do they develop students spiritually, socially and morally, within the context of a Christian philosophy of education, without eroding the traditions, practices and belief systems of indigenous and racialized students? | Facilitator: Marie Green – <i>PhD candidate in Theology, University of St. Michael's College</i> |
| 4:15-4:30pm | BREAK | | |
| 4:30-6:00pm | PLENARY 4: | Keynote Address | Speaker: Prof. John Borrows – <i>Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Law, University of Victoria</i> |
| TUESDAY – MAY 9 | | | |
| 8:30-9:00am | Multifaith Prayers | Welcome and overview of the second day of the conference | |

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| | Opening | | |
| 9:00-10:15am | PLENARY 5: Immigration and Refugees | Immigrants and refugees have been important protagonists, alongside Canada's Aboriginal people, in building this country. The earliest immigrants were helped to settle by indigenous people, and later arrivals have often been aided by faith groups. What have been some of the characteristics of these interactions, for better and for worse? What beliefs have inspired the work of faith groups to aid immigrants and resettle refugees? How has immigration contributed to our changing understanding of the role of religion in society? Is our current model of multiculturalism capable to responding new challenges arising from growing religious diversity? | <p>Speaker: Dr. Martin Mark – <i>Director, Office for Refugees, Archdiocese of Toronto</i></p> <p>Speaker: Prof. Audrey Macklin – <i>Professor and Chair in Human Rights Law, University of Toronto</i></p> <p>Speaker: Prof. Howard Adelman -- <i>Professor Emeritus, Philosophy, York University</i></p> |
| 10:15-10:30am | BREAK | | |
| 10:30-11:45am | WORKSHOP 5.1: Immigration and Refugees | <p>Faith & Settlement partnerships</p> <p>Funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), “Faith and Settlement Partnerships: Setting Immigrants and Canada up for Success.” aims to study partnerships among faith-based and government-funded settlement organizations in their collaborative efforts to assist newcomers. This research project is in itself an innovative collaboration, where Local Immigration Partnerships, faith-based groups, and academic institutions have come together to better understand the stories of newcomers, identify the contribution of faith communities to this process, and improve current settlement practices.</p> <p>This workshop will serve as a mobilization piece, informing</p> | <p>Facilitator: Kyla English – <i>Researcher, Centre for Community Based Research, Waterloo</i></p> |

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| | | participants about preliminary results, hearing input from the audience regarding the successes and challenges of refugee settlement in their own communities, and engaging in open dialogue about our research goals, processes, and possible outcomes. | |
| | WORKSHOP 5.2: Immigration and Refugees | Operation Ezra Operation Ezra is a Winnipeg-based initiative to sponsor Yazidi refugees to Canada and to focus world awareness on this genocide occurring “in broad daylight.” Originating in the Jewish community, this plan grew quickly and organically to become a national multifaith project engaging over 20 groups. This workshop will tell the story of how a small group of people inspired by the concept of tikkun olam has brought attention to the plight of refugees a world away undergoing genocide, and how it brought together faith groups who had had little previous interaction. It will also introduce the little-known Yazidi faith. | Facilitator: Belle Jarniewski – <i>Chair at Freeman Family Foundation Holocaust Education Centre, Winnipeg</i> |
| 11:45-1:00pm | LUNCH | | |
| 1:00-2:30pm | PLENARY 6: | Keynote Address | Speaker: Dr. John Ralston Saul – <i>novelist and essayist; former president of PEN international</i> |
| 2:30-4:00 pm | Move to Parliament Hill | | |

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| 4:00- 6:00 pm | PLENARY 7: | Reception and Panel Discussion on Parliament Hill | |
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