

Tackling

RADICALIZATION

In Faiths



Views of religious scholars
Presentations • Scripture Recitals • Exhibition
Brunch • Lunch • Refreshments

Sunday, November 1, 2015
River Run Centre
Guelph, Ontario, Canada

35th
Anniversary

1-877-INFO-WRC

www.WorldReligionsConference.org

TACKLING RADICALIZATION IN FAITHS



Sunday, Nov. 1, 2015
10:00 am - 4:30 pm
River Run Centre, Guelph

Radicalization of followers of faiths and philosophical traditions has become a global issue and concern for all of humanity. The conference will enlighten how different faith and philosophical groups tackle radicalization of the followers. The conference will further explore why radicalization is on the rise and what are the underlying causes of this phenomena.

You're invited. Free Admission. Register Online at
www.WorldReligionsConference.org
Complimentary Brunch, Lunch and Refreshments.

Toll-Free: 1-877-INFO-WRC (1-877-463-6972)
Email: info@WorldReligionsConference.org

Largest Multi-Faith Event in Canada



Interfaith Harmony

Quotes from Recent Religious Leaders

"... This is the most attractive and peace-giving principle. It provides the basis for reconciliation among nations and promotes better moral conduct. It teaches us to believe in the truth of all the prophets ..."



*Hazrat Ahmad, Promised Messiah
(Muslim Leader - 1835~1908)*



"... Our innermost prayer should be that a Hindu should be a better Hindu, a Muslim a better Muslim, a Christian a better Christian. I broaden my Hinduism by loving other religions than my own ... All religions are true..."



*Mahatma Gandhi
(Hindu Leader - 1869~1948)*



"... The problem to be faced is: how to combine loyalty to one's own tradition with reverence for different traditions ..."



*Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel
(Jewish Leader - 1907~1972)*



Quotes from Contemporary Religious Leaders

"... My fundamental belief is that all religious traditions have the same potential to make better human beings, good human beings, sensible human beings, compassionate human beings ..."



*His Holiness Dalai Lama Gyatso
(Buddhist Leader - Reign since 1950)*



"... All the major religions of the world taught the worship of God and love and compassion ... If these original teachings were upheld today it would lead to a harmonious society, free from conflict and war ..."



*His Holiness Mirza Masroor Ahmad
(Muslim Leader - Khilafat since 2003)*



"... Dialogue is born from an attitude of respect for the other person, from a conviction that the other person has something good to say. It assumes that there is room in the heart for the person's point of view, opinion, and proposal ..."



*His Holiness Pope Francis
(Christian Leader - Papacy since 2013)*



Program

November 1, 2015

Presided and Moderated by
Craig Norris - Radio Host



Craig Norris currently hosts the highly-rated CBC Radio 1 shows, The Morning Edition and In The Key of C. His 15-year broadcasting career began at CTV where he co-hosted The Chatroom, and was a music reporter for etalk! At CBC, he's also hosted The Craig Norris Hour, The R330, Laugh Out Loud!, CBC Radio 2 Drive, As It Happens and critically-acclaimed current affairs show, Know Your Rights.

Opening Session

10:00a ~ 12:00p

- 10:00a Doors Open
 – Welcome and Registration
 – Complimentary Brunch and Social
 – Visit to World Religions Displays
- 10:30a Opening World Religions Multi Media Presentation
- 10:40a Welcome by the Presiding Chair
 – Craig Norris, Radio Host
- 10:44a Opening Reading from a Holy Scripture
- 10:47a Opening Ceremony
 – Introduction of Speakers and Dignitaries
 – Unveiling of the World Religions Conference Plaque
 – Singing of O'Canada - National Anthem of Canada
- 11:00a Introductory Remarks
 – Lal Khan Malik, National President,
 Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama`at Canada
- 11:05a Speaker's Introductory Remarks *
 11:06a – Humanism: Doug Thomas – Elmira
 11:09a – Sikhism: Simerneet Singh – Chicago
 11:12a – Islam: Imam Farhan Iqbal – Toronto
 11:15a – Christianity: Rev. John Butters – Guelph
 11:18a – Aboriginals: Walter Cooke – Hamilton
 11:21a – Judaism: Dr. Daniel Maoz – Cambridge
 11:24a – Hinduism: Dr. Praveen Saxena – Guelph
- 11:27a Messages and Greetings from Guest Dignitaries
 – Local and Regional Leaders
 – Provincial and National leaders
- 12:00p Break Time and Social Interactions
 – Complimentary Lunch Service

Theme Session

"Tackling Radicalization"

1:00p ~ 3:26p

- 1:00p Introduction to the Theme Session – Moderator
- 1:02p Tackling Radicalization in Humanists – Doug Thomas
1:15p Presentation of Secular Principles – Society of FreeThinkers
- 1:19p Tackling Radicalization in Sikhs – Simerneet Singh
1:32p Sikh Holy Scripture Recitation – Local Sikh Community
- 1:36p Tackling Radicalization in Muslims – Imam Farhan Iqbal
1:49p Islamic Holy Scripture Recitation – Ahmadi Muslims
- 1:53p Tackling Radicalization in Christians – Rev. John Buttars
2:06p Christian Holy Scripture Recitation – Christian Community
- 2:10p Tackling Radicalization in Aboriginals – Walter Cooke
2:23p Aboriginal Holy Scripture Recitation – Aboriginal Community
- 2:27p Coffee Break – Complimentary Refreshments and Social
- 2:52p Tackling Radicalization in Jewish – Dr. Daniel Maoz
3:05p Jewish Holy Scripture Recitation – Local Jewish Community
- 3:09p Tackling Radicalization in Hindues – Dr. Praveen Saxena
3:22p Hindu Holy Scripture Recitation – Local Hindu Community

(* The order of speeches was determined via random draw on Sept 28, 2014)

Concluding and Interactive Session

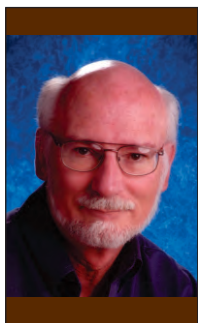
3:26p ~ 4:30p

- 3:26p Announcing rules of the Q/A Session – Moderator
- 3:28p Open Question & Answer Session
– with all speakers of different faiths and philosophies
- 4:23p Vote of Thanks - Recognition of Speakers and Volunteers
– Fwad Malik, President WRC Organizing Committee
- 4:27p Closing Remarks – Moderator & Chair
- 4:29p Silent Multi-Faith Prayer – All Faiths
- 4:30p Social Interaction and Adjournment

(Program agenda subject to change)

Speaker Profiles

Distinguished Speakers
of the
35th World Religions Conference
November 1, 2015



Representing Humanism

Doug Thomas – Elmira

An extensive writer, Doug is a life-long agnostic and an active Secular Humanist since 2002. As Past President of The Society of Ontario Freethinkers, and President of Secular Connexion Séculière, he advocates consistently for humanist rights and separation of church and state. He also works advocates for the inclusion and equitable treatment of atheist students in local schools. In 2013, he was nominated, for the J.S. Woodsworth Award for Human Rights and Equity.



Representing Sikhism

Simerneet Singh – Chicago USA

Brilliant Orator. Born and raised in Chicago, Simer studied and learned the practical and spiritual applications of Sat Sri Guru Granth Sahib under Sikh elders through the practice of meditation, known as Simran. Travels extensively throughout North America teaching English-speaking audiences (both Sikh and non-Sikhs), about Simran through the teachings in Sat Sri Guru Granth Sahib. Works full-time as President of Jojo Modern Pets, an ecommerce and manufacturing company.



Representing Islam

Imam Farhan Iqbal – Toronto

Articulate and powerful. Farhan is the Imam of Bai'tul Islam, one of the largest Mosques in Canada. Graduated in Islamic Theology and Comparative Religions (2010) from the Ahmadiyya Institute of Islamic studies. Served as Missionary of Islam in USA and Ghana. Represented Islam in various interfaith events in Canada. Routinely hosts a live phone-in Islamic radio program, as well as hosted programs on Muslim Television Ahmadiyya International.



Representing Christianity

Rev. John Buttars – Guelph

Cultured Raconteur. Minister (retired) of Harcourt United Church in Guelph with an academic background in history and theology as well as hospital chaplaincy. John served for over 30 years as a Minister where he sought to deepen spiritual and communal life within Harcourt and social justice in the wider community. After semi-retirement since 2006, he continues along the same focus. His immediate family traces ancestry to Europe and India.



Representing Aboriginals

Walter Cooke - Hamilton

Inspiring Speaker. Walter, an Elder/Counsellor, Ojibway-Cree of the Bear Clan. He works for De dwa da dehs nyes Aboriginal Health Centre in Hamilton, Ontario. Has been doing traditional healing work for over 25 years. His teachings come from listening to elders and in large, from his own way of life and that of his parents. Facilitates a Healing Journey Program at the Aboriginal Health Centre. Addressed numerous interfaith events.



Representing Judaism

Dr. Daniel Maoz – Cambridge

Engaging speaker and Jewish scholar. Daniel is member of both Orthodox and Reform Jewish communities in Kitchener-Waterloo. Scholar-in-Residence at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, Wilfrid Laurier University and a Research Associate for Concordia University, Montreal. Holds a Ph.D. from France and M.A. in History. Widely published and internationally presents his research in Jewish Studies.



Representing Hinduism

Dr. Praveen Saxena – Guelph

Brilliant Presenter. Professor at the University of Guelph and the director of the Gosling Research Institute for Plant Preservation, which specializes in saving endangered plant species from extinction. Praveen also researches interconnections among nature, science and spirituality. As the Hindu representative of the Multi-Faith Resource Team of the University of Guelph and the Hindu Society of Guelph, he organizes interactive discussions on the philosophy and science of Hinduism.

History in Canada

World Religions Conferences

This conference has been organized in Southwestern Ontario, Canada (Brantford, Waterloo, Kitchener, Guelph) for 35 years. Each year the event explores a new theme and promotes interfaith harmony, respect and tolerance between the followers of different faiths and philosophies.

Glimpses from Recent Years



September 24, 2014: Pathway to Peace - Guelph



October 6, 2013: Religious Freedom as Practised by Founders - Guelph



October 13, 2012: Idea of an Ideal Government - Waterloo



October 1, 2011: Who is God? Nature and Characteristics - Waterloo

WORLD RELIGIONS CONFERENCE

In the Eyes of Canadian Dignitaries



“... Endeavors such as the World Religions Conference are vital for they demonstrate to the world that despite the richness of our differences, we have so much in common and can live together in a spirit of understanding and compassion...”

*The Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada*



“... Your presence at this conference demonstrates a shared belief in working together and collaborating with one another to understand the varied perspectives of faith structures as they relate to our world today ... you are learning more about each other and taking an active role in improving the human condition for all ...”

*His Excellency The Right Honourable David Johnston
Governor General of Canada*



“... This unique event - the largest multi-faith conference of its kind in Canada, brings together individuals from a wide range of religious beliefs ... The longevity of this annual event is testimony to the respect Canada shows towards the varied faiths of its citizens. I trust that you will embrace the convention’s message of respect and inclusion ...”

*The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada*



“... Hosting events such as this represent an opportunity to renew our commitment to religious freedom. It is also a chance to be inspired and enlightened by the wisdom of different religious and philosophical traditions...”

*The Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Premier of Ontario*

Premier Sponsor & Organizer



AHMADIYYA
MUSLIM JAMA'AT

C a n a d a

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at is the largest organized Muslim Community in the world that believes in the awaited Messiah; Mirza Ghulam Ahmad^{as}, who founded the Community in 1889.

He presented the vision of the World Religions Conference over 100 years ago. A religious movement to unite humanity, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at is an embodiment of the benevolent message of all world religions – peace, universal brotherhood, and submission to the Will of God. It is known for its motto:

Love For All, Hatred For None

amjcanada.com

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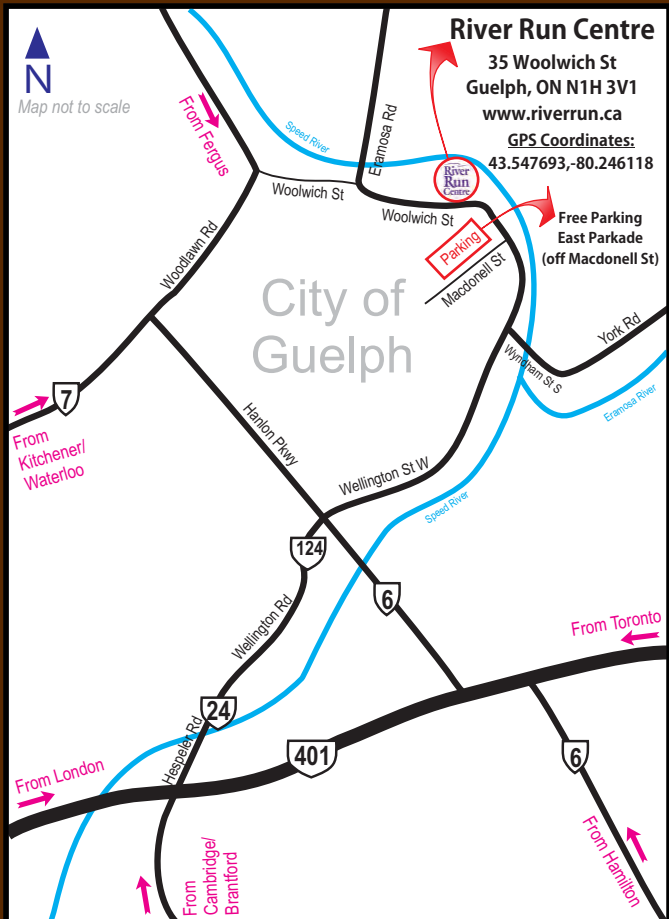
	Brahmarishi Mission of Canada (Kitchener-Waterloo-Guelph)		Church of Our Lady Immaculate, Guelph
	Sikh Students' Association		Duff's Presbyterian Church (Guelph)
			Sri Sathya Sai Baba Spiritual Group (UW)
			Waterloo Riverview Dharma Centre
			Ahmadiyya Muslim Students' Association Univ of Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier & Univ of Guelph
	St. Philip's Lutheran Church Kitchener	KW Council of Churches	
Multi-Faith Resource Team Ecumenical Campus Minister The University of Guelph			CHURCH OF SAINT MICHAEL Waterloo, Ontario
			Forest Hill United Church Kitchener

Other Partners

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	Promoting Harmony CROSS CULTURES through knowledge and better understanding		LFA WLU FreeThought Alliance
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3. Latest updated partners list is available online at www.worldreligionsconference.org
4. The partner organization logos are listed in NO particular order.



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www.riverrun.ca

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(off Macdonell St)

City of Guelph

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Visit online www.WorldReligionsConference.org for more details.

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