



**PETER
BRAID**
member of parliament
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**KITCHENER-
WATERLOO**



As the Member of Parliament for Kitchener-Waterloo, it is my pleasure to send greetings, and welcome you to our community.

I would like to thank the World Religions Conference organizers and volunteers, as well as the guest speakers for working together to make this event a success yet again, and I regret that I am unable to attend this year.

This year's theme – Idea of an Ideal Government – focuses on the relationship between faith communities and government.

Canada is a country of many ethnicities and religions, but we all share one humanity - one of respect, acceptance, peace and security.

The Canadian political tradition incorporates these common fundamental values, and we see them reflected in our institutions, our laws, and the fabric of our society.

Canada is a truly multicultural and accepting nation and the annual World Religions Conference, now in its 32nd year, is a symbol of our openness and our capacity to embrace one another's differences.

The many speakers here today offer differing perspectives, but they also demonstrate the many commonalities among faiths.

This exchange of ideas is essential as we continue to explore what it means to be global citizens, and how governments, faith groups, and civil society might work together to create a world of peace and harmony.

Today's conference is an important step on that journey, and I wish everyone here a successful and rewarding experience as we strive toward a deeper understanding.

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