



*The Honourable John McKay P.C., M.P.*

OTTAWA

October, 2012

Dear friends,

On behalf of the Liberal Party of Canada it is my pleasure to extend my warmest greeting to attendees of this year's 32<sup>nd</sup> World Religions Conference at the University of Waterloo.



Having attended the conference in numerous years previous I can attest to the importance of this event in helping to build bridges and mutual understanding between peoples of diverse backgrounds, an invaluable exercise in a society that takes pride in its multicultural heritage and values. The dialogue that is shared at this conference and relationships across faiths that are built form an integral part of the fabric of tolerance, inclusion and mutual respect that are the cornerstones of our civic life here in Canada.

The topic for this year's conference, "Idea of an Ideal Government," is of special importance in a time of declining voter turnout and participation in civic life. I believe that faith communities can and must play an important role in the public realm. Faith communities serve the most important social and spiritual needs of our society and are an invaluable source of experience and knowledge for policy makers. In short, greater inclusion of faith communities in public life will make for a stronger, more vibrant society.

I would like to thank the organizers for this opportunity to commend the participants at this year's event and wish everyone an enjoyable and productive conference.

Sincerely,

Hon. John McKay P.C., M.P.  
Scarborough-Guildwood

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