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*Tim Uppal*

Member of Parliament / Député  
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**Greetings from the Honourable Tim Uppal, P.C., M.P.**

Saturday, October 13, 2012

It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest greetings, on behalf of the Government and Prime Minister of Canada, to all in attendance at the thirty- second World Religions Conference (WRC) in Kitchener-Waterloo. I would also like to extend a very special thank you to all those that helped to organize and are participating in this wonderful forum of different religion and ethnic communities.

Faith and Religion is something that is very important to me and too many Canadians right across our country. The Freedom of all Canadians to practice their faith is a value that we all share and hold in very high regard.

It is a value that is enshrined in the hearts of all Canadians, from many different backgrounds and faiths.

Being a person of faith in politics - this is a cause that is very important to me. In politics, diversity is a good thing. Diverse views make us stronger as a whole. To this end we need religious views on the political stage as well as individuals who will defend those religious views for all.

Gatherings such as this multi-faith conference demonstrate to the world the importance of bringing together diverse views and the essential impact this has on the development of a free and democratic society.

I would like to extend my sincere best wishes to all in attendance, as you gather in the spirit of tolerance, peace, cooperation and understanding to explore the impact faith communities have on politics and governments.

Once again, on behalf of the Government of Canada, please accept my appreciation to all those in attendance for your contributions to this wonderful event.

Sincerely,

**The Honourable Tim Uppal, P.C., M.P.**

Minister of State for Democratic Reform

Member of Parliament for Edmonton-Sherwood Park



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