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On behalf of Regional Council, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the attendees of the 39th World Religions Conference. I'm sorry that I'm not able to join you today as local religious and academic leaders come together to reflect upon how to create a just society.

Waterloo Region is rich in multiculturalism and has a proud and long history of welcoming newcomers from across the world and spanning most religions. I believe that we have a caring and compassionate community. The more we learn about different faith traditions, the more we recognize that religion unites us rather than separates us.

I know that we don't live in a perfect world and that we need to be diligent in our efforts to address and prevent the many injustices around us. I am hopeful that today's coming together will result in a renewed desire to make this world, our community a better place to live.

I wish you all a memorable conference.

Regards,

Karen Redman
Regional Chair