



THE GOVERNOR GENERAL · LA GOUVERNEURE GÉNÉRALE

**Message from the Governor General
on the occasion of the World Religious Conference**

I am pleased to send greetings to all those gathered for the World Religious Conference. This year's theme, Combating Racism, is vital to a country that prides itself on equality, justice and freedom.

Confronting the disease of hate in our communities means recognizing it in our communities. It means acknowledging prejudices, even those we hold without realization. It means facing who we are and what we have done. For example, Canadians are becoming more focused on the importance of and the need for reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. This requires constant work and compassion. And it requires us to reconcile with the truth of our past.

Facing that truth can be hard, but it can also bring us together.

There is no room for racism and hate in our country. It is up to all of us, all Canadians of all faiths and all beliefs, to come together to promote tolerance and understanding.

I thank all of you for addressing this important topic and I wish you the very best with your conversations.

Mary May Simon