

CELEBRATING



CANADA 150 YEARS

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# OUR WHOLE SOCIETY: RELIGION & CITIZENSHIP AT CANADA'S 150TH

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SAINT PAUL UNIVERSITY, OTTAWA, MAY 8-9, 2017

## *2017 Conference Program*



**OWS**  
CONFERENCE



Canadian  
**Interfaith**  
CONVERSATION





# OUR WHOLE SOCIETY: RELIGION & CITIZENSHIP AT CANADA'S 150TH

## PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE

Monday, May 8, 2017

9:00 - 9:30 AM	Multi-faith prayers and conference welcome.	<b>The Rev. Dr. Karen Hamilton</b> - Chair, Conference Planning Committee <b>Geoffrey Cameron</b> - Chair, Conference Program Committee	
<b>OPENING PLENARY 1: SOLIDARITY IN DIVERSITY</b>			
9:30 - 10:45 AM	How can an inclusive society provide space for diverse perspectives and practices to be welcomed into the public sphere?	<b>Dr. Andrew Bennett</b> - Senior Fellow, Cardus <b>Dr. Ingrid Mattson</b> - Chair of Islamic Studies, Huron University College <b>Palbinder Shergill</b> - General Legal Counsel, World Sikh Organization	
10:45 - 11:15 AM	BREAK		
11:15 - 12:15 PM	<b>WORKSHOP 1:1</b>	<b>WORKSHOP 1:2</b>	<b>WORKSHOP 1:3</b>
	<b>Amira Elghawaby</b> <i>Exploring How and Why Faith Communities can Counter Negative Coverage of Islam &amp; Muslims in Canadian Media</i>	<b>Dr. Nicholas Olkovich</b> <i>Balancing the Virtues of Autonomy and Solidarity: An Interfaith Case for Basic Income?</i>	<b>Tom Sherwood</b> <i>"Spiritual but Not Religious" (SBNR) Spirituality, Religion and Citizenship at Canada 150</i>
12:15 - 1:30 PM	LUNCH		
<b>PLENARY 2: RECONCILIATION</b>			
1:30 - 2:45 PM	The hearings and report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission have helped to move Canada on a path towards reconciliation with Aboriginal peoples. In view of the role churches played in the residential schools, how should they contribute to the process of reconciliation? What kinds of values and principles will help us to live together in unity?	<b>Prof. Douglas Sanderson</b> - Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto <b>Bishop Mark MacDonald</b> - National Indigenous Bishop, Anglican Church of Canada; North American President, World Council of Churches <b>Karen Joseph</b> - Director and CEO at Reconciliation Canada	
2:45 - 3:00 PM	BREAK		
3:00 - 4:00 PM	<b>WORKSHOP 2:1</b>	<b>WORKSHOP 2:2</b>	
	<b>Deanna Zantingh and Bernadette Arthur</b> <i>An Act of Re-Membering</i>	<b>Marie Green</b> <i>Engaging Indigenous Students in Contemporary Christian School Settings</i>	
4:00 - 4:15 PM	BREAK		
<b>PLENARY 3: KEYNOTE ADDRESS</b>			
4:15 - 5:30 PM	Reconciliation and Refusal: The TRC and the Politics of Spirituality	<b>Dr. John Borrows</b> - Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Law, University of Victoria	

# PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

8:30 - 9:00 AM Multi-faith prayers and conference overview.

## PLENARY 4: IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEES

9:00 - 10:15 AM How has immigration contributed to our changing understanding of the role of religion in society? Is our current model of multiculturalism capable of responding to new challenges arising from growing religious diversity?

**Dr. Martin Mark** - Director, Office for Refugees, Archdiocese of Toronto  
**Prof. Howard Adelman** - Professor Emeritus, Philosophy, York University  
**Rita Chahal** - Executive Director, Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council

10:15 - 10:30 AM BREAK

10:30 - 11:30 AM	WORKSHOP 4:1	WORKSHOP 4:2
	<b>Hector Acero Ferrer, Idrisa Pandit, Elyas Farooqi, and Chris Brnjas</b> <i>Faith and Settlement Partnerships</i>	<b>Belle Jarniewski</b> <i>Operation Ezra</i> <i>A Winnipeg Jewish Community initiative to rescue, support, and resettle Yazidi Refugees to Canada.</i>

11:30 - 12:30 PM LUNCH

## PLENARY 5: KEYNOTE ADDRESS

12:30 - 2:00 PM The Place of Spirituality and Citizenship

**Dr. John Ralston Saul** - Novelist and essayist; former president of PEN International

2:00 - 2:30 PM BOOK SIGNING

2:30 - 3:00 PM MOVE TO PARLIAMENT HILL

## PLENARY 6: RECEPTION AND PANEL DISCUSSION

4:00 - 6:00 PM	<p>Bridging the Religious-Secular Divide in Parliament</p> <p>Reception and Panel Discussion on Parliament Hill</p> <p>Location: Sir John A. MacDonald Building 144 Wellington Street in room 200</p> <p><i>Please plan to arrive at the security entrance for the Sir John A. MacDonald Building at 3:00pm. Given rush hour you should count on taking 20-25 minutes to get there by Taxi or Uber.</i></p> <p><b>PHOTO ID IS REQUIRED TO GET THROUGH SECURITY.</b></p>	<p><b>Parliamentarian Panellists</b></p> <p><b>Hon. John McKay</b> - Liberal Member of Parliament for Scarborough—Guildwood</p> <p><b>Yasmin Ratansi</b> - Liberal Member of Parliament for Don Valley East</p> <p><b>Elizabeth May</b> - Green Member of Parliament for Saanich—Gulf Islands</p> <p><b>Garnett Genuis</b> - Conservative Member of Parliament for Sherwood Park—Fort Saskatchewan</p>
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# SESSIONS

Monday, May 8, 2017

## OPENING PLENARY 1, 9:30 - 10:45 AM

Plenary 1 - Ampitheatre



### Solidarity in Diversity

*Speakers: Dr. Andrew Bennett, Dr. Ingrid Mattson, and Palbinder Shergill*

*Moderator: Ronald A. Kuipers*

Canada professes to be a society that celebrates diversity as a social good. As a liberal democracy, however, Canada's political culture has also been shaped by the Enlightenment concern to police the role of religion in the public sphere. In order to stem the potential for religious conflict and division, both real and perceived, Canada has largely followed a policy of exclusive secularism. This approach restricts religion to the private sphere and seeks to prevent it from influencing public discourse and policy. While such an exclusive secularism may protect a certain level of social unity, it does so at the cost of marginalizing many active and engaged citizens. What is the alternative? Is it possible to have an inclusive secularism, which welcomes religious viewpoints and practices into the public sphere? Can such greater inclusion be achieved while maintaining or even strengthening current levels of social solidarity?

## WORKSHOPS 1: SOLIDARITY IN DIVERSITY, 11:15 - 12:30 PM

Workshop 1:1 - Rm. G-1130



### Exploring How and Why Faith Communities Can Counter Negative Coverage of Islam and Muslims in Canadian Media

*Facilitator: Amira Elghawaby*

This workshop will explore the theme "Solidarity in Diversity" within the context of how we understand, react, and counter negative media framing of Canadian Muslims. It will also explore the repercussions of continuous and sustained negative framing on the health of Canada's pluralistic communities, as well as the influence such stories have on general attitudes towards religion in Canada. The workshop will also look at ways faith communities can work together to counter misconceptions by sharing their stories of solidarity and collaboration in the media.

Workshop 1:2 - Rm. G-1141



### Balancing the Virtues of Autonomy and Solidarity: An Interfaith Case for Basic Income?

*Facilitator: Dr. Nicholas Olkovich*

This workshop invites participants to reflect on the relationship between faith-based insights and Basic Income, a policy designed to ensure citizens an income sufficient to meet their basic needs. This session will be divided into two sections. In Part 1 I will define basic income, highlight several philosophical frameworks that counsel its rejection or acceptance, and build a case for its implementation that draws on Catholic Social Teaching. In Part 2 I will invite participants to reflect in small groups on a number of themes, including: religion's role in contemporary public discourse in general, and the connection between faith-based resources, socio-economic rights, and basic income in particular.

# SESSIONS

Workshop 1:3 - Amphitheatre



**“Spiritual But Not Religious” (SBNR) Spirituality, Religion and Citizenship at Canada 150**  
*Facilitator: Tom Sherwood*

There are now large numbers of the Spiritual-But-Not-Religious in Canada. Historically religion has demonstrated potential to be a powerful resource for “strengthening citizenship. Does SBNR spirituality have that potential? This workshop brings several SBNR young adults into the conversation in a panel moderated by Tom Sherwood, the United Church Senior Scholar who has spent several years interviewing and working with SBNR populations. The panel and workshop participants will engage such questions as “Can religious and SBNR populations respect each other and work together?”

**PLENARY 2, 1:30 - 2:45 PM**

Plenary 2 - Amphitheatre



**Reconciliation**

*Speakers: Prof. Douglas Sanderson, Bishop Mark MacDonald, and Karen Joseph*

The hearings and report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission have helped to move Canada on a path towards reconciliation with Aboriginal peoples. In view of the role churches played in the residential schools, how should they contribute to the process of reconciliation? What about Canada’s other religious communities? How should Aboriginal spirituality inform our conversations about reconciliation? Are there different traditions of thought and practice about reconciliation? What kinds of values and principles will help us to live together in unity?

**WORKSHOPS 2: RECONCILIATION, 3:00 - 4:00 PM**

Workshop 2:1 -Amphitheatre



**An Act of Re-Membering**

*Facilitators: Deanna Zantingh and Bernadette Arthur*

“An Act of Re-Membering” is an interactive participatory experience that uses a non-linear conception of time to allow participants to embark on a journey of time and space to “re-member” the story of humanity in Canada. The workshop will trace the separation, re-identification and commodification process of both lands and bodies, prior to and throughout Canadian history, with attention given to how privilege changes the experience of this process for diverse groups of people. Participants will be guided in sharing circle discussions following the exercise to explore these themes and the interfaith nature of “re-membering.”

Workshop 2:2 - Rm. G-1130



**Engaging Indigenous Students in Contemporary Christian School Settings**

*Facilitator: Marie Green*

This workshop aims to increase participant’s knowledge of the philosophy behind culturally responsible education and how this aligns with faith-based principles of love and “welcoming the stranger.” At the end of this workshop, participants will be able to identify the common elements of culturally responsible education and how some education systems are employing these elements; recognize experiences, traditions, practices, and customs unique to one’s family, community and upbringing, as valid knowledge systems; and identify different ways of knowing.

# SESSIONS

## PLENARY 3: KEYNOTE ADDRESS, 4:15 - 5:30 PM

Amphitheatre



**Keynote Address**  
**Reconciliation and Refusal: The TRC and the Politics of Spirituality**  
*Speaker: Dr. John Borrows*

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

## PLENARY 4, 9:00 - 10:15 AM

Amphitheatre



**Immigration and Refugees**  
*Speakers: Dr. Martin Mark, Prof. Howard Adelman, and Rita Chahal*

Immigrants and refugees have been important protagonists alongside Canada's Aboriginal people in building this country. The earliest immigrants were helped to settle by indigenous people, and later arrivals have often been aided by faith groups. What have been some of the characteristics of these interactions, for better and for worse? What beliefs have inspired the work of faith groups to aid immigrants and resettle refugees? How has immigration contributed to our changing understanding of the role of religion in society? Is our current model of multiculturalism capable of responding to new challenges arising from growing religious diversity?

## WORKSHOPS 4, 10:30 - 11:30 AM

Workshop 4:1 - Amphitheatre



**Faith and Settlement Partnerships: Setting Immigrants and Canada Up for Success**  
*Speakers: Hector Acero Ferrer, Idrisa Pandit, Elyas Farooqi, and Chris Brnjas*

The Centre for Community Based Research is spearheading this unique multi-partner research project entitled "Faith and Settlement Partnerships: Setting Immigrants and Canada Up for Success." The project incorporates three types of research activities – a literature review, online surveys, and six case studies – with the goal of determining how faith/settlement partnerships can lead to positive settlement outcomes for newcomers and benefit Canadian society. This workshop will serve as a space to inform participants about preliminary results, engage in open dialogue about our research goals and process, and hear the audience's input regarding the successes and challenges of refugee-settlement in their own communities. A panel of researchers (including academics and practitioners) will provide three seven-minute presentations corresponding to each of the research activities of the project. Each presentation will be followed by 15-20 minutes of facilitated dialogue amongst panelists and between panelists and audience members.

# SESSIONS

Workshop 4:2 - Rm. G-1130	 <p><b>Operation Ezra</b>  <i>Speaker: Belle Jarniewski</i></p> <p>Operation Ezra is a Winnipeg-based initiative to sponsor Yazidi refugees to Canada and to focus world awareness on this genocide occurring “in broad daylight.” Originating in the Jewish community, this plan grew quickly and organically to become a national multifaith project engaging over 20 groups. This workshop will tell the story of how a small group of people inspired by the concept of tikkun olam has brought attention to the plight of refugees a world away undergoing genocide, and how it brought together faith groups who had had little previous interaction. It will also introduce the little-known Yazidi faith.</p>
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## PLENARY 5, 12:30 - 2:00 PM

Amphitheatre	 <p><b>Keynote Address</b>  <b>The Place of Spirituality and Citizenship</b>  <i>Speaker: Dr. John Ralston Saul</i></p>
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## PLENARY 6, 4:00 - 6:00 PM

*(Plan to arrive by 3:00pm for security screening)*

Parliament Hill - Sir John A. MacDonald Building	 <p><b>Bridging the Religious-Secular Divide in Parliament</b>  <b>Reception and Panel Discussion on Parliament Hill</b>  <b>Location: Sir John A. MacDonald Building located at 144 Wellington Street in room 200</b></p> <p><b>Parliamentarian Panellists:</b></p> <p><b>Hon. John McKay</b> - <i>Liberal Member of Parliament for Scarborough—Guildwood</i></p> <p><b>Yasmin Ratansi</b> - <i>Liberal Member of Parliament for Don Valley East</i></p> <p><b>Elizabeth May</b> - <i>Green Member of Parliament for Saanich—Gulf Islands</i></p> <p><b>Garnett Genuis</b> - <i>Conservative Member of Parliament for Sherwood Park—Fort Saskatchewan</i></p> <p>Location: Sir John A. MacDonald Building, 144 Wellington Street in room 200</p> <p><i>Please plan to arrive at the security entrance for the Sir John A. MacDonald Building at 3:00pm. Given rush hour you should count on taking 20-25 minutes to get there by Taxi or Uber.</i></p> <p><b>PHOTO ID IS REQUIRED TO GET THROUGH SECURITY.</b></p>
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# MEET THE PRESENTERS



**Howard Adelman**, currently a Professor Emeritus at York University, was previously a Professor of Philosophy at York University from 1966-2003, where he founded and was the first Director of the Centre for Refugee Studies and Editor of *Refuge* until the end of 1993. Howard Adelman has written, co-authored, edited or co-edited 26 books. He writes a daily blog on such topics as Israel, American politics, ethics, Judaism and assorted book, theatre and movie reviews. The blog is found at [howardadelman.com](http://howardadelman.com).



**Bernadette Arthur** is the Office of Race Relations, Canadian Race Relations Co-ordinator for the Christian Reformed Church in North America. She is a facilitator, trainer and coach in the areas of anti-racism, biblical reconciliation and diversity and inclusion. Bernadette is also a vetted Community Advancement Coach with Communities First Association and offers training and coaching in the areas of faith-based Asset-Based Community Development.



**Dr. Andrew P.W. Bennett** is Senior Fellow at Cardus, Canada's leading faith-based think-tank. He also serves as Senior Fellow at Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs and as a Commissioner on the newly established Commonwealth Initiative on Freedom of Religion or Belief. Dr. Bennett previously served as Canada's Ambassador for Religious Freedom and Head of the Office of Religious Freedom from 2013 to 2016.



**John Borrows B.A., M.A., J.D., LL.M. (Toronto), Ph.D. (Osgoode Hall Law School), LL.D. (Hons., Dalhousie) F.R.S.C.** is the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Law at the University of Victoria. His publications include *Recovering Canada: The Resurgence of Indigenous Law* (Donald Smiley Award for the best book in Canadian Political Science, 2002), *Canada's Indigenous Constitution* (Canadian Law and Society Best Book Award 2011), *Drawing Out Law: A Spirit's Guide* (2010), *Freedom and Indigenous Constitutionalism* (2015), all from the University of Toronto Press. John is Anishinaabe/Ojibway and a member of the Chipewewa of the Nawash First Nation in Ontario, Canada.



**Amira Elghawaby** is the Communications Director at the National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM). She has worked as both a full-time and freelance journalist, writing and producing stories for a variety of media including CBC Radio and The Globe and Mail. She obtained an honours degree in Journalism and Law from Carleton University in 2001.



## **Hector Acero Ferrer - Idrisa Pandit - Mohammed Baobaid - Chris Brnjas**

The research project "Faith and Settlement Partnerships: Setting Immigrants and Canada up for Success" is a collaborative effort of Local Immigration Partnerships, faith-based groups, and academic institutions, spearheaded by the Centre for Community Based Research. This two-year project (2016-2018), funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, aims to study partnerships among faith-based and government-funded settlement organizations. The project incorporates three types of research activities – a literature review, online surveys, and six case studies – with the goal of determining how faith/settlement partnerships can lead to positive settlement outcomes for newcomers and benefit Canadian society.



## MEET THE PRESENTERS



**Marie Green** is a certified teacher with the Ontario College of Teachers and the New York State Board of Education. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Theology at the University of St. Michael's College. Her research focuses on intersections between Christian education and Indigeneity.



**Belle Jarniewski's** current roles include Chair of the Holocaust Education Centre, President of the Manitoba Multifaith Council and Delegate to the IHRA. Her passion for tikkun olam has led her to co-found a Muslim-Jewish interfaith dialogue group. She is one of the original founders of Operation Ezra.



**Karen Joseph** is the CEO of Reconciliation Canada. She is a proud member of the Kwakwaka'wakw people and brings more than 18 years experience inspiring diverse partners to collaborate towards achieving effective, positive change. In 2017, Reconciliation Canada will be hosting two Walks for Reconciliation in Toronto and Vancouver on September 24.



**Bishop Mark MacDonald** became the Anglican Church of Canada's first National Indigenous Bishop in 2007, after having served as the Bishop of Alaska for 10 years. He is the North American President of the World Council of Churches.



**Dr. Martin Mark** has served in increasing capacities with numerous voluntary organizations with mandates of promoting international social justice and refugee-related issues over the past 30 years. He has visited and worked in over 60 countries on refugee, migration and social justice related work. Dr. Mark has frequently participated in the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Annual Meetings in Geneva. Since 2001, he has coordinated the refugee resettlement efforts of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto.



**Ingrid Mattson, Ph.D.** is a scholar of Islamic Studies, an expert in interfaith relations and a Muslim religious leader. In 2012 she became the inaugural Chair of Islamic Studies at Huron University College; previously she taught in the U.S.A. and was president of the largest Muslim organization in the country.

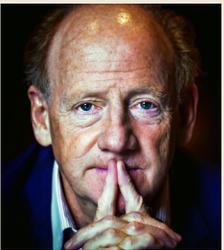
## MEET THE PRESENTERS



**Nicholas Olkovich** is Assistant Professor and Director of Field Education and Pastoral Formation in the Faculty of Theology, University of St. Michael's College. His research focuses on the relationship between ethics, politics and religion in liberal democratic contexts.



**Prof. Douglas Sanderson** is an Associate professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto. His research areas include Aboriginal and Indigenous law and legal theory, as well as private law and public and private legal theory. His work uses the lens of material culture and property theory to examine the nature of historic injustice to Indigenous peoples and possible avenues for redress. Professor Sanderson is a member of the Opaskwayak Cree Nation.



**John Ralston Saul, C.C., O.Ont** is an award-winning essayist and novelist. His 14 works have been translated into 28 languages in 37 countries. His latest work, *The Comeback (Le Grand Retour)* is an examination of the remarkable resurgence to power of Indigenous peoples in Canada. His recent writings on immigration and citizenship are increasingly positioning him as one of the leading voices on the subject worldwide. Saul is the former President of PEN International and co-chair of the Institute for Canadian Citizenship and 6 Degrees Citizen Space.



**Palbinder Kaur Shergill, QC** is a lawyer and mediator, practicing with her law firm, Shergill & Company, Trial Lawyers, in Surrey, BC. Palbinder was appointed Queens Counsel in 2012. Palbinder is a leading human rights advocate and has argued landmark cases before the Supreme Court of Canada in her capacity as the General Legal Counsel for the World Sikh Organization of Canada. Palbinder's private practice focuses on complex commercial, general, and personal injury cases, as well as class actions.



**Tom Sherwood** is a United Church minister, former university chaplain and Adjunct Research Professor in the College of the Humanities, Carleton University. He is the author of *Listening to The Echo* (United Church/Friesen Press, 2016), a study of young adult SBNR spirituality in Canada ("Spiritual But Not Religious").



**Deanna Zantingh** is Keeper of the Learning Circle at the Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre in Beausejour, Manitoba. Deanna grew up in the Christian Reformed Church. She completed her Master of Theological Studies at Canadian Mennonite University with a thesis examining land and identity, as a means of highlighting the prophetic voices of Indigenous people for the church today.

This conference has been organized under the auspices of the Canadian Interfaith Conversation in grateful partnership with several groups as identified below.

# Canadian Interfaith CONVERSATION



Canadian Race  
Relations  
Foundation

Fondation  
canadienne des  
relations raciales



The Bahá'í Community of Canada  
La communauté bahá'íe du Canada



EFC The Evangelical  
Fellowship of Canada



The United Church  
of Canada



TRINITY  
WESTERN  
UNIVERSITY



WORLD SIKH ORGANIZATION  
OF CANADA

FONDATION  
TRUDEAU  
FOUNDATION

