THE PROGRAM - MONDAY, MAY 27

8:30am to 9:00am

Welcome and devotions

Speakers:
- Mike Hogeterp (On behalf of conference steering committee)
- Dean Ellen Aitken (Dean of Religious Studies, McGill University)

9:00am to 10:30am

Panel

Taking the temperature: Religion and secularism in Canadian society

- What does secularism look like in Canadian society? How does it influence our public discourse?
- How has the influence of religion on thinking about social issues and public policy changed over time?
- What are the prospects for a more civil and robust discourse on the relationship between religion, society, and politics in Canada?

Moderator:
- Dr. Margaret Somerville (Samuel Gale Chair in Law and Professor in the Faculty of Medicine, McGill University)

Speakers:
- Lorna Dueck (Host, Context with Lorna Dueck)
- Dr. Patrice Brodeur (Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair on Islam, Pluralism, University of Montreal)
- Rabbi Lisa Grushcow (Senior Rabbi, Temple Emmanu-El-Beth Sholom)

10:30am to 11:00am (Break)

11:00am to 12:00pm

A look at history: Canada’s legacy of pluralism and religious freedom

- What influence have Canada’s religions had on its social and political development?
- How has religious freedom developed in law and society?

Moderator and Respondent:
- Dr. Daniel Cere (Associate Professor of Religious Studies, McGill University)

Speaker:
- Dr. Janet Epp Buckingham (Associate Professor, Trinity Western University)

12:00pm to 1:00pm (Lunch)
**Panel**

From the perspective of Canada’s religions

- What does your religious tradition say about participation in the broader discourses of society by its members?
- What approaches and methods do you think are appropriate for religious actors to employ in their engagement with public issues?
- Do you believe there are ‘limits’ on acceptable public discourse and if so, why and what would they be?

Moderator:
- Prof Arvind Sharma (Birks Professor of Comparative Religion, McGill University)

Speakers:
- Dr Victor Goldbloom (former MNA and Cabinet Minister in Quebec, former CEO of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, former Commissioner of Languages, Companion of the Order of Canada)
- Dr Imam Hamid Slimi (Chairman, Canadian Council of Imams)
- Susanne Tamas (Director of Government Relations, Baha’i Community of Canada)
- Bruce Clemenger (President, Evangelical Fellowship of Canada)
- Balpreet Singh Boparai (Legal Counsel, World Sikh Organization – Canada)

**Panel**

All the news that’s fit to print: Perspectives from the media

- Is the media ‘secular’? And if so, what does this mean?
- What does the media need to learn about religion?
- What do religious communities and institutions need to understand about the media?

Moderator:
- Dr Gerald Filson (Director of Public Affairs, Baha’i Community of Canada)

Speakers:
- Natasha Fatah (former host of Promised Land on CBC Radio)
- Douglas Todd (Columnist, The Vancouver Sun)
- Peter Stockland (Publisher, Convivium; Past Editor-in-Chief, Montreal Gazette)

**Panel**

The view from the Hill: Perspectives from Parliamentarians

- What is the legitimate role of religion in discussions on matters on public policy?
- What interventions by representatives of religious communities have been helpful, and unhelpful, in your experience?
- What do those who seek to engage policy discussions at the level of principles and values need to understand about political processes?

Moderator:
- Dr. Janet Epp Buckingham (Associate Professor, Trinity Western University)

Speakers:
- Mark Adler (Member of Parliament for York Centre)
- Joe Comartin (Member of Parliament for Windsor-Tecumseh, Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons)
- Hon John McKay (Member of Parliament for Scarborough-Guildwood)

**Special Plenary Address**

Speaker:
- Archbishop Christian Lépine (Archbishop of Montreal)

4:15pm to 5:00pm (Break)
# Keynote Plenary

*Bridging the secular divide: A conversation*

**Moderator:**
- Peter Stockland (Publisher, Convivium; Past Editor-in-Chief, Montreal Gazette)

**Speakers:**
- Hon Bill Blaikie (Director, The Knowles-Woodworth Centre for Theology and Public Policy; Former Member of Parliament)
- Dr. Daniel Weinstock (MacDonald Professor of Law, McGill University; founding director of the Centre de recherche en éthique de l’Université de Montréal)

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6:30pm to 7:30pm (Networking Reception)

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## Tuesday, May 28

### 8:30am to 9:00am

**Welcome and devotions**

**Speakers:**
- Mike Hogeterp (On behalf of conference steering committee)
- Dean Ellen Aitken (Dean of Religious Studies, McGill University)

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### 9:00am to 10:15am

**Plenary**

*Speaking together as one: Religious pluralism and the future of Canada’s public discourse*

**Moderator:**
- Lorna Dueck (Host, Context with Lorna Dueck)

**Speaker:**
- The Reverend Dr James Christie (Director of The Ridd Institute for Religion & Global Policy, University of Winnipeg)

**Respondent:**
- Alia Hogben (Executive Director, Canadian Council of Muslim Women)

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### 10:15am to 10:30am (Break)

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### 10:30am to 12:00pm

**Breakout Sessions: Engaging in public discourses – PART 1**

*Each session will be guided by the following questions:*
- What are the main issues and challenges in this discourse?
- How do religious or spiritual teachings provide a different perspective on these issues?
- How can our collective understanding be advanced through deeper dialogue?

**Youth empowerment (Birks 203)**

**Moderator:**
- Geoffrey Cameron (Principal Researcher, Baha’i Community of Canada)

**Speakers:**
- Rizwan Mohammad (Canadian Council of Muslim Women)
- Joycelin Ng (Director, National Student Forum)

**Public education and religion (Chapel)**

**Speakers:**
- Prof Spencer Boudreau (Faculty of Education; Ombudsman for Students, McGill University)
- Paul Donovan (Principal, Loyola High School)
Environment and climate change (Birks 205)

Moderator:
- **Dr Imam Abdul Hai Patel** (Interfaith Relations, Canadian Council of Imams)

Speakers:
- **Joe Gunn** (Director, Citizens for Public Justice)
- **Rebekah Hart** (Facilitator, Work that Reconnects)

12:00pm to 1:30pm (Lunch and Networking)

Breakout Sessions: Engaging in public discourses – PART 2

Poverty and inequality (Birks 203)

Moderator:
- **Hon David Kilgour** (Former Member of Parliament and Secretary of State)

Speakers:
- **The Reverend Dr David Pfrimmer** (Principal-Dean, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, Wilfrid Laurier University)
- **Julia Beazley** (Policy Analyst, Canadian and International Poverty, The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada)

1:30pm to 3:00pm

Truth and Reconciliation (Birks 205)

Moderator:
- **Mike Hogeterp** (Director, Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue)

Speakers:
- **Louise Profeit-Leblanc** (Aboriginal Arts Coordinator, Canada Council for the Arts)
- **Lori Ransom** (Senior Advisor, Church and Faith Relations at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada)

Secularism in Quebec (Chapel)

Moderator:
- **Dr Victor Goldbloom** (former MNA and Cabinet Minister in Quebec, former CEO of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, former Commissioner of Languages, Companion of the Order of Canada)

Speakers:
- **The Reverend Diane Rollert** (Minister of the Unitarian Church of Montreal)
- **Father John Walsh** (former host on CJAD, lecturer at Concordia University, Roman Catholic Priest)

3:00pm to 3:15pm (Break)

Keynote Plenary

Religious freedom and Canadian foreign policy

Moderator:
- **Susanne Tamas** (Director of Government Relations, Baha’i Community of Canada)

Speakers:
- **Dr Andrew Bennett** (Ambassador, Office of Religious Freedom)
- **Anne Leahy** (Former Canadian Ambassador to the Holy See)

3:15pm to 4:30pm

Closing Plenary

Conference summary and where do we go from here?

Chair:
- **Dean Ellen Aitken** (Dean of Religious Studies, McGill University)

Speaker:
- **The Reverend Dr Karen Hamilton** (General Secretary, The Canadian Council of Churches)

4:30pm to 5:00pm