

Minister  
of Citizenship  
and Immigration



Ministre  
de la Citoyenneté  
et de l'Immigration

Ottawa, Canada K1A 1L1

### **Greetings from the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism**

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to all those participating in World Religion Day, hosted by the Multi-faith Committee of the Indo-Canadian Cultural Association of Durham (ICCAD). On behalf of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, I would like to thank the organizers for their commitment and dedication towards a diverse and pluralistic Canada.

The ICCAD has been a positive presence in our society over the years, through promotion and awareness of various cultural and ethnic groups, organizing outreach and social activities, and by encouraging a positive religious and faith presence in the community. When an organization hosts an event such as World Religion Day, it is a clear example of what the Government of Canada means when it discusses Canadian pluralism. You are Canadians, actively participating, sharing, and working together to form a strong and cohesive Canada. Canada is a great pluralistic success story, but it is an occasion like this which makes that story even greater.

By celebrating World Religion Day, we are all given the opportunity to share and appreciate the various traditions of our families, friends and neighbours. As Prime Minister Harper once said, "We are proud to live in a country that embraces the many cultures and religions of the world. Our Government considers diversity one of this country's greatest assets, and we are committed to strengthening both our pluralism and our national unity. "

Thank you and best wishes for a successful event.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Jason Kenney, PC, MP  
Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism

