

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 would like to extend my warmest greetings to all those attending the 5th Annual Multi-faith World Religion Day Celebration on January 16, 2011, organized by the Durham Multi-faith World Religion Day Committee (DMWRDC). On behalf of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, I would like to thank all of the organizers and participants for your unwavering devotion to Canada – the open and diverse country we are all very proud to call our home.

This wonderful celebration is an important example of leadership and dedication to multiculturalism. By coming together, members of the many faith communities of Durham Region exchange views, enrich their understanding of the issues that affect their community and renew their commitment to their faiths and to each other. This year's theme, "Inclusiveness," represents one of the central characteristics of our multiculturalism – the very essence of Canada today.

Religion plays a central role in the lives of many Canadians. Regardless of their creed, they gather in their places of worship, in communities throughout the country, to honour their faith and their heritage. We must always be thankful, as Canadians, for the peace and prosperity that we enjoy, and ensure that we continue to build an open, diverse and tolerant society, where everyone's contributions are valued. As Prime Minister Harper stated: "As Canadians we are blessed to live in a democratic country where we resolve our differences peacefully, can enjoy freedom of our religion, expression and beliefs, and always count on protection from a common rule of law."

As Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, I would like to thank the DMWRDC and all of the organizers and participants in the Annual Multi-faith World Religion Day celebrations for your tremendous contributions to Canada's success as a multicultural society, by encouraging religious tolerance and dialogue. On behalf of all Canadians, I wish you the greatest of success in your future endeavours.

My very best wishes for a wonderful event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Kenney".

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



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