



ONTARIO MULTIFAITH COUNCIL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

27 October 2014

Mississauga Ram Mandir
270 Export Blvd, Mississauga, Ontario

DEEPENING UNDERSTANDING OF RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

This conference will focus on the growing diversity within religious and spiritual traditions focusing on areas such as intra-faith diversity, varying differences in doctrinal theologies, daily practices and observances. This conference will assist participants to deepen their understanding of religious and spiritual diversity by delving into the practical implications for front-line service providers and caregivers.

WWW.OMC.CA EMAIL: OMCSRC@OMC.CA TEL: 416 422 1490



Deepening Understanding of Religious Diversity

8:00 AM Registration Opens

9:15 AM Opening Remarks

9:30 AM Plenary Session A **The Big Sort: Religion, Secularism & Misunderstandings in Canada's Public Sphere**

Presenter: *Dr. Brian Carwana, Encountering World Religions*

As Canada becomes increasingly multicultural with a growing diversity of both religious and non-religious outlooks, the relationship between religion, religions and secularism is under continual investigation and negotiation. This talk will look at how religion has been historically understood and defined in Canada and what implications this has for how Canadian law, legislatures and the public react to religious behaviours.

10:30 AM Break

10:45 AM **Concurrent Workshops**

Workshop A

Faces of Islam

Presenter: *TBD*

This workshop will provide participants with an overview of the cultural, religious dynamics within the religion of Islam. It will explore the basic common themes and differences in beliefs and practices within Sunni, Shi'a and Sufi traditions of Islam. The workshop will include the unique experiences of practicing Islam in the Middle East, Caribbean and Asian cultural contexts.

Workshop B

Faces of Buddhism

Presenter: *Bryan Levman, University of Toronto*

This workshop will provide participants with an overview of Theravada, Mahayana, and Tibetan Buddhism with a focus on the commonalities and differences in beliefs and practices. Participants will be given a look at the cultural influences of Buddhism as it has developed over the centuries in its movement through the Asian continent and throughout the world.

Workshop C

Sikhism & Human Rights

Presenter: *Balpreet Singh Boparai, World Sikh Organization*

This workshop will highlight some of the civil and human rights issues experienced by the Sikh community ranging from racism and xenophobia, to discrimination for articles of faith. Workshop participants will receive details regarding the current status of these human rights cases and incidents within Canada.

12:00 PM Lunch

Deepening Understanding of Religious Diversity

1:00 PM Plenary Session B

But – are they religions, sir?

Presenter: Hiren Mistry, York University

The presentation addresses the challenges of teaching religion inclusively in Ontario's increasingly diverse World Religions classrooms. It draws on more than a decade of reflection and teaching about world religions in some of the GTA's most diverse neighbourhoods. The presentation uses the case study of teaching Indian cultural traditions as religions (Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, etc) to address some of the limitations of the world religion concept, and religion as an organizing concept for culture.

2:00 PM Break

2:15 PM Concurrent Workshops

Workshop D

The Religions of India: How are they related?

Presenter: Dr. Sehdev Kumar, University of Toronto

This presentation will provide a colourful overview of the historical and philosophical connections between the Dharmic traditions of the Indian subcontinent: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism. Focus will be placed on the commonalities and differences in beliefs and practices.

Workshop E

The Mississaugas of New Credit

Presenter: Cat (Mark) Criger, University of Toronto

This workshop will provide an overview of The Mississaugas of New Credit First Nation – the Aboriginal community in Peel Region. Participants will gain an understanding of the local Aboriginal groups that provide cultural services, programs and events for the growing Aboriginal population

Workshop F

Myths & Realities: Religions Of the World

Presenters: TBD

This workshop will include a panel presentation with representatives from three faith traditions (Coptic Orthodox, Baha'i, and Scientology) to discuss the myths and realities of practicing their religious traditions.

3:30 PM Closing Remarks



OMC EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE 2014
DEEPENING UNDERSTANDING OF RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY
 Mississauga Ram Mandir, 270 Export Blvd, Mississauga, Ontario
 October 27, 2014

Conference Registration Form - INVOICE

Registration Deadline: October 21, 2014

Delegate Name:	
RMC Chapter (if applicable):	
Organization Name (if applicable):	
Address:	
Province:	Postal Code:
Telephone:	Facsimile:
Email:	
Special Dietary Requirement:	

Event Registration	✓	Price
General Admission – Regular <i>Includes: Two Plenary Sessions, Two Workshops, Refreshments All Day, Networking Lunch</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 90.00
General Admission – Student (valid Student ID must be provided) <i>Includes: Two Plenary Sessions, Two Workshops, Refreshments All Day, Networking Lunch</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 60.00

Workshop Selection			
Morning Workshops <i>Please choose one workshop below.</i>	✓	Afternoon Workshops <i>Please choose one workshop below.</i>	✓
Faces of Islam	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Religions of India: Are they related?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Faces of Buddhism	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religions of the World: Panel Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sikhism and Human Rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Mississaugas of New Credit	<input type="checkbox"/>

Method of Payment: VISA MASTERCARD CERTIFIED CHEQUE (*made payable to Ontario Multifaith Council*)

Card # _____ **Expiry Date:** _____

Signature _____

Hotel accommodations can be booked directly at:
Park Inn by Radisson, Toronto Airport West 175 Derry Street, Mississauga, Ontario L5T 2Z7
 Reserve your accommodations for \$109/night by phone (905-364-9999). Please state that you are with the "OMC" block.
 Rooms must be booked by October 7, 2014 to receive OMC rate.

REFUND POLICY: Fees include a non-refundable administration charge of \$25.00 and must be paid in full before a registration will be processed. Written notice of cancellation received 30 days prior to conference – full refund (less \$25.00 non-refundable administration charge). **No refund after October 20, 2014. Disclaimer: Any photos taken throughout the conference can be used by OMC.**

SEND REGISTRATIONS TO:
 Email: omcsrc@omc.ca
 Facsimile: 416 422 4359
 Mail: 3570 Victoria Park Avenue, Suite 207 Toronto, Ontario M2H 3S2