

For Immediate Release

**Ten years after the events of September 11, 2001
The Dalai Lama, Deepak Chopra, Robert Thurman, Tariq Ramadan and others
meet in Montreal to discuss the role of religion in fostering peace**

Montreal, August 25, 2011 – As part of the Second Global Conference on World's Religions after 9/11, several prominent spiritual thinkers will meet at Le Palais des congrès de Montréal, September 7, 2011 to discuss the importance of religion in fostering peace.

Organized by McGill University and l'Université de Montréal, the event will host His Holiness the Dalai Lama, author Deepak Chopra, Professors Tariq Ramadan (Oxford University), Steven T. Katz (University of Boston), Robert Thurman (Columbia University), Gregory Baum (McGill University), and Swami Dayananda Saraswati (Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha).

“It has been said that there can be no peace among nations without peace among religions. Moreover, the profile of religion in the public square has been rising all over the world and predictions of its demise have turned out to be grossly exaggerated. Thus, the real question is not whether religions should exist or not, but rather, how can they contribute to peace in the world. If they are part of the problem, then they can also become part of the solution,” says Professor Arvind Sharma, Birks Professor of Comparative Religion in the Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University, and convenor of the Conference.

The question whether religions of the world should come together to formulate a Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the World's Religions will also be discussed at this conference as a way of bringing the religions together on a common platform.

The event will begin with His Holiness the Dalai Lama speaking on Peace through Ethics, followed by a presentation by Deepak Chopra on Peace through Spirituality. A Panel discussion on Peace through Religion will follow these talks. The panelists include, Tariq Ramadan (Islam), Shirin Ebadi (Islam), Robert Thurman (Buddhism), Gregory Baum (Christianity), Steven T. Katz (Judaism) and Swami Dayananda Saraswati (Hinduism).

A news conference will be held September 7 at 8:15 am with all invited speakers, in room 514 at Le Palais des congrès. Registration begins at 7:30 am. Only media that have been accredited may participate. To register, please complete the accreditation form located at www.gcwr2011.org by August 29, 2011.

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