

An important Canadian contribution is to encourage peaceful and meaningful debate, both in Canada and abroad. In Canada, the multicultural framework could be expanded to encompass inter-faith dialogues. In addition, as Canada expands its dialogue with Muslim communities across the world, further collaboration with diaspora communities in Canada could be useful in creating links and potentially strengthening civil society in Muslim countries. This could also be used as a means of promoting Canada's interests through "public diplomacy."

*Building Greater Cross-Cultural Understanding at Home and Abroad*

To combat a lack of knowledge about Islam, Canada's education projects at home could focus on rectifying misconceptions about Islam, and should recognize the existence

of debates within Islam. Policy makers must also devote greater attention to religion and its impact on international relations. Hence, understanding religion should be equally as important in foreign policy as knowledge of the economics, politics, geography, and natural resources of a region. As well, Canada could play an important role in supporting education in Muslim communities, including the education of Muslim women of their rights within Islam and how rights can be used as tools of empowerment. Canadian educational institutions could play a useful role by continuing to support educational and cultural exchanges. As well, it could be in Canada's interest to support the work of moderate Muslims abroad in their efforts to bring about change from within.

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Participants: Karen Armstrong, Benjamin Barber, Gregory Baum, Suman Bhattacharyya, Mark Brawley, Rex Brynen, Sharon Cardash, Frank Chalk, Denise Chong, Andrew Cohen, Dan Costello, Kalpana Das, Daniel Drolet, John English, Myron Echenberg, Elizabeth Elbourne, Keith Fountain, Lorenz Friedlaender, Robert Fry, Sumit Ganguly, The Honourable Bill Graham, M.P. (Minister of Foreign Affairs), Lawrence Harrison, Paul Halucha, Mushirul Hasan, Riffat Hassan, Thierry Hentsch, Tareq Ismael, Andrew Johnson, Karim Karim, Imran Khan, Scott Kline, Will Kymlicka, Micheline Labelle, Nazeer Ladhani, Paul Lalor, Jean-Noé Landry, Gaëtan Lavertu (Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs), Steve Lee (Chair), Ron MacIntosh, Sandra Mackey, Nurjehan Mawani, John McNee, Manus Midlarsky, Roy Mottahedeh, Jamil Jaffer, Senator Mobina Jaffer, Liss Jeffrey, Josef Joffe, Catherine Lu, Rabbi David Novak, Eric Ormsby, Peter Padbury, Daniel Pipes, Farhang Rajaei, James Lee Ray, Daniel Salée, Rick Salutin, Philip Carl Salzman, Irving Smith, Jillian Stirk, Amanda Sussman, Narendra Subramanian, Gil Troy, A. Üner Turgay, and Immanuel Wallerstein. Graduate Students: Louis Bouchard, Erika Burger, Pamela Chrabieh, Alessandra Dibos, Christine Finnerty, Jessica Grant, Virginia Guiboche, Nader Hashemi, Caroline Khoubesserian, Abdellatif Moutadayene, Taylor Owen, Emmanuel Raymundo, Kari Roberts, Jakeet Singh, Linda Tabar, Cornelio Thiessen, and Tooryalai Wesa. The McGill Institute for the Study of Canada.