



6th Annual Parliamentary Forum

on

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Hosted by:

**David Anderson, MP Cypress Hills—Grasslands &
Garnett Genuis, MP Sherwood Park—Fort Saskatchewan
Official Opposition Critics, International Human Rights and
Religious Freedom**



Room 200, Sir John A. Macdonald Building
144 Wellington Street, Ottawa

APRIL 3, 2017

6:30pm–9:00pm

SCHEDULE

6th Annual Parliamentary Forum on
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
China and Religious Freedom: Stories and Perspectives

6:00 | **Registration and Coffee**

6:30 | **Welcome by DAVID ANDERSON, MP**
Member of Parliament for Cypress Hills—Grasslands

6:35 | **Panel and Q&A: Canadian and Academic Perspectives**

DR. ANDREW BENNETT

Senior Research Fellow, Religious Freedom Research Project,
Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs,
Georgetown University

MR. DAVID MULRONEY

President & Vice-Chancellor, University of St. Michael's College

7:20 | **Panel and Q&A: Religious Minorities in China**

MR. JOEL CHIPKAR

Spokesperson, Falun Dafa Association of Canada

MS. CAROLE SAMDUP

Executive Director, Canada Tibet Committee

MS. RUKIYE TURDUSH

Former spokesperson of East Turkistan Government in Exile,
Diplomacy and Human Rights Office

8:05 | **Break**

8:10 | **Keynote Address and Q&A**

MS. ANASTASIA LIN

Award Winning Actress, Reigning Miss World Canada and
Human Rights Advocate

8:45 | **Closing Remarks by GARNETT GENUIS, MP**

Member of Parliament for Sherwood Park—Fort Saskatchewan

SPEAKERS



Dr. Andrew Bennett

Senior Research Fellow, Religious Freedom Research Project, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, Georgetown University

Dr. Andrew P.W. Bennett, an academic and advocate for religious freedom with an extensive educational background in history, political science, and religious studies, is Senior Research Fellow with the Religious Freedom Research Project at the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs at Georgetown University.

In that capacity he writes and speaks on international religious freedom policy. Dr. Bennett is also Senior Fellow at Cardus, Canada's faith-based think tank where he leads the Cardus Law project as Project Director. He served as Canada's Ambassador for Religious Freedom from February 2013 to March 2016. Dr. Bennett previously worked for the Privy Council Office, Export Development Canada, and Natural Resources Canada in a wide variety of analytical, research, and corporate roles. Dr. Bennett is a subdeacon and cantor in the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church and is active in parish life at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian-Catholic Shrine in Ottawa. Dr. Bennett received his Ph.D. in Politics from the University of Edinburgh.



Mr. David Mulroney

President & Vice-Chancellor, University of St. Michael's College

David Mulroney is President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of St. Michael's College, the Catholic federated university within the University of Toronto.

He came to St. Michael's after more than 30 years in Canada's Public Service. A career Foreign Service Officer, Mr. Mulroney was Canada's ambassador to the People's Republic of China from 2009 to 2012.

Prior to his appointment to Beijing, Mr. Mulroney was assigned to the Privy Council Office in Ottawa as the Deputy Minister responsible for the Afghanistan Task Force, overseeing coordination of all aspects of Canada's engagement in Afghanistan. He also served as Secretary to the Independent Panel on Canada's Future Role in Afghanistan. Mr. Mulroney's other assignments included serving as Associate Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and, concurrently, as the Prime Minister's Personal Representative to the G8 Summit.

Mr. Mulroney is a Distinguished Senior Fellow at the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs, a Distinguished Fellow of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, and an Honorary Fellow of the University of St. Michael's College. Like his mother, his sister and his daughter, he is a graduate of St. Michael's.

Mr. Mulroney is a recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, the University of Toronto's Arbor Award and in June 2015 received an honorary Doctor of Laws from Western University. His book *Middle Power, Middle Kingdom* was awarded the J.W. Dafoe Prize for 2016.

SPEAKERS



Mr. Joel Chipkar

Spokesperson, Falun Dafa Association of Canada

Joel Chipkar is a spokesperson for Falun Dafa Association of Canada. He has worked with Canadian government agencies, such as the Immigration and Refugee Board in his capacity as an expert on Falun Gong and related issues.

Mr. Chipkar testified at the Citizenship and Immigration Committee in the House of Commons on Falun Gong and Persecution in China. He has been quoted by major media in Canada such as the Globe and Mail, National Post, Toronto Star, CTV and CBC. Joel has also won an unprecedented lawsuit in Ontario against the Deputy Consul General of China for libel against Falun Gong.

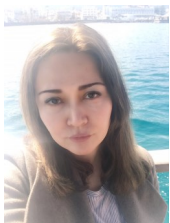


Ms. Carole Samdup

Executive Director, Canada Tibet Committee

Carole Samdup has served as Executive Director of the Canada Tibet Committee since 2012. Previously she was a senior policy advisor at the International Centre for Human Rights & Democratic Development working as a specialist in human rights methodologies.

In that capacity she participated in numerous monitoring missions including to Tibet, and in various UN processes related to economic and social rights. In 1987, Carole was a founding member of the Canada Tibet Committee and served on its national executive committee until 2002. In 2000 she was elected as the first Co-Chair of the UK-based International Tibet Network which coordinates advocacy campaigns for more than 180 Tibet groups worldwide. From 1971-1980, Carole lived and worked in the Tibetan refugee communities of northern India where she married Thubten Samdup and had two children.



Ms. Rukiye Turdush

Former spokesperson, East Turkistan Government in Exile, Diplomacy and Human Rights Office

Rukiye Turdush was born in East Turkistan. An ethnic Uyghur, she studied history at East China Normal University in Shanghai. She immigrated to Canada in 1998. She studied international development at the University of Windsor and studied post-graduate social work at

George Brown College.

Ms. Turdush is currently working as a domestic violence counsellor. She is the former president of the Uyghur Canadian Society and the former spokesperson of the East Turkistan Government in Exile – Diplomacy and Human Rights Office. Ms. Turdush also worked as a stringer for Radio Free Asia Uyghur service. She has published a book and opinion pieces on Uyghur websites.

LET US REMEMBER

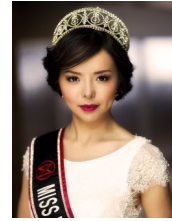
"I am a Canadian, free to speak without fear,
free to worship in my own way, free to stand for what I think right,
free to oppose what I believe wrong, or free to choose those who shall govern my country.
This heritage of freedom I pledge to uphold for myself and all mankind."

John Diefenbaker, (1895-1979), Prime Minister of Canada



NOTES

SPEAKERS



Ms. Anastasia Lin

Award Winning Actress, Reigning Miss World Canada and Human Rights Advocate

Anastasia Lin is an award-winning actress, beauty pageant titleholder, and human rights advocate. In 2015, Lin won the Miss World Canada title, and was to represent Canada at the Miss World pageant in China. However, she was refused a visa and declared a persona non grata by Chinese authorities for her outspoken views on the country's human rights violations and persecution of Falun Gong practitioners. The news of her rejection—and subsequent attempt to enter China—caused global media attention for weeks, leading to a front page article in *The New York Times* and op-eds in major newspapers. Since then, she has been invited to speak at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, the Oxford Union, and the Geneva Human Rights Summit at the UN, Oslo Freedom Forum and has testified in the US Congress, the UK Parliament, and the Taiwanese Legislative Assembly.

Lin has appeared in over 20 films and television productions. She often works at the confluence of activism and acting, playing roles that carry messages of freedom, human rights, and ethics. Her films have received the Gabriel Award for Best Feature Film, the Mexico International Film Festival's Golden Palm Award, and the California's Indie Fest Award of Merit. Lin also won the Best Leading Actress in a TV Movie at the Leo Awards in 2016. As a model, she's made appearances on runways around the world, including the New York Fashion Week show at the prestigious Waldorf-Astoria.

Lin has been listed as one of the "Top 25 under 25" by MTV, a "Top 60 under 30" by Flare, and called "The Badass Beauty Queen" by Marie Claire. She was one of eleven stakeholders selected to meet with Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird upon the establishment of Canada's Office of Religious Freedom. Her articles have appeared in *The Washington Post*, *The Huffington Post*, *The Globe and Mail*, and other major newspapers.