

CMRC 2010 Update 3: August 2, 2010

Dear colleague:

This is the third update we've sent you including information and reminders about the upcoming 7th International Conference on Media, Religion and Culture, as well as some tips and trivia about Toronto. Note that all the updates and the latest program are available online at <http://www.journalism.ryerson.ca/cmrc2010/> as well as information about how to get to campus and the hotels, registration and other key info.

ONLINE ACCESS AND WIFI

Thanks to the support of Ryerson University, there will be free wifi access in most of the conference rooms for participants. And thanks to the School of Journalism, a PC lab will be available in a nearby building during 9 – 4 for conference delegates to check e-mail, online access, etc.

BYOB... WATER!

Ryerson has committed to reducing drastically the amount of bottled water sold on campus. That doesn't mean you won't find any water to drink, but you may want to bring your own water bottle to fill up.

PREPARE FOR OUR ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

At the 2008 meeting, we began discussing formalizing the Media, Religion and Culture conference structure. This year we've scheduled a meeting on Thursday afternoon to discuss ways of moving forward. Please consider attending and prepare by reading a [draft](#) outlining the purposes an organization could serve.

FOOD

Your host is one of those people who doesn't eat red meat or poultry... so you'll find vegetarian options for the reception, coffee breaks and final lunch. But there will also be food to keep the carnivores among us happy!

AND MORE FOOD

There have been some memorable dinners associated with previous CMRC meetings. But how to select just one venue in a city like Toronto? This year, get set to choose from among a variety of dinner 'dates', allowing you to explore a part of the city in a small group, as well as keeping your spending within budget. With a local host leading the way, you can choose among such outings as a trip to the Bata Shoe museum for \$5 followed by dinner at a nearby restaurant. (You'll be amazed by the religious and cultural links to footwear from around the globe.) Or enjoy a free concert featuring baroque music for violin, harpsichord and lute along the waterfront in the famous Toronto Music Garden (designed with Yo Yo Ma to represent one of the Bach cello suites). Details on all outings, including prices, will be ready for you when you arrive in Toronto.

PARTNERS WELCOME

If you are attending the CMRC2010 with a partner, please know that they are welcome to join you for the opening reception, and for the Thursday night 'dinner dates' (paying per person for each outing).

LATE PAYMENT AND REGISTRATION

If for some reason you have been unable to pay your fees before arriving, please note that we can only accept cash (in Canadian dollars) at the on-site registration desk.

And now for your Toronto trivia tip:

The Vari (ENG) building which is the site of our conference is one of the newest on Ryerson's campus. But the area contains a mix of new and old cultural and religious landmarks. The university is named for Egerton Ryerson, a Methodist minister and early educator in the province. The Rogers Communication Centre (RCC) across the street from the Vari was built in such a way as to provide a view of the Anglican St. James Cathedral. The Roman Catholic cathedral and key United Church of Canada, Baptist and other churches are clustered close by.

Nearby Radio City (a condominium block), as well as the beautiful National Ballet School building, are built on the site of the former CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) studios. You may have a sense of déjà vu if you've watched films like *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* (shot in part at the RCC), Atom Egoyan's *Chloe* (filmed in part at nearby Allan Gardens), or *The Incredible Hulk*, which 'virtually' tore apart Yonge Street near campus.