

## ENDORSEMENTS

**The following are supportive comments about the appointment of Dr. Ingrid Mattson as the inaugural Chair of Islamic Studies at Huron University College.**

*"In establishing the "London and Windsor Community Chair in Islamic Studies", Huron College is on the cutting edge of interfaith dialogue. With delight I endorse the appointment of Dr. Ingrid Mattson as the first occupant of that chair. She is a highly respected scholar and widely published. She is well known for her leadership in nurturing Muslim-Christian relations. The College and Community will be blessed by Dr. Mattson's academic qualifications, and her capacity to engage people in dialogue, mutual learning and public witness to the values we hold in common as people of faith."*

**The Most Reverend Fred Hiltz**

Archbishop and Primate

The Anglican Church of Canada

*"Dr. Ingrid Mattson, former president of the Islamic Society of North America, is one of the outstanding religious leaders in this country, a wonderful combination of scholar and practitioner. I have had the pleasure of standing with her at various press conferences where she has been an articulate and intelligent defender, not only of her own Muslim community, but of other religious communities as well. I have also been with her at several of ISNA's annual conventions, appreciating her effective leadership and command of a range of issues. My colleagues at the National Council of Churches and I regard Dr. Mattson as an esteemed partner in our work for the common good."*

**Rev. Michael Kinnamon, Ph.D**

General Secretary

National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA

*“Huron University College at the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario is most fortunate to have Dr. Ingrid Mattson as the inaugural professor of their Chair in Islamic Studies. Prof. Mattson is one of North America’s premier Muslim scholars of the Holy Quran. She is also one of the great leaders of Islam on this continent. Under her direction, the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) undertook a sustained program of outreach and inter-religious dialogue, especially with the Jewish Community.*

*We at the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) have partnered with ISNA and with Dr. Mattson in programming as varied as twinning synagogues and mosques, surveys of our membership about attitudes toward the religious other, academic conferences, speaking at one another’s conventions and seminaries, and an innovative three-year effort (funded in part by the Carnegie Corporation) on “Judaism and Islam in America.” In addition, Prof. Mattson joined JTS and Union Theological Seminary in the summer of 2011 in their three-part series “Our Better Angels: In Preparation for the Tenth Anniversary of 9/11,” a cycle of dialogues, musical performances, and clergy workshops.*

*Over many years of working with Prof. Ingrid Mattson, this rabbi has found her to be sage, savvy, and a dependable colleague. Her integrity and good-will have lead me to trust her, rely upon her, and count her as a true friend mine and of the Jewish Community. I expect she will bring her wisdom to Ontario to promote good and productive relations among Jews and Muslims throughout Canada.”*

**Burt Visotzky**

Rabbi Burton L. Visotzky, Ph.D.

Appleman Professor of Midrash and Interreligious Studies

Director, Milstein Center for Interreligious Dialogue

Jewish Theological Seminary

*“Along with other members of the local Muslim community, I am thrilled with the appointment of Dr. Ingrid Mattson as the inaugural London and Windsor Community Chair in Islamic Studies at Huron University College. Her appointment is an important milestone for the Muslim community of London, Southwestern Ontario and, indeed, across Canada. Dr. Mattson brings a highly impressive background of scholarship and community service to the position in ways which will serve the students of Huron University College as well as the community at large. We welcome Dr. Mattson to London.”*

**Adeeb Hassan**

Chair

Board of Directors

London Muslim Mosque

*“My work with Dr. Mattson has been among the most rewarding of my time as President of the Union for Reform Judaism. Whatever she does, she brings intellectual rigor, political acumen, and personal warmth. It’s a winning combination! Her invitation to me to address the 2007 Islamic Society of North America convention was brave, and it, together with her remarkable address to our convention later that year, opened a new chapter in Jewish-Muslim relations in North America.”*

**Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie**

President

Union for Reform Judaism

*“Within the United States, Dr. Ingrid Mattson has been one of the pivotal religious leaders in fostering interfaith dialogue. She has worked steadfastly in partnership with religious leaders from many faiths to open doors of understanding and to refute the pernicious notion that a “clash of cultures” is inevitable. Post 9/11, her leadership was critical in fostering interfaith coalitions committed to seeking the common welfare in a culture that honors diversity and sustains religious liberty. It has been a joy to work alongside her.”*

**Rev. A. Roy Medley**

General Secretary

American Baptist Churches USA