



Chester Ronning Centre
for the Study of Religion and Public Life

State-Imposed Ethics and Religious Teaching



Iain Benson

A Ronning Centre Research Fellow Lecture

Contemporary societies have many challenges in relation to the formation of citizenship. How can a liberal state respect diversity yet at the same time reach toward a set of core commitments that it believes all citizens must endorse?

What are some of the principles that should be kept in mind so that a liberal democratic society may reach towards shared goods while still respecting diversity and the right to dissent? In this talk lawyer and legal academic Iain Benson will address some of the recent developments in Quebec where that Province's government has refused requests for exemption from thousands of parents who do not want their children to take a mandatory course entitled "ethics and religious culture."

Professor Benson, who was one of the lawyers who argued before the Supreme Court in this landmark case on behalf of two national coalitions that intervened before that court (the decision of which is still pending) will give examples of some of the arguments put before the court by various parties in this and other recent cases.

Monday, 5 March 2012, 7:00 p.m.

**C014, Classroom Building
Augustana Campus, Camrose**

Tuesday, 6 March 2012, 11:00 a.m.

**9125 – 50 St NW
King's University College, Edmonton**



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