



**FROM THE ONTARIO
MINISTER OF CITIZENSHIP
AND IMMIGRATION**

*Symposium on Gender, Family and Marital Relationships
among Arab Refugee Families in Canada*

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I would like to extend my warmest welcome to everyone attending today's Symposium on Gender, Family and Marital Relationships among Arab Refugee Families in Canada, hosted by the Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support & Integration (MRCSSI) and the Doha International Family Institute (DIFI).

Our Ministry shares your belief that refugees enrich Ontario's social fabric, economic prosperity, and civic life. Today's panel discussions provide an excellent opportunity for sector experts to share knowledge and best practices on a wide array of issues which impact the resettlement and integration of refugees, and explore ways to expand and improve the delivery of services that assist refugees.

I would like to thank MRCSSI for your work in establishing social support networks for diverse communities in the London and surrounding regions, and in promoting inclusion and capacity building. I would also like to congratulate DIFI on the launch of your research report and thank you for your ongoing commitment to strengthen and support families at the national, regional, and international levels.

Thank you to everyone involved in organizing this important meeting. Please accept my best wishes for a productive and informative symposium.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Albanese".

Laura Albanese
Minister

February 23, 2018