

# December 2018 Newsletter

## Welcome to the first CCRL newsletter!

### CCRL Updates



In November, 4 CCRL team members – Hiren Mistry, Sabrina Jafralie, Alice Chan, and Erin Reid (left to right in the photo) – introduced CCRL to the [Parliament of the World’s Religions](#) in Toronto.

At the conference, former Prime Minister [Kim Campbell](#), General [Romeo Dallaire](#), esteemed [Audrey Kitagawa](#), and former Canadian Senator [Douglas Roche](#) unanimously agreed that religions and religious leaders must be a part of global conversations. Dallaire warned particularly against a form of secularism that omits religious and spiritual perspectives for fear of offending others. The omission has created a vacuum, “[but we haven’t filled the vacuum.](#)” CCRL’s work fills this vacuum directly as our programming offers the foundation for people of different beliefs to understand each other and converse about these global affairs.

In these newsletters, we share three things:

1. **Updates from our work;**
2. **News, reports, and research headlines related to religious literacy in Canada and globally; and,**
3. **A calendar of upcoming cultural/holy days.**

In 2019, we will add:

1. Teaching resources on [our website](#), and
2. A religious literacy “thought corner” in our newsletters.

In the meantime, publications from our team, including our Board of Directors and Advisors, are updated [online](#) consistently.

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## The Pulse

News, reports, and research headlines (Canada and global) related to religious literacy. Follow our [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#) accounts for headlines on a regular basis.

### Canada:

- [Canadian broadcaster offers to sponsor Christian woman spared death in Pakistan](#) Religion News Service
- [In Trump era, HR should get ahead of potential conflicts: Experts](#) HR Reporter
- [Is God part of good parenting?](#) CBC News
- [Dating Druze: The struggle to find love in a dwindling diaspora](#) CBC News
- [Faith in the Public Square? A comprehensive study of the segments of Canadian society](#) Angus Reid Institute and Cardus
- [Police-reported hate crime, 2017](#) Statistics Canada
- [WSO & Manmeet Singh Bhullar Foundation Welcome Approval of Afghan Hindu & Sikh Refugee Applications](#) World Sikh Organization

- [WSO Successfully Advocates for Religious Head Coverings at World Karate Federation](#) World Sikh Organization

### **British Columbia:**

- [B.C. breaks records when it comes to religion and the lack thereof](#) Vancouver Sun
- [B.C. bringing back independent human rights commission](#) Salmon Arm Observer
- [Racism and hate have no place in B.C.](#) B.C. Gov News
- [Heal ourselves, heal the world](#) Prince George Citizen
- [BC Liberal MLA: LGBTQ Anti-Bullying Program Could Cause ‘Mental Health Issues’ for School Children](#) Press Progress

### **Alberta:**

- [Creating connections: Calgary students get chance to explore different religions](#) Calgary Herald
- [Critics denounce Calgary appearance of “hate” preacher](#) Calgary Herald
- [Twenty-eight private schools defying GSA law risk losing public funding, says David Eggen](#) Edmonton Journal
- [Aga Khan officially opens Islamic garden](#) Edmonton Journal
- [A new way to swear an oath at the Lethbridge Courthouse following eagle feather ceremony](#) Lethbridge News Now

### **Ontario:**

- [St. Michael’s, a Toronto All-Boys School, Is Rocked by Accusations of Sexual Assaults](#) New York Times
- [Labelle: Parents’ bill of rights is the wrong choice for Ontario](#) Ottawa Citizen
- [Mom battles school board, saying yoga is against her family’s religion](#) Toronto Star
- [Family’s first Hanukkah in their new North York home after a year-long renovation](#) Toronto Star
- [Hate crimes surge in southwestern Ontario, Statistics Canada says](#) CBC News

### **Quebec:**

- [Nearly two-thirds of Quebecers support public-sector ban on religious symbols, poll finds](#) CBC News
- [Aspiring teacher may leave Quebec if CAQ follows through on religious symbol ban](#) CBC News
- [EMSBC commissioners unite to fight pending legislation on religious neutrality](#) Global News
- [Far-right group spoke of staging ‘fake’ terrorist attack in Quebec](#) Montreal Gazette

### **Atlantic provinces:**

- [Nova Scotia RCMP extends Eagle feather province-wide as an option to swear legal oaths](#) RCMP News Release
- [PANB leader wants apology after Green MLA compares his words to Nazi propaganda](#) Global News

- [Probe of Buddhist leader's alleged sexual misconduct is ongoing, report due by January](#) Global News

#### **Prairies:**

- [Former drug user shares story of healing at Agribition's Indigenous Pavilion](#) CTV News
- [North Battleford mayor says city can't discriminate on basis of religion as 10-day revival closes public facility](#) Saskatoon Star Phoenix
- [Indo-Canadians launch association](#) The Carillon

#### **Territories:**

- [First Indigenous ceremony held in legislative assembly in honour of Doris McLean](#) Yukon News
- [Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation's new chief may be youngest in recent history](#) Yukon News
- [Pedophile ex-priest a two-time loser at Nunavut appeal court](#) Nunatsiaq News
- [Family visits 100-year-old heirloom at Yellowknife museum](#) CBC News

#### **International:**

- [For Jewish Israelis of Yemenite Heritage, Reviving a Past](#) New York Times
  - [India, Pakistan agree to open border for Sikh pilgrims](#) AlJazeera
  - [Catholic migrant advocates have mixed reaction to Tijuana border events](#) Crux
  - [Exclusive: China will retaliate 'in proportion' to any U.S. sanction over Muslim Uighurs – ambassador](#) Reuters
  - [This Pastor Is Melting Purity Rings Into A Golden Vagina Sculpture](#) Huff Post
  - [Darts and laurels: Parliament of World's Religions speakers note faith's good, bad aspects](#) Winnipeg Free Press
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## Cultural/Holy days (December 2018 and January 2019)

This table describes the dates generally commemorated or observed by many individuals within a community. Some individuals from each community may not adhere to the cultural/holy days themselves. It is not a comprehensive list of cultural/holy days worldwide but a list of those most commonly recognized across parts of Canada.



*We wish happiness and/or rejuvenating contemplation to all who may commemorate these cultural/holy days in the coming months.*

### December 2018

- DEC 2 – [Tsongkhapa Butter Lamp Festival](#) (Tibetan Buddhism), [Hannukah](#) (Jewish, ends Dec 10), [Advent begins](#) (various Christian groups, ends Dec 24).
- DEC 4 – [Entry of the Holy Virgin into the Temple](#) (Orthodox Christians)
- DEC 6 – [St. Nicholas Day](#) (Western European and Romanian Christian groups)
- DEC 8 – [St. Clement of Oris – Patron Day](#) (Macedonian Orthodox), [Bodhi Day](#) (Japanese and Various Mahayana Buddhist groups), [Immaculate Conception of Mary](#) (Catholic Christians)
- DEC 12 – [Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day](#) (Mexican and other Catholic Christians)
- DEC 13 – [Salgirah](#) (Shi'a Imami Ismaili Islam)
- DEC 16 – [Posadas Navidenas](#) (Hispanic Catholic Christians from Latin America, some from the Philippines, and others)
- DEC 19 – [St. Nicholas Day](#) (Eastern European Christian groups)
- DEC 21 – [Winter Solstice](#) (Indigenous Peoples), [Vade Sahibzadey](#) (Sikhism), [Yule/Litha](#) (Wicca)
- DEC 25 – [Christmas Day/Feast of the Nativity](#) (All Christian sects and denominations, with the exception of most Christian Orthodox groups)
- DEC 26 – [Chote Sahibzadey](#) (Sikhism), [St. Stephan's Day](#) (Catholic Christians), [Zarathosht Diso](#) (Zoroastrian)
- DEC 28/29 – [Holy Innocents](#) (Various Christian groups)
- DEC 30 – [Feast of the Holy Family](#) (Catholic Christian)

### January 2019

- JAN 1 – [Mary, Mother of God](#) (Catholic Christian), [Feast Day of St Basil](#) (Orthodox Christian), [Gantan-sai](#) (Shinto), [Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus](#) (Orthodox Christian)
- JAN 5 – [Twelfth Night \(Various Christian groups\)](#), [Guru Gobindh Singh birthday](#) (Sikhism)
- JAN 6 – [Epiphany/Dia de los Reyes](#) (Various Christian groups), [Theophany](#) (Orthodox Christian), [Nativity of Christ](#) (Armenian Orthodox)
- JAN 7 – [Christmas Day](#) (Orthodox Christians)
- JAN 13 – [Maghi](#) (Sikhism), [Baptism of the Lord Jesus](#) (Various Christian groups)
- JAN 17 – [Blessing of the Animals](#) (Hispanic Catholic Christian)
- JAN 18 – [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#), ends Jan 25 (Various Christian groups)
- JAN 20 – [Tu B'Shevat](#), ends Jan 21 (Judaism), [World Religion Day](#) (initiated by Baha'i but celebrated by many other groups)
- JAN 21 – [New Year](#) ends Jan 23 (Mahayana Buddhism)

Photos by [mckenzie toyne](#) on [Unsplash](#) and [Sharon McCutcheon](#) on [Unsplash](#).