

June 2019 Newsletter

CCRL Updates

Our team was very busy in April, May, and June. We had the amazing opportunity to share our work and connect with people across North America in four conferences. This included a workshop titled, “Queering Religion,” at the [You-Are-Not-Along conference](#) for middle and high school aged youth in the Peel District School Board, Ontario.



Visit our site here to learn more about our recent work: <https://ccl-clrc.ca/our-presentations/>

At the same time, we have been actively addressing Quebec’s CAQ party’s Bill 21 proposal to ban a number of public sector workers from wearing religious symbols. To counter this Bill, we participated in a [human chain peaceful protest](#) and shared [a statement at a public hearing in Montreal](#). We continue to act with others in the Coalition Inclusion Quebec to address Bill 21.

Despite Bill 21’s exclusionary stance, we witnessed tremendous inclusion among the Raptors fans during the NBA Playoffs. We cheered with die-hard fans to see the Raptors become NBA Champions! We are so proud of the Raptors and equally proud of Canada as a nation. We saw [fans across different beliefs, ages, race, and ethnicity](#) come together to support the team. Our work aims to continue this civic and communal cohesion even after the game is over. #WeTheNorth

These headlines and more are noted below in this bi-monthly newsletter.

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. As a reminder, these headlines do not indicate endorsement but are shared for the purpose of awareness.

Canada:

- [231 'imperative' changes: The MMIWG inquiry's calls for justice](#) *CBC Indigenous*
- [Dealing with the absurdity of human existence in the face of converging catastrophes](#) *The Conversation*
- [Crisis of Faith? Even practicing Catholics say Church has done a poor job handling sexual abuse issue](#) *Angus Reid Institute*
- [1 In 3 Canadians Wants Ban On Politicians Wearing Religious Symbols: Poll](#) *Huffington Post Canada*
- [Asia Bibi's escape to Canada shines light on Pakistan's controversial blasphemy laws](#) *CBC News*

Territories:

- [New Yellowknife mosque and community centre to be built after long wait](#) *CBC News*
- [Anchorage artist addresses suicide in Indigenous communities with new exhibit](#) *Yukon News*
- [Ban conversion therapy, students urge](#) *Whitehorse Daily Star*
- [Two fierce Canadian women survived alone in brutal Arctic wilderness for shot at US\\$500,000](#) *National Post*

British Columbia:

- [Atheist nurse's fight against mandatory AA will go before B.C. Human Rights Tribunal](#) *CBC British Columbia*
- [Most B.C. residents believe in God, but few attend church regularly](#) *Vancouver News*
- [Madii Lii: Protecting Our Territories](#) *Watershed Sentinel*
- [Project puts focus on 50 years of abortion](#) *The Catholic Register*

Alberta:

- [Arab-Canadian high school students call for globalized curriculum to change stereotypes](#) *The Conversation*
- [Photos: 2019 Vaisakhi Nagar Kiran Sikh Parade in Edmonton](#) *Edmonton Journal*
- [Community, religious leaders react to anti-Semitic vandalism in Edson, Alta.](#) *CBC News*
- [Pride flag to fly in Taber](#) *Lethbridge Herald*
- [Halal meal options in Fort MacMurray Health Centre](#) *Fort McMurray Today*
- [Committee erupts after Tory MP tells Muslim witness he 'should be ashamed'](#) *CBC News*

Prairies:

- [Manito Ahbee pow wow thrills Manitobans](#) *City News*
- [Abortion pill now covered for all Canadians](#) *World Religion News*
- [Regina Huda School project translating O Canada into 14 languages](#) *Regina Leader-Post*
- [7 Indigenous Designers Redefining Traditional Accessories](#) *Flare*

Ontario:

- [Represented by Raptors: How one team connects the most diverse city in the world](#) *Toronto Star*
- [Ontario's Conservative Rabbis pave the way for easier LGBTQ conversions](#) *The Canadian Jewish News*
- [Is access to vegan food a human rights issue? Experts weigh in](#) *Global News*
- [Ontario priests' podcast from pub explores faith in the public square](#) *Anglican Journal*

Quebec:

- [A new poll shows support for Bill 21 is built on anti-Islam sentiment](#) *Montreal Gazette*
- [The UN sent a letter to Quebec about Bill 21. What does it mean?](#) *CBC Montreal*
- [Josh Freed: Nose rings and other contradictions of Bill 21](#) *Montreal Gazette*
- [Human chain against Bill 21](#) *City News Montreal*
- [Muslim women report spike in harassment, discrimination since Bill 21 tabled](#) *CBC Montreal*
- [Hundreds of West Island high school students protest secularism bill](#) *CBC News*

Atlantic provinces:

- [N.B. mayor extends welcome mat to Quebecers unhappy with religious symbols bill](#) *Global News*
- [‘Christianity after religion’: How Pictou County churches are dealing with congregational decline](#) *Kings County News*
- [Ramadan in jail: prisoners in Burnside are being denied the right to practice their religion](#) *Halifax Examiner*
- [Art meets religion for series of paintings at St. John’s church](#) *CBC Newfoundland and Labrador*

International:

- [A conservative Christian group is pushing Bible classes in public schools nationwide – and it’s working](#) *The Washington Post*
- [The New German Anti-Semitism](#) *The New York Times*
- [There is more than one religious view on abortion – here’s what Jewish texts say](#) *The Conversation*
- [How the Deprivation of Ramadan Helps Care for the Spirit](#) *The New York Times*
- [Iranians boycott ride-hailing app after hijab controversy](#) *Al Jazeera English*
- [India’s Prime Minister Modi pursues politics of Hindu nationalism – what does that mean?](#) *Religion News Service*



Religious Literacy Thought Corner

Here are some podcasts, webinars, and books we are following and reading to think bigger these days.

- CBC’s *The Current* podcast – [“They followed me everywhere’: Reporter tailed, deterred while investigating Uighur detention in Xinjiang”](#)
 - [Religica](#) (Podcast series)
 - [Faith and Climate Webinar Series](#)
 - [A Moon for Moe and Mo](#) (Book)
 - [Hats of Faith](#) (Book)
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Cultural/Holy days (June and July 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.

June 2019

- June 2 – [Yom Yerushalayim](#) (some of Orthodox Judaism)
- June 3 – [Savitri Pooja](#) (certain Hindu traditions)
- June 5 – [Eid al-fitr](#) (Islam)
- June 9 – [Pentecost](#) (Christianity); [Shavuot](#) (Judaism, until June 10)
- June 16 – [Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib](#) (Sikhism)
- June 19 – [Pentecost](#) (Orthodox Christianity)
- June 21 – [Summer Solstice](#) (various groups); [National Indigenous Peoples Day](#); [World Humanist Day](#) (Humanism)
- June 24 – [St. Jean Baptiste](#) (Catholics, predominantly in Quebec)

July 2019

- July 4 – [Rath Yatra](#) (Hinduism)
- July 9 – [Martyrdom of the Bab](#) (Baha'i)
- July 13 – [Obon](#) (Buddhism, predominantly among Japanese communities)
- July 16 – [Asalha Puja](#) (Theravadan Buddhism); [Guru Purinima](#) (some Hindus)
- July 24 – [Pioneer Day](#) (Latter Day Saints Christianity)

Photos by [Mèng Jiǎ](#) and [Jovi Waqa](#) on [Unsplash](#).