

August 2019 Newsletter

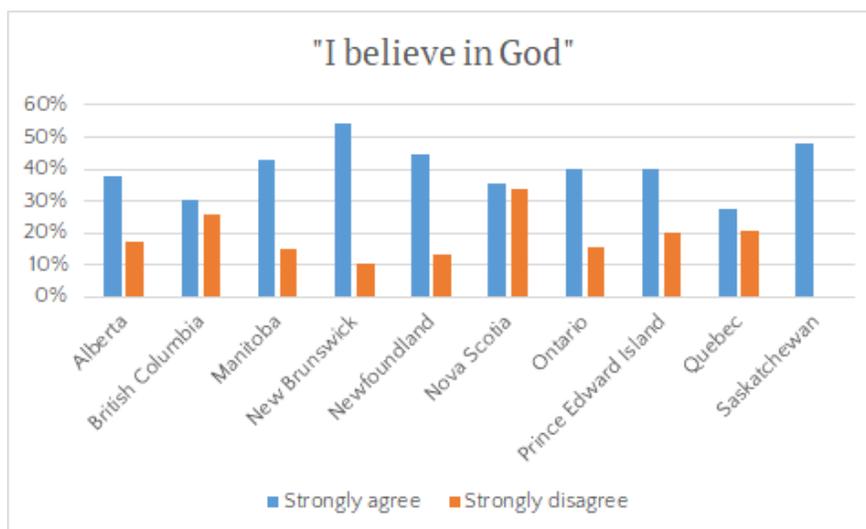
CCRL Updates

We were very active in June and July. In Quebec, members of our team joined the Coalition Inclusion Quebec and members of the public to protest against Bill 21. Today, we continue to support the National Council of Canadian Muslims and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association in challenging the Bill at the Quebec Superior Court.



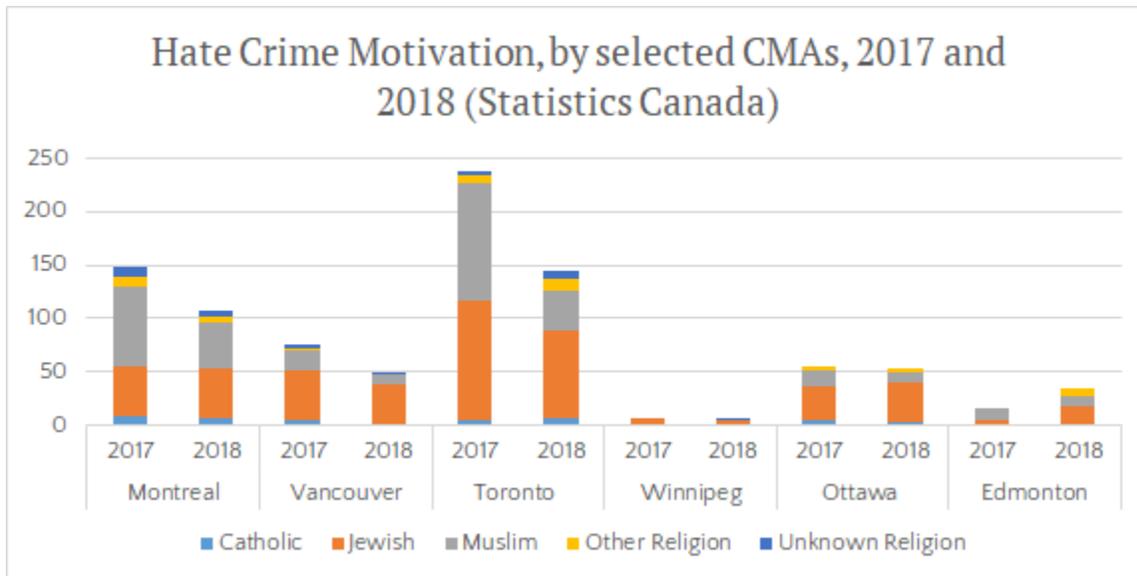
CCRL team members protesting against Bill 21, Montreal (June, 2019).

Across the country, we continue to develop strong relationships with various partners and develop programming. This includes several conversations framed around the social and political realities in Canada, such as recent findings from the Association of Canadian Studies on how Canadians perceive God. Here we see that British Columbians and Quebeckers appear least likely to believe in God, while no Saskatchewanians strongly disagreed to believing in God and Nova Scotians' sentiments on both sides are fairly even.



Definitely...maybe...no way: Do Canadians believe in God? [study](#), Association for Canadian studies, 2019, slide 3.

We are also discussing how, despite [lower rates of police-reported hate crimes motivated by religion](#) in 2018, Statistics Canada has shared specific data with us that highlights the spike of crimes in Edmonton particularly towards Jewish people from 5 incidents in 2017 to 18 in 2018.



As the detailed data is not posted online, please contact us if you would like the data we received from Statistics Canada.

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:

- [Police-reported crime in Canada up slightly in 2018, hate crime down, StatsCan reports](#) *CBC News*
- [Do Canadians believe in God?](#) Survey data from the Association of Canadian Studies
- [La droite chrétienne : « changer les mentalités » pour mieux transformer la société](#) *The Conversation*
- [StatsCan study explains why Jews were under-reported in the 2016 Census](#) *The Canadian Jewish News*
- [We asked 12 Canadian premiers about Quebec's controversial secularism law](#) *Canada's National Observer*
- [The rise of the Satanic Temple in Canada](#) *Global News*

Territories:

- [Bishop reflects on apology to school's former students](#) *Whitehorse Daily Star*
- [Four Indigenous Guardians projects receive funding](#) *Cabin Radio*
- [At national gathering, Arctic Anglicans say no to same-sex marriage](#) *Nunatsiaq News*
- ['Mother earth needs us': Naturally Dene helps people understand the land](#) *APTN News*

British Columbia:

- [Vancouver-area bishop approves same-sex marriages, despite national vote](#) *Vancouver Sun*
- [B.C. Court of Appeal deals blow to Jumbo Glacier Resort, rules environmental certificate invalid](#) *The Globe & Mail*
- [Dan Fumano: Lessons 'not relegated to history,' as B.C. Buddhist temple marks milestone](#) *Vancouver Sun*
- [Catholic says Khalsa Credit Union denied her membership because of religion](#) *Surrey Now-Leader*
- [As he readies for new role, 1st Mountie to wear turban reflects on RCMP career](#) *CBC British Columbia*

Alberta:

- [Edmonton group part of province-wide survey on hate crime](#) *Edmonton Global News*
- [Indigenous women find special connection with new mountain-dwelling bison](#) *CBC Calgary*
- [Woman becomes first female Muslim in Alberta to become certified funeral director](#) *Global News Edmonton*
- [Bon Odori Festival honours lost loved ones](#) *Lethbridge Herald*

Prairies:

- [Indigenous-led research centre to 'employ the best of Indigenous and Western capabilities' in fight against STIs](#) *CTV News Saskatoon*
- ['Build bridges rather than build divides': Program helps educate newcomers on Indigenous history and culture](#) *CBC News*

- [Election date clashes with Jewish holy day](#) *Winnipeg Free Press*
- [Opinion: Leadership won't be deciding factor](#) *Winnipeg Free Press*

Ontario:

- [Ottawa had Canada's 3rd-highest hate crime rate in 2018](#) *CBC Ottawa*
- [Satanic Temple to hold first 'black mass' in Canada](#) *Global News*
- [Muslim group calls on Conservative candidate to step down over social media posts](#) *Global News*
- [Jewish organization upgrading security amid concern about hate crimes](#) *CBC Toronto*
- [Ontario Court of Appeal upholds decision that an infringement of physicians' religious beliefs is justified to increase access to medical services \(including medical assistance in dying\) for vulnerable patients](#) *Lexology.com*

Quebec:

- [Projet de loi 21: Québec définit ce qu'est un «signe religieux»](#) *LeSoleil*
- [Loi sur la laïcité : Québec remporte une première manche judiciaire](#) *Radio-Canada*
- [La loi québécoise sur la laïcité de l'État divise les Canadiens](#) *LeDevoir*
- [Laïcité : un froid entre le Manitoba et le Québec](#) *Lapress*
- [B'nai Brith Calls on Ottawa to Act on Bill 21 – B'nai Brith demande à Ottawa de donner suite à la loi 21](#) *B'nai Brith Canada*
- [Quebec announces \\$20M in funds to preserve province's religious heritage](#) *CBC*
- [François Legault endorsed a book by a hardline conservative. Here's why that matters](#) *CBC*

Atlantic provinces:

- [A brush with bigotry in Harbourville](#) *Kings County News*
- [LETTER: Half a biscuit is not enough](#) *The Telegram*
- [Helping heal hearts](#) *Kings County News*
- [Anglican Church to review governance structure after same-sex marriage change fails](#) *National Post*

International:

- [Catholics march to call for cooling-off period amid Hong Kong unrest](#) *South China Morning Post*
- [Islamic Movement in Nigeria: The Iranian-inspired Shia group](#) *BBC News*
- [What Americans Know About Religion](#) *Pew Research Group*
- [Article 370: What happened with Kashmir and why it matters](#) *BBC News*
- ['I prefer non-religious': why so few US politicians come out as atheists](#) *The Guardian*



Religious Literacy Thought Corner

Here are some podcasts, webinars, and other resources for a more detailed understanding of religious literacy.

- CBC's *The Current* podcast – "[Nuking the oilsands: Why Ernest Manning wanted nuclear weapons to jumpstart Alberta's oil industry](#)" related to Dochuk's book *Anointed with Oil: How Christianity and Crude Made Modern America*
- [The Classical Ideas Podcast](#) (Podcast series)
- [CBC Kids section on Holidays](#) explains religious holidays (Text)

Cultural/Holy days (August and September 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.

August 2019

- Aug 9 – [Varalakshmi Vrata](#) (parts of Hinduism)
- Aug 11 – [Tisha B'Av](#) (Judaism)
- Aug 12 – [Eid ul-adha](#), ends Aug 15 (Islam)
- Aug 15 – [Assumption of Mary](#) (various Christians), [Raksha Bandhan](#) (Hinduism)
- Aug 24 – [Krishna Janmashtami](#) (Hinduism)

September 2019

- Sept 2 – [Ganesh Chaturthi](#) (Hinduism)
- Sept 14 – [Holy Cross Day/Feast of the Cross](#) (various Christians)
- Sept 23 – [Autumn Equinox](#) (Pagan and Wiccan)
- Sept 29 – [Navaratri](#), ends Oct 7 (Hinduism)
- Sept 30 – [Rosh Hashana](#), ends Oct 1 (Judaism)

Photos by [Julie Fader](#) and [Zander Bederi](#) on [Unsplash](#).