

CCRL The Centre for Civic Religious Literacy
CLRC Le centre de litt ratie religieuse civique

October 2019 Newsletter

CCRL Updates

November 2019 is our one year anniversary!



What have we done so far?

We reached approx. 800 people *directly*, based on:

- 2 guest speaking engagements via workshop and lecture
- One high school youth workshop
- 5 conferences
- 6 team publications, and more in draft form!
- Social media followers via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn

What is to come?

- 2 guest speaking engagements (Regina and Montreal)
- 1 conference (Hamilton)
- 2 roundtables (Montreal and Vancouver)
- 2 focus groups (Lethbridge and Quebec City)
- 1 teacher workshop (Montreal)
- 1 lawyer workshop (Montreal)
- 1 high school youth workshop (Montreal)
- Educator toolkit and recommended resources (online)

We are thrilled to celebrate this important milestone in our non-profit's history, and to look back at the accomplishments we've made so far. None of this would be possible

without our incredible [team](#), [board of directors](#), [advisors](#), and our [partners and supporters](#) – Thank you all!

Please visit our website to learn more about upcoming [events](#) and [resources](#).

Headlines about religious literacy 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:

- [Justin Trudeau grapples with Quebec's religious wear law](#) *Financial Times*
- [Federal candidates spar over abortion, persecution of Christians to woo Catholic voters](#) *Global News*
- [Could Quebec's secularism law resonate in the rest of Canada?](#) *CBC Radio*
- [Religious shift may drain Tory support: Study reports increased liberalism among faithful, even in evangelical circles](#) *Winnipeg Free Press*

Territories:

- [Federal candidates debate immigration, racism](#) *Yukon News*
- [Films with NWT links dominate Yellowknife Film Festival line-up](#) *Cabin Radio*
- [Inuit take the lead in Inuit Studies conference](#) *Nunatsiaq News*
- [Women only swim night at Yellowknife pool proves popular](#) *CBC North*

British Columbia:

- [It's a symbol of our strength': Heiltsuk open first Big House in 120 years](#) *CFJC Today*

- UBC expands Jewish Studies with \$1 million gift *Canadian Jewish News*
- B.C. residential school survivors gather with Tseshaht First Nation to free lost souls *APTN News*
- Woman wins right to use term 'death midwife' in B.C. Supreme Court *Global News*

Alberta:

- *Muslim Women Arts Festival – Edmonton* *CBC News, Edmonton*
- *Fort McMurray Celebrates Navratri* *Fort McMurray Today*
- *Faith Communities Support Climate Change Protestors in Edmonton* *Global News Edmonton*
- *Indigenous Ceremony Mocked During Climate Change Protest* *CTV News, Edmonton*
- *Muslim organization offers food to those in need* *CTV News Calgary*

Prairies:

- *Op-ed: Leaders wrong to accede to Quebec's symbols-ban demand* *University of Manitoba News*
- *Opera about sex abuse to start dialogue* *Winnipeg Free Press*
- *Pagan priest challenging peoples' opinions on gender, religion and 'bi-spirituality'* *CBC Saskatchewan*
- *'Crazy out there': Increasing violence in North Central Regina has residents looking for solutions* *CBC News*

Ontario:

- *Who Chooses Ontario Independent Schools and Why?* *Cardus*
- *Ontario's top court dismisses brain death case, but does not rule on key issue* *CTV Toronto*
- *OSPCA mobile spay and neuter unit travels to northwestern Ontario First Nation* *CBC Thunder Bay*
- *Opinion: The Algonquin grandmothers' fight for the sacred Chaudiere falls* *Maclean's*

Quebec:

- *Des manifestations contre la Loi 21 dans quatre villes du Québec* *La Presse*
- *Bonjour/Hi la police* *Journal de Quebec*
- *Québec veut interdire le «Bonjour-Hi!» dans les commerces et services publics* *Le Soleil*
- *«Face-à-Face»: les chefs ont tout donné* *TVA*
- *Protesters continue rallying against Bill 21 across Quebec* *Global News*

Atlantic provinces:

- *Halifax-area PPC candidate under fire for Islamophobic tweets* *Global News*
- *Interfaith event hopes to get newer Canadians ready to vote* *CBC Newfoundland and Labrador*
- *'We will not forget you:' Sisters in Spirit Vigil honours MMIWG* *CBC PEI*
- *CBU international student who drives cab says assault by passenger was racially motivated* *CTV News Atlantic*

International:

- [Africa's Catholic churches face competition and a troubled legacy as they grow](#) *The Conversation (Africa)*
 - [The biggest hurdle for the Coalition's religious discrimination bill: how to define 'religion'](#) *The Conversation (Australia)*
 - [Iran's Khamenei says building, using nuclear bomb is forbidden under its religion:](#) *TV Reuters*
 - [Surviving Indonesia as an atheist when the country is built on rigid religious traditions and policies](#) *South China Morning Post*
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Religious Literacy Thought Corner

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

- What is an Indigenous land acknowledgement and why are they important? People have [different opinions about them across the provinces and at different venues](#). To learn more about them, check out: <https://nativeland.ca/territory-acknowledgement/>.
 - Trying to understand Law 21 from a Quebec perspective? Read this two part discussion from the Montreal Gazette – [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#).
 - Podcast: [Spirits & Spirituality](#)
 - Podcast: [“Religious Illiteracy: The Consequences of Ignorance”](#) by Interfaith Voices
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Cultural/Holy days (October & November 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.

October 2019

- Oct 1 – **Rosh Hashanah** ends (Judaism)
- Oct 7 – **Navaratri** ends (Hinduism)
- Oct 8 – **Vijayadashami/Dussehra/Dashain** (Hinduism)
- Oct 9 – **Yom Kippur** (Judaism)
- Oct 14 – **Sukkot**, ends Oct 20 (Judaism)
- Oct 20 – **Birth of Guru Granth** (Sikhism)
- Oct 21 – **Shmini Atzeret** (Judaism)
- Oct 22 – **Simchat Torah** (Judaism)
- Oct 25 – **Dhan Teras** (Hinduism)
- Oct 27 – **Diwali** (Hinduism)
- Oct 29 – **Birth of the Báb** (Bahá'í)
- Oct 30 – **Birth of Bahá'u'lláh** (Bahá'í)
- Oct 31 – **Samhain** (Wiccan)

November 2019

- Nov 1 – **All Saints' Day** (Christianity)
- Nov 2 – **All Souls' Day** (Christianity)
- Nov 10 – **Mawlid-al-Nabi** (Islam, Sunni)
- Nov 12 – **Guru Nanak Birthday** (Sikhism)
- Nov 14 – **Mawlid-al-Nabi** (Islam, Shia)
- Nov 24 – **Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib** (Sikhism)
- Nov 26 – **Christ the King** (Christianity), **Day of the Covenant** (Bahá'í)
- Nov 28 – **Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá** (Bahá'í)
- Nov 30 – **St. Andrew's Day** (Christianity)

Photos by [Stephanie McCabe](#), [olivia hutcherson](#), [Rebecca Peterson-Hall](#) on [Unsplash](#).