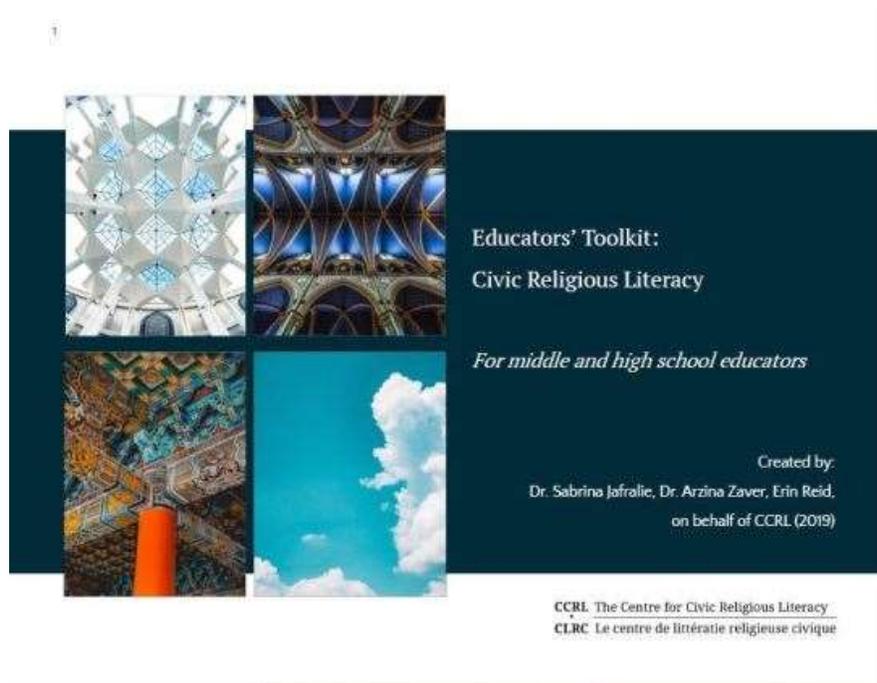


CCRL The Centre for Civic Religious Literacy
CLRC Le centre de litt ratie religieuse civique

December 2019 Newsletter

CCRL Updates



October to early December was busy! We designed:

- [An Educator Toolkit and recommended resources](#)
- 1 focus group and follow-up interviews (Lethbridge)
- 5 presentations (Lethbridge, 2 in Regina, 2 in Montreal)
- 1 teacher workshop (Montreal)
- Co-founded the Quebec Network on Children's Rights

What is to come?

- January – 2 teacher workshops (Montreal), 1 lawyer workshop (Montreal), Building Bridges competition (Montreal)
- February – Roundtable (Vancouver), Nursing pilot program (Toronto Area), 1 teacher workshop (Montreal), Focus Group (Quebec City)
- March – Metropolis conference (Winnipeg)

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

Across the country, efforts from [an atheist nurse now ensure that BC nurses recovering from addiction no longer need to attend a 12-step program](#), while [Ontarians discuss the balance of religion and human rights are in Ontario Catholic schools](#). These stories and more are listed in the selected headlines below.

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:

- [The Politics of Faith: Does a leader's personal religious practice hurt or help with voters? It depends](#) *Angus Reid*
- [Is atheism a religion? The Ministry of National Revenue is a non-believer](#) *CBC British Columbia*
- [Church of Canada may disappear by 2040, says new report](#) *Religion News Service*
- [Global Opinions: What Andrew Scheer's fall says about Canada's hypocritical embrace of diversity](#) *Washington Post*
- [Debate continues over creationism's place in Canada's schools](#) *TriCity News*

Territories:

- [Iqaluit city council votes to replace opening prayer with moment of silence](#) *Nunatsiaq News*
- [Nunavik prepares to take action on suicide prevention strategy: First workshop sets out goals and path toward putting plan in place](#) *Nunatsiaq News*

British Columbia:

- [Atheist nurse wins fight to end mandatory 12-step addiction treatment for health staff in Vancouver](#) *CBC British Columbia*
- [The Vulture Watcher: One man's spirited commitment to an underappreciated bird](#) *Hakai Magazine*
- [Province argues in B.C. Supreme Court for smudging in schools, says it relates to curriculum](#) *Vancouver Island Press Daily*
- [West Vancouver brothers hold forum to dispel myths about Islam](#) *CBC British Columbia*

Alberta:

- [Edmonton City Council moves to ban conversion therapy](#) *Global News*
- [Community organizer says school board's threat won't stop him advocating for mother banned from school](#) *Edmonton Star*
- [This encourages patient abandonment](#) *Global News*
- [Premier highlights religious freedom at revived provincial prayer breakfast](#) *Grandin Media*

Prairies:

- [Religion at play: No shortage of faithful fans](#) *The Catholic Register*
- [Fearing China's Uyghur detention camps, Regina woman's mother seeks refugee status](#) *Saskatoon StarPhoenix*
- [Workshop trains imams in counselling: Islamic Social Services Association event draws leaders from across country](#) *Winnipeg Free Press*
- [Point of View – 'I'm a Christian who pretty much despises Christmas': How a Winnipeg street preacher gets through the holidays](#) *CBC Manitoba*

Ontario:

- [Ontario Anti-Semitism Bill Passes First Reading](#) *The Canadian Jewish News*
- [Opinion: Can Catholic schools balance human rights and religion?](#) *The Star*
- [Ontario eyes religious accommodations for Sikh paramedics](#) *The Star*
- [Chief of Kashechewan First Nation now also James Bay community's priest](#) *CBC Sudbury*

Quebec:

- [La loi 21 s'applique, tranche la Cour d'appel](#) *Le Devoir*
- [Quebec's Court of Appeal rejects bid to suspend Bill 21](#) *Montreal Gazette*
- [Hybrid Identities: An Exhibition at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts in Collaboration with Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom from December 9, 2019 to February 16, 2020](#) *MBAM*
- [Contrary to Legault's claim, one-quarter of francophone Canadians identify as atheists](#) *Montreal Gazette*

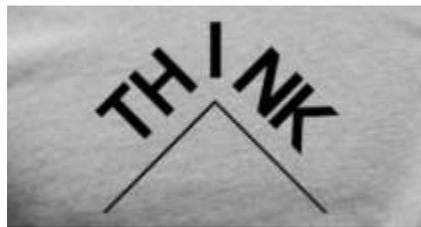
Atlantic provinces:

- [Victim of neglect and apathy, an iconic Saint John building comes to a sad end](#) *CBC New Brunswick*

- [Clarence group hopes to breathe new life into old buildings, community](#) *Truro News*
- [VIDEO: Cape Breton Sikh students open up about turbans](#) *The Telegram*

International:

- [Humanist International's 2019 Freedom of Thought Report](#) about discrimination to humanists, atheists, and non-religious people
- [Protests across India denounce religion-based citizenship law](#) *The Christian Science Monitor*
- [Indonesian cave paintings show the dawn of imaginative art and human spiritual belief](#) *The Conversation*
- [The Pope abolishes the pontifical secret in cases of sexual abuse](#) *Vatican News*



Religious Literacy Thought Corner

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

- [Things Arab Men Say](#), a film produced by the National Film Board
- [McMindfulness: how capitalism hijacked the Buddhist teaching of mindfulness](#), a podcast from CBC's Tapestry

Cultural/Holy days (December 2019 & January 2020)

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 2019

- DEC 1 – **Advent begins** (various Christian groups, ends Dec 24).
- DEC 6 – **St. Nicholas Day** (Western European and Romanian Christian groups)
- DEC 8 – **St. Clement of Oris – Patron Day** (Macedonian Orthodox), **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), **Yule/Litha** (Wicca), **Tsongkhapa Butter Lamp Festival** (Tibetan Buddhism)
- DEC 22 **Hanukkah**(Jewish, ends Dec 30)
- DEC 25 – **Christmas Day/Feast of the Nativity** (All Christian sects and denominations, with the exception of most Christian Orthodox groups)
- DEC 26 – **St. Stephan's Day** (Catholic Christians)
- DEC 28/29 – **Holy Innocents** (Various Christian groups)
- DEC 29 – **Feast of the Holy Family** (Catholic Christian)

January 2020

- 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 2 – **Bodhi Day** (Japanese and Various Mahayana Buddhist groups)
- 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 10 – **New Year** (Mahayana Buddhism)

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 19 – **World Religion Day** (initiated by Baha'i but celebrated by many other groups)