

CCRL The Centre for Civic Religious Literacy

CLRC Le centre de litt ratie religieuse civique

February 2020 Newsletter

CCRL Updates

2020 began with a lot of difficult news globally, including the [176 victims of Ukrainian International Airlines Flight 752](#) and the [untimely death of NBA star Kobe Bryant](#). However, these situations show how religious and non-religious communities in [Vancouver](#) and [Los Angeles](#) support each other in times of pain. Yet, we see political leaders who continue to deny the existence of religious discrimination in its many forms, including Quebec Premier Francois Legault and Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi who denies the [existence of Islamophobia](#) and the [genocide of Rohingya Muslims](#), respectively.



As leaders' policies and statements conflict with the lived realities of individuals, we are working to bridge these differences by engaging various people in society. In January, we guest spoke in one webinar, one radio show, and led three university student workshops. In February and March, we continue by hosting a [public roundtable](#) (Vancouver), [focus group discussion](#) (Quebec City), and [local workshops](#) (Toronto, Winnipeg, Kitchener-Waterloo). Our January engagements were well received by [education students](#) and [law students](#), and we hope to broaden and deepen the connections we have and will make.

This isn't easy work since we know that religious, spiritual, and non-religious perspectives are often omitted from regular conversation and thought, but the lived experiences we are privileged to learn about (both positive and negative) remind us daily why we do this work to foster understanding. So, if you see a way we can help you in your local community or workplace, please let us know. It would be a pleasure to collaborate alongside you. Let's work together.

Thank you for joining us in our work,
Alice
CCRL Executive Director & Co-Founder

The Pulse



Is religion and spirituality dead in Canada and the world? Think again.

These current headlines reflect how religious, spiritual, non-religious perspectives remain part of our daily lives and society. Follow our [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#) accounts for headlines on a regular basis. Note, these headlines do not indicate endorsement but are shared for the purpose of awareness.

Canada:

- [Lunch with Chrystia Freeland: 'We liberals have had a rude awakening'](#) *National Post*
- ['Hi, my name is Mohammed. I'm here to help you.' Meet the unofficial crisis manager for Muslim Canadians](#) *The Globe and Mail*
- [Large Majority \(86%\) of Canadians Support \(50% Strongly/36% Somewhat\) Supreme Court of Canada Decision about Medical Assistance in Dying](#) *Ipsos*
- [MULCAIR: Trudeau is afraid to challenge Bill 21](#) *Toronto Sun*
- [Canadian voters' sensitivity to party stances on social values shows CPC has room to move to the centre](#) *Angus Reid*

A few charts from this Angus Reid poll:

In Canada we should...					
Keep God and religion completely out of public life			Publicly celebrate the role of faith in our collective lives		
60% (n=1,373)			40% (n=934)		
↓			↓		
A party leader who believes in celebrating the role of faith in public life would make it... (n=1,373)			A party leader who believes God and religion should be kept completely out of public life would make it... (n=934)		
Impossible for you to support that party	Less likely you would support that party	No difference/You wouldn't care	Impossible for you to support that party	Less likely you would support that party	No difference/You wouldn't care
21%	49%	29%	12%	42%	46%

In Canada...					
There is no place for any prayer at a public meeting			Public meetings (such as at a municipal council meeting) should open with a non-denominational prayer to God for good guidance		
71% (n=1,641)			29% (n=667)		
↓			↓		
A party leader who supports having public meetings begin with a prayer would make it... (n=1,641)			A party leader who objects to having public meetings begin with a prayer: would make it... (n=667)		
Impossible for you to support that party	Less likely you would support that party	No difference/You wouldn't care	Impossible for you to support that party	Less likely you would support that party	No difference/You wouldn't care
32%	43%	25%	15%	43%	41%

In Canada...					
Public sector employees SHOULD be allowed to wear religious symbols or clothing while they are on the job			Public sector employees should NOT be allowed to wear religious symbols or clothing while they are on the job		
58% (n=1,333)			42% (n=974)		
↓			↓		
A party leader who supports new restrictions on public sector employees wearing religious symbols or clothing on the job would make it... (n=1,333)			A party leader who opposes restrictions on public sector employees wearing religious symbols or clothing on the job would make it... (n=974)		
Impossible for you to support that party	Less likely you would support that party	No difference/You wouldn't care	Impossible for you to support that party	Less likely you would support that party	No difference/You wouldn't care
34%	42%	24%	27%	34%	39%

Territories:

- [Court hears petition challenging Vuntut Gwitchin's residency requirement for council](#) *Yukon News*
- [Traditional camp offers breakfast and hope](#) *Winnipeg Free Press*
- [Indigiqueer king Mx. Wolverine is politicizing and sexifying stages with a mix of drag and burlesque](#) *CBC Arts*
- [Through a magnifying glass, darkly](#) *Nunatsiaq News*
- [Iqaluit shelter director launches campaign for Trevor Noah to visit](#) *Nunatsiaq News*

British Columbia:

- [Why the Nuu-chah-nulth Fought a Classroom Smudging Case, and Won](#) *The Tye*
- [RCMP to begin "peacefully enforcing" injunction to remove Wet'suwet'en protestors](#) *DH News Vancouver*
- [Vancouver women sewing 100 ribbon skirts for MMIWG families](#) *Social Sharing CBC Indigenous*
- [Surrey Meeting Examines The Role Of Hindu Refugees](#) *South Asian Link*
- [Once proposed as ski resort: B.C.'s Jumbo Glacier turned over to First Nation](#) *CFJC Today*

Alberta:

- [New Orleans Deacon calls men to fight for their faith](#) *Grandin Media*
- [Trust in science a complicated matter, says Christian professor](#) *Folioi*

- [Canadian politician threatens therapists: 'We will come at you' if you help people leave homosexuality](#) *LifeSite*
- [ANALYSIS | Fighting climate denial and the 'dragons of inaction'](#) *CBC Calgary*
- [Keith Gerein: 'Noisy' street preachers offer test of how we balance public expression, disturbance](#) *Edmonton Journal*

Prairies:

- [Mother blames alcoholism for son's death in fire](#) *Winnipeg Free Press*
- [Bridges Cover: Joseph Naytowhow is finding his voice, and helping others find theirs](#) *The Gananogue Reporter*
- [Climate change denier Patrick Moore to speak at Regina sustainability conference](#) *Regina Leader-Post*
- [Manitoba ads in Quebec over secularism law generated \\$200K in publicity: report](#) *Lethbridge News Now*
- [Language used by principal in school newsletter 'inappropriate and racist,' Winnipeg dad says](#) *CBC Manitoba*
- [Local Elder helps community deal with loss, addiction, with ceremony, culture](#) *CTV Regina*

Ontario:

- [Classes help improve mind, body and spirit](#) *Timmins Today*
- [Marinero sets his sights on podium finish at Worlds](#) *The Sarnia Journal*
- [Local Sikh temple opens](#) *The Chatham Voice*
- [Our Lady of Loreto finds landing spot at Toronto's Pearson airport](#) *The Catholic Register*
- [Why so many in Ottawa are making art about a lesbian couple's 'outrageous bravery'](#) *The Stratford Beacon Herald*

Quebec:

- [La campagne du Manitoba au Québec ne semble pas avoir provoqué un exode](#) *Le Soleil*
- [La foi pour perpétuer la charité](#) *Québec Express*
- [Opinions : L'État et la religion](#) *Le Journal de Québec*
- [Legault personally deleted anti-Muslim hate messages on his Facebook page](#) *Montreal Gazette*
- [Newspaper for Russian Jews Marks quarter century](#) *The Canadian Jewish News*
- [Quebec slams Ottawa over funding for Bill 21 challenge](#) *Montreal Gazette*

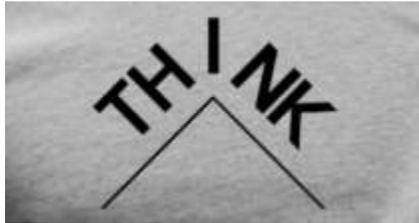
Atlantic provinces:

- [Atlantic First Nations seek emergency assistance with 'tsunami' of work from Indian day school claims](#) *CBC Indigenous*
- [Ottawa man pays fitting tribute to hockey's black trailblazers](#) *CBC Ottawa*
- [DAN LEGER: The Conservative struggle with faith and politics](#) *Saltwire*
- [How 'absolute terror' led this P.E.I. man to start a podcast about mental health](#) *CBC PEI*

- [Shepody Mountain earns conservation protection in surprise announcement](#) *CBC News Brunswick*

International:

- [They Heard Kobe Bryant's Helicopter Go Down. Then They Prayed](#) *NYTimes*
- [Faith Leaders Concerned by Trump Attacks at Prayer Breakfast](#) *Time*
- [Preventing genocide in Myanmar: Court order tries to protect Rohingya Muslims where politics has failed](#) *The Conversation*
- [Trump administration limits immigration from 6 countries](#) *Global News*
- [Religious freedom bill's latest draft 'unacceptable and does not protect human rights'](#) *The Guardian*
- [How Christian persecution overseas is set to become UK priority](#) *Express*



Religious Literacy Thought Corner

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

- ['Life of Brian,' Terry Jones's legacy of a surprisingly historical Jesus](#) – an article that examines *Monty Python's Life of Brian* upon the passing of actor Terry Jones
- [Keeping the Faith](#), a podcast from *The Kicker* a regular show from the *Columbia Journalism Review* to help journalists. An abridged version in print is here: https://www.cjr.org/special_report/religion-journalism-roundtable.php.
- [A Brief Guide To "Mormon Underwear"](#) *BuzzFeed News*

Cultural/Holy days (February & March 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.

February 2020

- FEB 1 – [Imbolc](#) (Wiccan)
- FEB 2 – [Candlemas](#) (Various Christian groups)
- FEB 8 – [Thaipusam](#) (Various Hindu groups); [Parinirvana/Nirvana Day](#) (some Buddhist groups)
- FEB 10 – [Tu B'Shevat](#) (Judaism)
- FEB 15 – [Parinirvana/Nirvana Day](#) (Mahayana Buddhism and other Buddhist groups)
- FEB 21 – [Maha Shivaratri](#) (Various Hindu groups)
- FEB 25 – [Carnival/Shrove Tuesday](#) (Various Christian groups)
- FEB 26 – [Ash Wednesday](#) (Various Christian groups)

March 2020

- MAR 2 – [Clean Monday/Ash Monday](#) (Orthodox Christianity)
- MAR 9 – [Holika Dahan](#) (Hinduism); [Magha Puja Day/Sangha Day](#) (Buddhism)
- MAR 10 – [Purim](#) (Jewish)
- MAR 17 – [St. Patrick's Day](#) (Irish Catholics); [Hola Mohalla](#) (Sikhism)
- MAR 20 – [Holi](#) (Hinduism and Sikhism); [Nowruz](#) (Baha'i, Zoroastrian, and Persian celebration)
- MAR 22 – [Isra and Mi'raj](#) (Various Muslim groups)
- MAR 25 – [Spring Equinox](#) (Various Indigenous groups), [Ostara](#) (Wiccan); [Ugadi / Gudi Padwa / Telugu New Year](#) (Hindus from the Indian states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, and Maharashtra)