

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

August 2021 Newsletter

CCRL Updates

Dear friends of CCRL,

This has been a unique summer. Many of you may have been working non-stop since March 2020, and July/August was the first real vacation you have had in months. As our team comes from different walks of life (religious, spiritual, and non-religious) and we know that you do too, we hope that your spirit and soul have been rested and refreshed this summer.

Our team went through similar challenges, and we have taken much of August to recuperate and prepare for the year ahead.

This fall, we are supporting [The Stop Community Food Centre](#) in Toronto with passionate project partners at [All Things Equitable Inc.](#) We look forward to supporting their focus on diversity and inclusion in policy and practice. We also continue our projects to [address racism in Victoria and BC](#) with our partner organization, the [Victoria Multifaith Society](#), and incredible BC-based community leaders, and find distinct ways to address [social and economic well-being through religious literacy in northern Ontario and northern Alberta](#) with the [Rural Development Network](#).

Our insightful team members will also be hosting webinars in [Peace Days Montreal](#) and [Alberta Cultural Days](#) (with the [CCIS team in Brooks, Alberta](#)) this September.

As September rolls near and school starts for students, teachers, professors, and parents, we wish you all the best. The world keeps on shifting (clear throughout the headlines below) and we are finding ways to foster understanding and support through it all.

If you would like to support, collaborate, or connect with us in any way, please reach out at any time. You are welcome.

Sincerely,

[Alice](#) , CCRL Executive Director & Co-Founder

The Pulse



Patricia Zastre said she's learning more about her Indigenous spirituality through gardening as well, and performing ceremonies relating to the moon for her garden. (Heidi Atter/CBC)

(Upcoming newsletters will feature an image from a headline below. More info about the image above here: [Regina inner city community garden program expands to homes, helps fight for food security](#) CBC Saskatchewan)

How does belief (religious or not) inform life and society in Canada today?

Here are some headlines that show how religious, spiritual, and non-religious perspectives remain part of our daily lives and society. They show the struggles, virtues, and influence of Canadians in local and global communities. Some are one-on-one interactions while others are systemic, good and bad.

Follow our Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn accounts for headlines on a regular basis. Note, these headlines do not indicate endorsement but are shared for the purpose of awareness and understanding.

Canada:

- [Why more boomers are turning to spirituality in retirement](#) *The Globe & Mail*
- [Companies are implementing vaccine mandates. Can employees reject them?](#) *CBC News*
- [People who feel more connected to the natural world are more likely to support reconciliation](#) *Halifax Today*

- [‘I’m pro-choice,’ O’Toole says as abortion issue emerges on the campaign trail](#) *CBC News*

Territories:

- [Inuit Elder Remembers His First Day at Residential School: ‘I Was Kidnapped’](#) *Inside Edition*
- [Memories of Ava](#) *Nunatsiaq News*
- [Cycling4Water biking 8500 kms to raise money for wells in Africa](#) *Whitehorse Daily Star*

British Columbia:

- [Sikh and Hindu adherents take refuge in Kabul gurdwara as Taliban takeover creates uncertainty](#) *CBC British Columbia*
- [Bhangra sensation Gurdeep Pandher set to take stage on Vancouver Island](#) *Vancouver Sun*
- [B.C. artist’s memoir illustrates his experiences of homelessness and addiction — and his way out](#) *CBC British Columbia*

Alberta:

- [Indigenous cultural space opens at Calgary addictions recovery centre](#) *CBC Calgary*
- [A Friendship Centre for Whitecourt is that much closer to reality thanks to a new Whitecourtian](#) *Toronto Star*
- [Edmonton’s anti-harassment bylaw won’t stop hate despite good intentions: advocates, police](#) *Edmonton Journal*

Prairies:

- [Regina inner city community garden program expands to homes, helps fight for food security](#) *CBC Saskatchewan*
- [Spirited life driven by quest for socio-economic justice in North](#) *Winnipeg Free Press*
- [Marin doctor’s debut novel is about a Jewish girl in Manitoba \(just like she was\)](#) *The Jewish News of Northern California*

Ontario:

- [Police investigate mosque vandalized in Scarborough, multiple break-ins](#) *CTV News*
- [Ontario pastor fired after coming out as transgender files lawsuit against Baptist church](#) *News 1130*
- [An in-depth look at hate crimes in Durham Region](#) *DurhamRadioNews.com*

Quebec:

- [Opinion : Le Canada est-il vraiment inclusif? *Le Devoir*](#)
- [Droits humains et droits des Peuples autochtones : au cœur des luttes contre les changements climatiques *Le Soleil*](#)
- [Élections fédérales 2021 : Quels engagements en matière de laïcité ? *La Presse*](#)

Atlantic Provinces:

- [Meet some of the most honoured members of First Nations communities *CBC New Brunswick*](#)
- [Nova Scotia farmhouse becomes a fault line in Buddhist group's feud over sexual-misconduct scandal *The Globe & Mail*](#)
- [Cricket growing in popularity on P.E.I., team takes home first Maritime Cup *CBC PEI*](#)

International:

- [Job seeking is the religious pilgrimage of the 21st century *The Conversation*](#)
 - [How Orthodox Jews became a streaming-TV hit *Religion News Service*](#)
 - [There's a religious revival going on in China under the constant watch of the Communist Party *The Conversation*](#)
 - [Opinion: Is the Taliban's treatment of women really inspired by Sharia? *Al Jazeera*](#)
 - [Understanding Religious Literacy Content Creators and Providers in Education, Journalism, and New Media: A Report for the Arthur Vining Davis Foundation *The Aspen Institute*](#)
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Religious Literacy Thought Corner

Every issue, this section will focus on one specific aspect of society or identity. Using religious literacy skills and framework, our team will briefly prompt how to identify and perceive the influence of religion, spirituality, and non-religious belief in our lives and world.



This August, we have decided to take a break from the thought corner, but we will be back in October. We look forward to sharing some thoughts with you then!

Cultural/Holy days (August & September 2021)

This list of dates is 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 commonly recognized across parts of Canada. Our team wishes you a rejuvenating time of contemplation and community support this August and September.



Ashura commemorations in Syria in 2017. Photo by Tasnim News Agency/Creative Commons

August 2021

- Aug 10 – [Islamic New Year](#) (Muslims)
- Aug 12 – [Onam](#), ends on Aug 23 (Hindus)
- Aug 13 – [Obon](#), ends Aug 16 (Japanese Buddhists)
- Aug 15 – [Assumption of Mary](#) (various Christians)
- Aug 18 – [Day of Ashura](#) (Muslims)
- Aug 30 – [Krishna Janmashtami](#) (Hindus)

September 2021

- Sept 7 – [Rosh Hashana](#) begins, ends Sept 8 (Jewish people)
- Sept 10 – [Ganesh Chaturthi](#) (Hindus)
- Sept 14 – [Yom Kippur](#) begins, ends Sept 15 (Jewish people), [Holy Cross Day/Feast of the Cross](#) (various Christians)
- Sept 17 – [Vishwakarma Puja](#) (Hindus)
- Sept 20 – [Sukkot](#), ends Sept 27 (Jewish people)
- Sept 22 – [Autumn Equinox](#) (Pagans and Wiccans)
- Sept 27 – [Hoshana Rabbah](#) (Jewish people)
- Sept 28 – [Shemini Atzeret](#) (Jewish people)
- Sept 29 – [Simchat Torah](#) (Jewish people)
- Sept 30 – [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#) (Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples)

Photo source above: Photo by [Brett Jordan](#) on [Unsplash](#)