

CCRL The Centre for Civic Religious Literacy

CLRC Le centre de litt ratie religieuse civique

October 2021 Newsletter

CCRL Updates

Dear friends of CCRL,

September was a busy month for everyone as children, youth, and families transitioned into back-to-school life. It was no different for our team of educators and professors. Additionally, we had the privilege of co-hosting community-based dialogues in Temiskaming Shores and Kirkland Lake, Ontario with our project partners, the [Keepers of the Circle Indigenous Hub](#) and the [Rural Development Network](#). Our dialogue welcomed the community stakeholders (in education, healthcare, law enforcement, local politics, social service providers, and religious leaders) [to introduce religious literacy and discuss well-being](#) in both locations. Everyone was deeply passionate about the well-being of all residents in the area, and we are thankful to have met them and contributed to existing dialogues in the area. We look forward to continuing this work in a locally relevant way.

Merci. Miigwech. Thank you.



Community stakeholders who joined from Temiskaming Shores, Ontario

Merci. Miigwech. Thank you.



Community stakeholders who joined from Kirkland Lake, Ontario

This fall, we prepare and reflect on many things, including the fact that [October is Islamic Heritage month](#). In relation to the headlines below, we remember the London, Ontario family who was killed and targeted for their race and religion, and learn about [the legacy of 15-year-old Yumnah](#) who painted this school mural last year, encouraging peers to “Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss you’ll be among the stars.” For Yumnah and others, our team will continue to promote understanding and fight against hate.



The mural was painted in 2020 by Yumnah Afzaal, 15. Yumnah was killed along with three other family members, Salman Afzaal, 46, Madiha Salman, 44, and Talat Afzaal, 74, in a terrorist attack in London on June 6th. Her brother, Fayez Afzaal, 9, was the lone survivor.

Photo from [the article about Yumnah](#) below.

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



(Upcoming newsletters will feature an image from a headline below. More info about the image above here: [Riding with Pride: How a Manitoba motorcycle club is changing perceptions of the Sikh faith](#) *CBC Interactive*)

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:

- [Indigenous delegation pursues residential school 'apology ... on our lands' from Pope Francis](#) *CBC North*
- [How a trip to a local halal food store can expand respect for cuisine and culture: Andrew Coppolino](#) *CBC Kitchener-Waterloo*
- [Ottawa developing national plan to fight antisemitism](#) *The Suburban*
- [Religious exemptions to COVID-19 vaccine mandate: Here's what we know, what we don't](#) *Global News*

Territories:

- ['Read that report': How to keep being an ally from the perspective of 2 Indigenous N.W.T.'ers](#) *CBC North*
- [How Inuit tradition shapes life and work for the CEO of land-claim organization Nunavut Tunngavik](#) *The Globe & Mail*
- [Reclaiming culture, space and identity through community art](#) *CKLB Radio*
- [Élections au Nunavut : que désirent les communautés minoritaires?](#) *Radio-Canada*

British Columbia:

- [City of Vernon transfers copyright to legendary Ogopogo to B.C. Indigenous nations](#) *Prince George Citizen*
- [Creating Queens: Kelowna's Indigenous drag queens use their platforms to inspire](#) *NorthThompson Star/Journal*
- [Latest B.C. Liberal leadership candidate accused of being racist and transphobic](#) *Vancouver Sun*
- [On B.C.'s Sunshine Coast, some of Canada's oldest living trees escape the chopping block](#) *The Narwhal*

Alberta:

- [Alberta Ballet makes triumphant return with Swan Lake](#) *Calgary Herald*
- [Edmonton mayoral hopefuls outline plans to tackle anti-Muslim racism](#) *CBC Edmonton*
- ['I love to cook – my favourite part of the house is my pantry'](#) *Calgary Herald*
- ['It's really scary': Alberta physicians face more aggressive, misinformed patients](#) *CBC Calgary*

Prairies:

- [Healing ceremony held in Winnipeg to honour Indigenous peoples](#) *CBC Manitoba*

- [Manitoba First Nations leaders urge return to culture on 50th anniversary of Wahbung: Our Tomorrows](#) *CBC Indigenous*
- [Riding with Pride: How a Manitoba motorcycle club is changing perceptions of the Sikh faith](#) *CBC News*
- [Sask. Hindus celebrating Navratri within their homes due to rising COVID-19 case numbers](#) *CBC*

Ontario:

- [London's Hindus missing out on Navratri dancing for second year, due to pandemic restrictions](#) *CBC London*
- [WHY ORILLIA: Downtown shop puts the spotlight on spirituality](#) *OrilliaMatters.com*
- [Slain teenager Yumnah Afzaal's school mural a symbol of her legacy – the fight against hate](#) *The Globe & Mail*
- [Unlocking the Indigenous toolkit for breaking free from colonialism](#) *APTN News*

Quebec:

- [5 Nunavik residents receive lieutenant-governor's medal](#) *Nunatsiaq News*
- [Barraute réaménage son église pour la conserver plus longtemps](#) *Radio-Canada*
- [Les contraintes de l'itinérance «cachée»](#) *Le Devoir*
- [Jewish groups decry use of yellow Star of David by anti-vaxxers](#) *Montreal Gazette*

Atlantic Provinces:

- [New labyrinth at Bowring Park takes visitors on an inner journey](#) *CBC Newfoundland and Labrador*
- [Nova Scotia Sikh man's murder sparks fear among community over possible hate crime](#) *Global News*
- [Charlottetown mosque requiring proof of vaccination](#) *CBC PEI*
- [Genetically modified P.E.I. salmon 'available for sale,' but maybe not in stores yet](#) *Lethbridge Herald*

International:

- [China pulls Qur'an, Bible apps in crackdown on Apple store](#) *CBC News*
 - [Desmond Tutu turns 90 with outpouring of love from South Africa and the world](#) *Ecumenical News*
 - [Emotional and spiritual care 'hugely lacking' during pandemic, finds nurse-led study](#) *Nursing Times*
 - [Tribute band Purple Xperience honors Prince's legacy](#) *The AJC*
 - [Young more likely to pray than over-55s – survey](#) *BBC News*
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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!*



This issue highlights [the past thought corner pieces](#) and invites you to revisit them. They are as relevant as ever.

- [The 'Islamization' of Identity](#) (Dr. Hicham Tiflati, June 2021)
 - [What is "religion"? What's in a definition?](#) (Dr. Margie Patrick, April 2021)
 - [To Be Seen as Fully Human: Religious Literacy in the Context of Anti Racism](#) (Hiren Mistry, February 2021)
 - [Teaching about Religion](#) (Dr. Sivane Hirsch, December 2020)
 - [The Intersection of Belief and Climate Change](#) (Dr. W. Y. Alice Chan, October 2020)
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Cultural/Holy days (October & November 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 October and November.



Western University student Dev Parekh takes part in a 2019 Garba event in Mustang Lounge. (Submitted by the Hindu Students' Association at the University of Western Ontario)

A photo from the CBC article "[London's Hindus missing out on Navratri dancing for second year, due to pandemic restrictions](#)" above

October 2021

Oct 4 – Feast of St. Francis Assisi (various Christians)

Oct 7 – [Navaratri](#), ends Oct 15 (Hindus)

Oct 15 – [Vijayadashami/Dussehra/Dashain](#) (Hindus)

Oct 19 – [Mawlid al-Nabi](#) (various Muslims, particularly Sunni)

Oct 20 – [Birth of Guru Granth](#) (Sikhs)

Oct 23 – [Mawlid al-Nabi](#) (Muslims, particularly Shia)

Oct 24 – [Karva Chauth](#) (some Hindus and Sikhs)

Oct 31 – [Samhain](#) (Wiccans)

November 2021

Nov 1 – [All Saints' Day](#) (various Christians)

Nov 2 – [All Souls' Day](#) (various Christians)

Nov 4 – [Diwali](#) (Hindus, Sikhs, Jains)

Nov 6 – [Birth of the Báb](#) (Bahá'í)

Nov 7 – [Birth of Bahá'u'lláh](#) (Bahá'í)

Nov 19 – [Guru Nanak Birthday](#) (Sikhs)

Nov 21 – [Christ the King](#) (various Christians)

Nov 24 – [Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib](#) (Sikhs), [Day of the Covenant](#) (Bahá'í)

Nov 27 – [Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá](#) (Bahá'í)

Nov 28 – [Hanukkah](#), ends Dec 6 (Jewish people), [First Sunday of Advent](#) (various Christians)

Nov 30 – [St. Andrew's Day](#) (various Christians)

Photo source above: Photo by [Belinda Fewings](#) on [Unsplash](#)