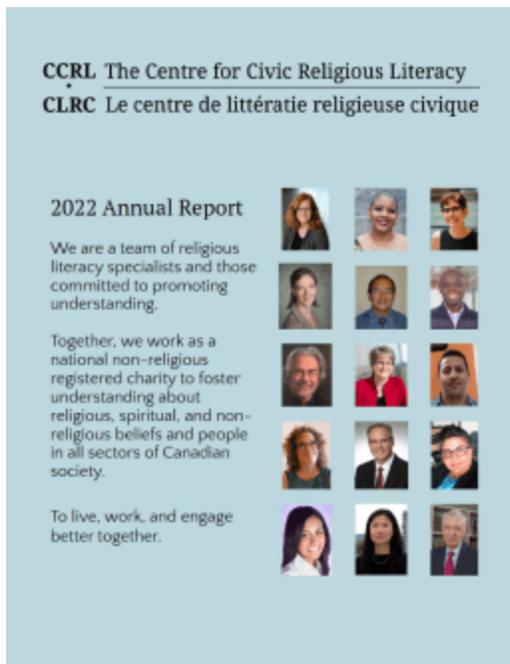


**CCRL** The Centre for Civic Religious Literacy  
**CLRC** Le centre de litt ratie religieuse civique

## December 2022 Newsletter

### CCRL Updates

Dear friends,



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

**2022 Annual Report**

We are a team of religious literacy specialists and those committed to promoting understanding.

Together, we work as a national non-religious registered charity to foster understanding about religious, spiritual, and non-religious beliefs and people in all sectors of Canadian society.

To live, work, and engage better together.

The thumbnail image shows a grid of 12 small portraits of team members arranged in three rows and four columns.

It has been a wonderful year for CCRL and 2023 looks great already! Thank you for all your support!

We will begin 2023 with two new projects for a total of six concurrent projects across different parts of the country. One project informs another and they will inform our work going forward overall. Stay tuned for details.

To learn more about 2022, don't miss our [2022 Annual Report](#).

In the new year, we are also starting strong with the arrival and support of four new Board members – [Dr. Dwight Newman](#), [Rabbi Ellen Greenspan](#), [Dr. John Valk](#), and [Dr. Lorna Turnbull](#). We are grateful and excited to have their guidance and expertise lead our team.

As final preparation for 2023, our team will be resting this holiday season so we can be clear-minded and ready for January. We wish you a peaceful and joyful season full of rest and rejuvenation too.

Happy Hanukkah and Merry Christmas, if you celebrate both or either one, and a Happy Holidays to you all!



With my best wishes,

[Alice](#)

CCRL Executive Director & Co-Founder

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# The Pulse

*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.

Here is a condensed list for this holiday season.



[The Sacred Texts: Canadian perspectives on the Bible, Qu'ran, Torah, and their place in modern society](#)

*Angus Reid*



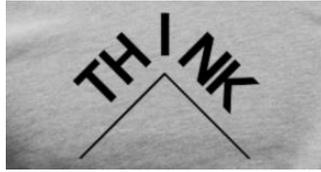
[Halifax to celebrate Hanukkah with lighting of Canada's largest Menorah](#) *CityNews Halifax*



[Indigenous group celebrates winter solstice with traditional ceremony in Regina](#) *Global News*



[Ukrainian newcomers celebrate first Christmas in Canada](#) *ChekNews*



## Religious Literacy Thought Corner

In 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.

Here are the thought pieces from 2022.

### A year in review.



[The role of religious literacy to address eco-anxiety](#) (Dr. Erin Reid, August 2022)



[Religious literacy is needed for understanding the past, the present, and with an eye on acting in the future](#) (Dr. Siebren Miedema, June 2022)



[What do Christians in Canada believe?](#) (Dr. Bryan Hillis, April 2022)



[Race, Religion, and Spirituality – What's the Connection?](#) (Dr. W. Y. Alice Chan and Dr. Margie Patrick, February 2022)

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# Cultural/Holy days (Dec 2022 & Jan 2023)

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, celebration, and community support this December and January.

## December 2022

- Dec 3 – [Gita Jayanti](#) (various Hindus)
- Dec 6 – [St. Nicholas Day](#) (various Western European and Romanian Christian groups)
- Dec 8 – [St. Clement of Oris – Patron Day](#) (Macedonian Orthodox Christians), [Immaculate Conception of Mary](#) (Catholic Christians)
- Dec 12 – [Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day](#) (Mexican and other Catholic Christians)
- Dec 16 – [Posadas Navidenas](#) (Hispanic Catholic Christians from Latin America, some from the Philippines, and others. Ends Dec 24)
- Dec 18 – [Hanukkah](#) starts (ends Dec 26, various Jewish people)
- Dec 19 – [St. Nicholas Day](#) (Eastern European Christian groups)
- Dec 21 – [Winter Solstice](#) (Indigenous Peoples), [Yule/Litha](#) (Wiccans)
- Dec 25 – [Christmas Day/Feast of the Nativity](#) (All Christian sects and denominations, with the exception of most Christian Orthodox groups)
- Dec 26 – [St. Stephen's Day](#) (Catholic Christians)
- Dec 27 – [Feast of the Holy Family](#) (Catholic Christians)
- Dec 28/29 – [Holy Innocents](#) (Various Christian groups)
- Dec 30 – [Bodhi Day](#) (various Buddhists)

## January 2023

- Jan 1 – [Mary, Mother of God](#) (Catholic Christians), [Feast Day of St Basil](#) (Orthodox Christians), [Gantan-sai](#) (Shinto), [Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus](#) (Orthodox Christians)
- Jan 5 – [Twelfth Night \(Various Christian groups\)](#), [Guru Gobindh Singh birthday](#) (Sikhs)
- Jan 6 – [Epiphany/Dia de los Reyes](#) (Various Christian groups), [Nativity of Christ](#) (Armenian Orthodox Christians)
- Jan 7 – [Christmas Day](#) (Orthodox Christians), [New Year](#) (Mahayana Buddhists)
- Jan 9 – [Baptism of the Lord Jesus](#) (Various Christian groups)
- Jan 15 – [Maghi Lohri/Makar Sankranti](#) (Sikhs and Hindus), [World Religion Day](#) (initiated by Baha'i but celebrated by many other groups)
- Jan 19 – [Theophany](#) (Orthodox Christians)
- Jan 31 – [Guru Har Rai birthday](#) (Sikhs)