Religion and Faith in the Public Square
An ARI – Cardus Project
Final Questionnaire: October 29th, 2018

[INTRO SCREEN]
Today's survey looks at some different issues in our lives and society today. Remember that there are no right or wrong answers; we're really just interested in everyone's views.

Q1 First, please indicate your own personal level of satisfaction with each of the following:

[Rows -- This order]
Your own personal happiness and contentment with your life
The overall quality of life in the community where you live
The way things are going in Canada today

[Columns]
Very satisfied
Moderately satisfied
Moderately dissatisfied
Very dissatisfied

Q2 Overall, would you say you are optimistic or pessimistic about each of the following?

[Rows -- This order]
Your own future
The future of Canada
The future of the next generation

[Columns]
Very Optimistic
Moderately Optimistic
Moderately Pessimistic
Very Pessimistic

The “Index” (Q’s 3 thru 14b will be included in the Index) * denotes tracking items

Q3* What is the best way to live life? Should we be MORE focused on:

Achieving our own dreams and happiness
OR
Being concerned about helping others
Now, let’s consider the role of religious and faith communities in Canada today.

By “religious and faith communities” we are generally referring to a group of people who share a religious faith. This could be any religious tradition, such as Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, or any other shared faith. And the group could be members of a formal religious order (nuns, for example) or simply involved lay people, or a combination of the two.

**Q4** How would you describe the overall contribution religious and faith communities are making to Canada and Canadian society today?

- Very good
- More good than bad
- A mix of good and bad
- More bad than good
- Very bad

**Q5** What would you consider ideal when it comes to the overall participation and influence of religious and faith communities in Canadian public life today? In your view, should religious and faith communities have:

- A major influence on Canadian public life
- Some influence
- Not much
- No influence at all – religion doesn’t belong in public life

**Q6** Let’s think for a moment about some of the various social issues and challenges facing Canada today. This could be issues of medical ethics, for example, or how we approach challenges such as poverty and homelessness. To what extent do you think religious communities and faith groups are relevant to addressing these types of social issues and challenges today?

- More relevant than ever
- As relevant as ever
- Becoming less relevant
- No longer relevant at all
Q7 What kind of contribution would you say religious and faith communities are making in the following areas of Canadian life and society?

[Rows – Randomize]
Healthcare – hospitals, clinics, homes for the elderly, etc
Education – schools and colleges
Social services – helping people in need
Social justice causes – peace, overseas development, poverty etc

[Columns]
Very positive
Positive
A mix of good and bad
Negative
Very negative
Not aware of any contribution

Q8* The Canadian Charter of Rights recognizes “freedom of religion”. Very briefly, this means there is no official national religion and people have the right to choose a religion – or no religion – and to practise it without government interference. In your view, does having “freedom of religion” make Canada a better or worse country?

Better
Worse
No real impact either way
Can’t say/No idea

Q9. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

[Rows -- Randomize]
*The Canadian government respects my own religious tradition or faith community

*Religious and faith communities strengthen Canadian values such as equality and human rights

*Having a religious or faith-focused upbringing helps shape good citizenship characteristics

*I’m public about my religion and faith and don’t mind other people knowing I’m a believer

*Reducing the presence of religion in our public life is a sign of progress in our society

###It’s important for parents to teach their children religious beliefs
I’m uncomfortable with people wearing religious garments and symbols in the workplace.

I think it’s a definite plus to have people from different religious backgrounds and beliefs living here in my community.

It doesn’t make sense to continue giving organized religions tax-free charitable status in Canada.

Q10* Overall, do you feel Canadian society today tends to make room for or shuts out your own personal values and faith?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Makes room for</th>
<th>Shuts out</th>
<th>No real impact either way</th>
<th>Don’t know/can’t say</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Spectrum of Spirituality**

[## items are inputs to create the four groups defining Canada’s spirituality spectrum]

[STANDALONE SCREEN]

These next questions are about you and your own personal beliefs. As always there are no right or wrong answers – we just want to understand people better.

Q11* Do you believe:

[Rows -- This order]

## That God or a higher power exists

## In life after death

[Columns]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes, I definitely do believe</th>
<th>Yes, I think so</th>
<th>No, I don’t think so</th>
<th>No, I definitely do not believe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Q12* How often, if at all, do you:

[Rows – Randomize]
## Pray to God or some higher power
## Attend religious services (other than weddings or funerals)
## Feel you experience God’s presence
## Read the Bible, Quran, or other sacred text

[Columns]
Never
Only rarely
A few times a year
Once or twice a month
Once a week or so
A few times a week
Everyday

[If bottom two box (Don’t think/Definitely do not believe) God or a higher power exists at Q11, ask Q13. Others skip ahead.]
Q13 * ## You have indicated that you do not believe that God or a higher power exists -- or that you don't think so. Just to confirm, how would you describe yourself when it comes to the whole area of personal faith or spirituality? Would you say:

You do not have any feelings of faith or spirituality
Have some/at some times
You do have feelings of faith or spirituality in your life

Q14a* Do you ever think of yourself as part of a religious tradition? For example, do you consider yourself to be:  (Please select what best applies to you.)

[This order]
Christian
Jewish
Muslim
Other non-Christian
No, none of these

[If "No, none of these” at Q14a:]
Q14b* Would you say you are:
Agnostic
Atheist
Nothing in particular
Something else

Q15. Let’s turn now to a few related but broader issues.

In your view, how important is it for government decision makers to be personally knowledgeable about the basic beliefs of the world’s major religions? Do you consider that to be:

Very important
Fairly important
Not that important
Not important at all

Q16. Do you think the basic beliefs of the world’s major religions should be taught in Canadian public high schools?

Yes, definitely
Just the very basics
No, should not be taught

Q17. People have different attitudes about discussing and debating religious views with other people. As far as you are concerned, are each of the following acceptable or unacceptable?

[Rows – Rotate first two]
Teasing or making fun of someone’s religious beliefs
Teasing or making fun of someone for not having religious beliefs
Trying to convince someone to change their religious beliefs (or lack of)

[Columns:]
Acceptable – as long as it’s not mean
Sometimes okay/Depends
Unacceptable/off limits

[Q18 to be asked of those NOT choosing:
“No, none of these” at Q14a OR “Definitely do not believe -- God or a higher power” at Q11]
Q18. Generally speaking, to what extent do you or would you personally feel comfortable expressing your own views about each of the following in a public setting – say, at work or somewhere else in the community (not your place of worship) with people outside your own close circle of friends?

[ROWS – THIS ORDER]
Your personal faith beliefs and practises
Views on issues like abortion or assisted dying that may not be shared by the majority of public opinion

[Columns:]
Always feel comfortable expressing views on that
Usually comfortable
Usually uncomfortable
Always feel uncomfortable expressing views on that
Really depends – could be either

Q19. And how comfortable do you or would you feel asking co-workers or others (not from your own close circle and not from your place of worship) for donations for a cause sponsored by a religious group you belong to or support?

Always comfortable with that
Usually comfortable
Usually uncomfortable
Always uncomfortable with that
Really depends – could be either

Socio-demographics and Other info

Q20. Finally, just to wrap up, some additional questions for our statistical analysis.

More specifically now, which one of the following best describes your religion?

Roman Catholic
United Church
Anglican
Lutheran
Presbyterian
Baptist
Pentecostal
Other evangelical Christian
Other Christian
Muslim
Hindu
Jewish
Sikh
Buddhist
No religious identity
Other (please specify)

Q21. Some people say Canadians variously (1) embrace faith and religion, (2) reject faith and religion, or (3) are somewhere in between the two extremes.

Where would you tend to locate yourself?

I am inclined to embrace my faith and/or religion
I am inclined to reject any faith and/or religion
I am somewhere in between

Standard Demographics:

Region
Gender
Age
Education
HH Income

Plus:

Q22. Vote Federal 2015

Q23. Were you born in Canada or in another country?

In Canada
In another country

Q24. Ethnicity

Q25. Would you say you are a member of a visible minority (in terms of your ethnicity/heritage/race)?
Yes
No