

**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

[STANDALONE SCREEN]

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

[Columns]

Agree strongly

Agree moderately

Disagree moderately

Disagree strongly

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

Makes room for

Shuts out

No real impact either way

Don't know/can't say

### **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]

Yes, I definitely do believe

Yes, I think so

No, I don't think so

No, I definitely do not believe

**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