

**Spiritual & Religious Care Awareness Week (SRCAW)
October 20-26, 2024
Care of Spirit**



210-3550 Victoria Park Avenue, North York, Ontario, M2H 2N5, Canada
Inquire: cmfsrc@cmfsrc.ca; Tel: (416) 422- 1490



The Canadian Multifaith Federation (CMF)

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This document highlights SRCAW's goals and invites all stakeholders to join in the celebration and make it a grand success.

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SRCAW Poster

We make these colourful posters available to help you celebrate the work of Spiritual & Religious Care staff. Please post them in public areas in your institution. Originals are available on request at a minimal cost for shipping. **(order form)**

Volunteer Certificate (order form)

These certificates are designed to support your volunteer programs. A sample copy of the Certificate is provided at the end of this kit. Originals are available on request at a minimal cost for printing & shipping.

Golden Rule Poster (large and small)

Order form

Publications sample

'Tent Card'

Order form



The Canadian Multifaith Federation (CMF)

July 30, 2024

Dear Community Partner,

Proclamation Request for Spiritual & Religious Care Awareness Week (SRCAW) October 20-26, 2024

The Canadian Multifaith Federation (CMF) is dedicated to advocate on behalf of faith, spiritual beliefs and religious communities on matters of mutual interest and consensus.

CMF initiates an annual event of Spiritual and Religious Care Awareness Week (SRCAW) which provides an opportunity to recognize the value and dedication of spiritual and religious service providers of all faiths who work in specialized settings such as, hospitals, long-term care facilities, mental health centres and correctional facilities.

We are asking that consideration be given for SRCAW to be proclaimed throughout Canada during the week of **October 20-26, 2024** on the theme, **Care of Spirit**.

CMF was founded in 1972 by the leadership of 27 faith communities to serve the diverse needs of the society. CMF has continued collaborating with the support of faith leadership in providing spiritual and religious care in institutions.

We would be most pleased to provide any additional information that is required to enable you to process our request. Moreover, to organize events in your community/institution, please contact our office at cmfsrc@cmfsrc.ca or t. 416.422.1490.

Sincerely,

Pandit Roopnauth Sharma
Chief Executive Officer
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416 856 3810





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PROCLAMATION SAMPLE

WHEREAS across the nation thousands of dedicated, well-trained, highly qualified and gifted spiritual and religious caregivers of all faiths strive to bring spiritual healing resources to faith communities and those in highly specialized settings including hospitals, correctional facilities, mental institutions, the military, spiritual and religious care counseling centres and facilities for people with developmental disabilities where they bring spiritual healing resources to bear in the care of hundreds of thousands of people; AND

WHEREAS the need to officially recognize the exceptional work of these dedicated spiritual and religious care providers, AND

WHEREAS the multicultural mosaic of Canada demands diversity in the provision of spiritual and religious care and the protection of religious rights, as uniquely recognized and provided for by the Canadian Multifaith Federation, AND

WHEREAS throughout Canada there will be a SPIRITUAL AND RELIGIOUS CARE AWARENESS WEEK during October 20-26, 2024, under the theme “**Care of Spirit.**”

THEREFORE be it resolved that the (name of province, municipality, e.g. City of Cornwall) join with other like-minded political jurisdictions in Canada (or the name of the province / region) and declare the week of **October 20-26, 2024** as **Spiritual and Religious Care Awareness Week** and to support all local observances pertaining thereto.



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Sample Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (October 1, 2024)

Spiritual and Religious Care Awareness Week

<Community name> – October 1, 2024

<Name of facility or community> has designated **October 20-26, 2024** as Spiritual and Religious Care Awareness Week. The theme for 2024, “**Care of Spirit**” is to re-enforce our commitment to support and value the services offered by spiritual and religious providers.

Spiritual and Religious Care Awareness Week offers an opportunity to recognize the value of spiritual and religious care and to honour those who provide the care. Spiritual and religious care is about listening, clarifying and offering spiritual direction to those in need. When one is scared, lonely, confused, angry or disillusioned, spiritual and religious care providers offer counsel and support.

Across Canada thousands of dedicated spiritual and religious care providers of all faiths work in specialized settings such as hospitals, long term care facilities, correctional facilities, mental health centres, and facilities for people with developmental disabilities.

During Spiritual and Religious Care Awareness Week facilities recognize the contributions of staff, families and faith community volunteers in providing the best care possible for clients, inmates, residents, patients, etc. in private, public and government organizations.

Spiritual and Religious Care Awareness Week is sponsored by the Canadian Multifaith Federation. Canadian Multifaith Federation is one of North America’s largest organizations dedicated to advocacy of spiritual care and the protection of religious rights. The activities of the Canadian Multifaith Federation promote an environment of acceptance and respect amongst the diverse communities of Canada..

For more information please contact:

<Press contact for your facility>, <Your facility name> <Phone number and email>

Note: For additional information on Spiritual and Religious Care Awareness Week please visit www.cmfsrc.ca



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What is Spiritual & Religious Care Awareness Week?

Background

Spiritual and Religious Care Awareness Week celebrates the work of providers of Spiritual and Religious Care, and focuses our attention on the challenging work of these individuals and teams. The Canadian Multifaith Federation provides materials to help you to recognize the valuable work of your Chaplains and other spiritual care providers during Spiritual and Religious Care Awareness Week.

Spiritual and religious care is provided in institutions by chaplains, by spiritual and religious care providers, and sometimes by social workers and Native Institutional Liaison Officers. Hospitals, correctional centers, long-term care facilities, mental health centers, and university campuses are among the many places where spiritual care is delivered by professionals and volunteers.

Why do we celebrate Spiritual Care Workers?

Spiritual and Religious Care Providers are among the least well-recognized caregivers in our communities. This is a week in which we reflect on the importance of those who provide Care of the Soul to people in distress.

What do they do?

- When you are scared, lonely, confused, angry or disillusioned, Spiritual and Religious Care Providers will listen, clarify and share your pain.
- A Spiritual and Religious Care Provider, or Chaplain, is a guide who offers spiritual direction in times of crisis, questions and wonderment.
- Your Spiritual and Religious Care Provider or Chaplain offers counselling and support, and when asked, will contact representatives from your own faith group to assist in your care and comfort.
- Your Spiritual and Religious Care Provider serves those of any faith, and those of no particular faith.



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What is CMF?

The Canadian Multifaith Federation is a group of 30+ faith leaders who assist different levels of government in providing authoritative guidelines, information and support to facilities, community programs, Chaplains, policymakers, and the general public.

How Can People Participate?

You can participate by contacting the Spiritual Care department, or the chaplain, of your local hospital, long-term care facility, prison, school, or community program, and offering your service. The Care of Souls is difficult but rewarding work, and can only be achieved through one human being stretching out a hand, and an ear, to another.

Celebration of Ideas

The Canadian Multifaith Federation provides resources to help you to recognize the valuable work of chaplains and other spiritual and religious care providers during Spiritual and Religious Care Awareness Week. Let us know if your community organization, institution, faith community or yourself is interested in participating.

In a facility, institution or place of worship

- Prominently use the Spiritual & Religious Care Awareness Week poster
- Display pictures, literature, brochures and videos
- Sponsor a *Multifaith Spirituality Workshop*
- Celebrate a *Multifaith Meditation* with staff, residents and the community
- Offer a special blessing or service
- Host a tea or brunch for community faith groups
- Ask administrators to send a press release to local media announcing SRCA Week
- Dedicate or re-dedicate worship space
- Create an information display
- Send letters to faith groups inviting them to participate in Spiritual & Religious Care

For staff and volunteers

- Invite administrators and staff to a brief ceremony announcing the beginning of Spiritual & Religious Care Awareness Week



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- Host an Open House - reception in the Spiritual Care Department



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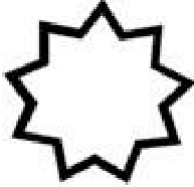
- Distribute the *Quiz* to staff, volunteers and residents, award prizes for the winner
- Present letters of appreciation to staff and volunteers
- Present *CMF's Appreciation Certificates* to volunteers

For yourself

- Discover prayer and worship in a new faith community
- Identify and research a faith group in your community
- Visit the CMF Library website (www.cmfsrc.ca) and research one faith tradition other than your own

Faith symbols and their meanings

Bahá'í: The Nine Pointed Star



A simple nine-pointed star is generally used by Bahá'ís as a symbol of their Faith. The number nine has significance in the Revelation. Nine years after the announcement of the Báb in Shiraz, Bahá'u'lláh received the intimation of His mission in the dungeon in Teheran. Nine, as the highest single-digit number, symbolizes completeness. Since the Bahá'í Faith claims to be the fulfillment of the expectations of all prior religions, this symbol, as used for example in nine-sided Bahá'í temples, reflects that sense of fulfillment and completeness."



Buddhism: The Dharma Wheel

The Dharma Wheel is the symbol of Buddhist life, the endless circle of birth and rebirth, and also represents the Buddhist teaching or Dharma. The Buddha's first sermon is called "Turning the Wheel of the Dharma." The wheel often has eight spokes, which stand for the noble Eightfold Path of Buddhism.



Christianity: The Cross

The Cross (sometimes known as 'the crucifix') is the main symbol of Christianity. It serves as a reminder of the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross. It emphasizes not only his obedient suffering, undertaken for the salvation of humanity, but the power of his risen life.



Hinduism: The OM

The OM represents the letters A U M in Hindi, which is the sound of the sun. A – to create, U – to preserve, M – to destroy. The three letters represent the trinity of God in Hindu Dharma (Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva). They also represent the states of waking, dream and deep sleep and the three planes of existence: heaven, earth and the netherworld.

Islam: The Crescent Moon and Star



The crescent moon and star Although Islam has no symbol doctrinally associated with it, the symbol of the crescent moon and star (hila in Arabic) is now widely used to symbolize Islam. This symbol has no religious significance in Islam and Muslims do not hold the crescent and star to be in any way holy or sacred. The crescent represents progress and the five-pointed star, light and knowledge. The moon is also the appointed sign of times, seasons, fast and feast, and governs the Islamic calendar. The five points of the star can be taken to represent the five pillars of Islam, the essential elements of the Muslim faith.

Jainism



The comprehensive Jain symbol consists of a digit of the Moon, three dots, the Swastika or Om, the palm of a hand with the wheel (Chakra) inset, and outline figure which encompasses all symbols. Also, each individual symbol is separately used in Jainism. The Palm of the hand signifies this assurance; 'do not be afraid' indicating that human beings, which are suffering due to karmic bondage, do not need to be disheartened. The Wheel of Dharma (Chakra) with 24 spokes represents the religion preached by the 24 Tirthankaras consists of nonviolence (Ahimsa) and other virtues. The three Dots represent the Jain path of liberation (Jain trinity): right faith, right knowledge, and right conduct, together lead to liberation. The digit of the Moon represents the region beyond the three worlds wherein resides the liberated souls. The Swastika signifies the cycles of births and deaths due to karma, in any of the four forms; heaven, human, tiryanch (animals, birds, and plants), and hell of the non-liberated souls. It reminds that one should follow the true religion and be liberated to get out of this suffering. The Om represents the salutation of five revered personalities of Jain religion.



Judaism: Star of David

Through the Jewish people's long and often difficult history, we have come to the realization that our only hope is to place our trust in God. The six points of the Star of David symbolize God's rule over the



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universe in all six directions: north, south, east, west, up and down. Originally, the Hebrew name Magen David -- literally "Shield of David" -- poetically referred to God. It acknowledges that our military hero, King David, did not win by his own might, but by the support of the Almighty. This is also alluded to in the third blessing after the Haftorah reading on Shabbat: "Blessed are you God, Shield of David."



Sikhism: The Khanda and the Chakkar

The Khanda is the insignia of the Sikh faith. The central doubled-edged sword, used by Guru Gobind Singh to prepare Amrit, is referred to as Khanda. It signifies divine strength, truth, freedom, justice, and the Sikh belief in One God. The inner circle, Chakkar, represents the Oneness of God who is without beginning or end, Oneness of humanity. This Chakkar was used by Sikhs as a war weapon against injustice and oppression. Guru Gobind Singh himself and all his Sikh warriors wore the Chakkar on their turbans as part of the battle dress. The Chakkar is surrounded by two swords call Kirpans which symbolise the twin concept of Miri (temporal sovereignty) and Piri (spiritual sovereignty) introduced by Guru Hargobind, to represent the equal emphasis that a Sikh must place on spiritual aspirations as well as on obligation to society.



Unitarian Universalism: The Flaming Chalice

Flaming Chalice is the official symbol of the UU Service Committee and the Unitarian Universalist Association. The flaming chalice combines two archetypes—a drinking vessel and a flame—and as a religious symbol has different meanings to different beholders. Officially or unofficially, it functions as a logo for hundreds of congregations. Perhaps most importantly, it has become a focal point for worship. No one meaning or interpretation is official. The flaming chalice, like our faith, stands open to receive new truths that pass the tests of reason, justice, and compassion.



Wicca: The Pentacle or Pentagram

The pentacle or pentagram is a five-point star surrounded by a

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circle. It is the symbol of the Wiccan faith, and represents the five elements: Air, Earth, Fire, Water and Spirit. The pentagram has long been associated with mystery and magic. It is the simplest form of star shape that can be drawn unicursally - with a single line - hence it is sometimes called the Endless Knot. It has long been believed to be a potent protection against evil and demons, hence a symbol of safety, and was sometimes worn as an amulet for happy homecoming. The old folk-song: "Green Grow the Rushes,O!" refers to the use of the pentagram above doors and windows in the line: "Five is the symbol at your door." The potency and associations of the pentagram have evolved throughout history. Today it is an ubiquitous symbol of neo-pagans with much depth of magical and symbolic meaning.

Zoroastrianism: The Faravahar, or Farohar

The Faravahar, or Farohar, is to remind one of the purposes of life on this earth, which is to live in such a way that the soul progresses spiritually and attains union with Ahura-Mazda (the Wise Lord); this state is called Frashokereti in Avesta. In the center of the figure is a circle which



represents the soul of the individual. For the soul to evolve and progress, it has two wings. In each wing there are five layers of feathers. These remind one of the five jzhirums with which the soul is linked. To achieve the goal of reaching Ahura-Mazda, the soul must pass through all the jzhirums. The five layers can also represent the five Divine Songs (Gathas) of Zarathustra, the five divisions of the day (Gehs), and the five senses of the human body. The head of the figure reminds us that Ahura-Mazda has given every soul a free will to choose either to obey divine universal natural laws or to disobey them.



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SHOP HERE



Golden Rule Poster - Large (22" X 29"), CAD 13.95 each [+ \$20.00 Shipping/Handling (S/H) within Ontario. Outside Ontario Inquire.]

Golden Rule Poster - Small (8" X 10") (inquire price).

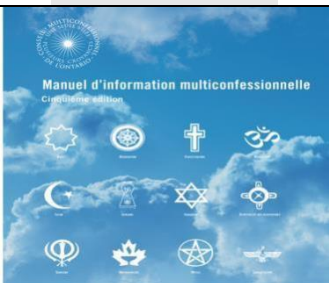
In July 2000, Scarboro Missions published the Golden Rule Poster featuring the Golden Rule in 13 religions in a striking and attractive 4 -colour format.



Multifaith Information Manual 6th ed. (English)

CAD \$35.00 each [+ \$20.00 S/H within Ontario. Outside Ontario Inquire].

Each chapter in the Manual explores themes, such as, Basic Beliefs, Sacred Books, Worship, Structure, Divisions, Leadership, Rituals, Laws, Dress, Diet, Sacred Symbols, Death & Dying, and Holy Days & Festivals. Also included in this edition are FAQs, Suggested Readings & Glossary of Common Terms in Spiritual & Religious Care.



Multifaith Information Manual 5th Ed. (French)

CAD 32.95 each [+ \$20.00 S/H within Ontario. Outside Ontario Inquire.]

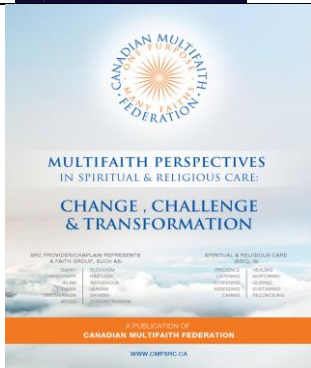
Le Manuel d'Information Multiconfessionnelle fournit des renseignements concis démystifiant une partie du mystère de la gestion de la diversité religieuse. Voici la cinquième édition du guide de référence pour les soignants spirituels et religieux et les personnes - ressources.



Supplies, Worship, Meditation Resources, Religious Books & Gifts for any faith group includes:

Scriptures, (including Jewish, Hindu, Sikh Muslim, etc.) e.g., Christian: large print Bibles, Chinese Bible;

Sikhism: Nitnem & Rehras; Hinduism Bhagavad Gita, Beads; Muslim: Kufi, Quran, Prayer Mats, etc: [inquire price & availability](#)



Here are some relevant chapters from our book, 'Multifaith Perspectives in Spiritual & Religious Care' --Bookmark if you have already procured, more details are on our website (www.cmfsrc.ca) or send us your inquiries/order (cmfsrc@cmfsrc.ca).

EXTRACTS FROM THE BOOK:

[Note: Contents from sections 1 2 & 3 are given below--section 4 is available on request]

Multifaith Perspectives In Spiritual & Religious Care, 2020, Appendices (Pages 626-692):

To order fill the order form available at www.cmfsrc.ca.

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3550 Victoria Park Avenue, Suite # 210, North York, Ontario, M2H 2N5, Canada

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Volunteer Appreciation Certificate



SRCAW 2024 Poster



SAMPLE Tent Card



Order Form

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Individual Items	A. Cost	B. Quantity Ordered	C. S/H one in ONTARIO (One copy)	C. S/H one in Canada (One copy)	HST	TOTAL
Multifaith Perspectives in Spiritual and Religious Care: Change, Challenge and Transformation	\$ 49.00 (!!)		\$20.00	\$30.00		
Multifaith Information Manual 6 ^h edition - English	\$ 35.00 (!!)		\$20.00	\$25.00		
Multifaith Information Manual 5 th edition - French	\$ 32.95 (!!)		\$20.00	\$25.00		
Golden Rule Poster large	\$ 13.95 (!!)		\$20.00	\$25.00		
Religious Accommodation in Ontario Schools Toolkit	\$10.00 (!!)		\$10.00	\$15.00		
Tent Cards (pack of Ten, each ###), Spiritual & Religious Care Awareness Week (SRCAW) Poster # / Volunteer Appreciation Certificate ## / Beads, meditation/Prayer mat special / prayer mat regular / Quran / Kufi / SUPPLIES, RELIGIOUS BOOKS & GIFTS FOR ANY FAITH**	Check with us #\$ 7.00 ## \$3.00 ###\$10.00		Check with us \$ 5.00 / \$ 5.00 / \$ 5.00			

(!!) Prepayment is required. – **You can pay** by Bank Draft (in favor of “Canadian Multifaith Federation”), or e-transfer: payment@cmfsrc.ca

Ship to Name: _____ **Organization:** _____

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