

# Collaboration for Religious Inclusion (CRI)



Collaboration for  
Religious Inclusion

<http://criwoodbuffalo.wixsite.com/home>

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# About Us

- ▶ The Collaboration for Religious Inclusion (CRI) champions inclusivity with the goal of making the community a more religiously inclusive place for all residents of Wood Buffalo
- ▶ Partner organizations include:
  - ▶ Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo
  - ▶ Markaz Ul Islam
  - ▶ Fort McMurray First United Church
  - ▶ McMurray Gospel Assembly
  - ▶ Fort McMurray Sikh Society
  - ▶ Alberta Human Rights Commission
  - ▶ Baha'Is of Fort McMurray
  - ▶ Regional Advisory Committee on Inclusion, Diversity, and Equality

# Religious Inclusion in Wood Buffalo: Needs Assessment

- ▶ A needs assessment was conducted to:
  - ▶ Understand current issues that individuals face with regards to faith
  - ▶ Level of knowledge and awareness of other faith groups
  - ▶ Thoughts and experiences relating to religion and spirituality

*Supported by:*



# Religious Inclusion in Wood Buffalo: Concluded

- ▶ Project was concluded in April 2017
- ▶ 375 respondents
- ▶ 21 In-depth interviews



**51%**  
CHRISTIAN



**18%**  
MUSLIM



**17%**  
NO RELIGIOUS  
AFFILIATION







**5%**

## TRADITIONAL ABORIGINAL SPIRITUALITY



3%

OTHER



3%

SIKH

## LOCAL HISTORICAL TIMELINE

1942

Waterways and Fort McMurray suddenly become a staging ground for the U.S. military CANOL Project, in which a pipeline was to be built from Norman Wells, North West Territories, to an army installation at Fairbanks, Alaska. Every available boat and barge is used to transport cargo downriver to Norman Wells.

1948

McMurray is incorporated as a town.

1965

The Grant MacEwan Bridge opens, providing access across the Athabasca River for the Great Canadian Oil Sands project and others to follow.

1967

Highway 42 has  
all weather paving  
and is the route to  
compacted.

1957

The first car trip is made from Fort McMurray to Edmonton. The route followed is 447.5 kilometers of winter trail to Slave Lake and 212 kilometers on Highway 2 through Athabasca to

Alberta  
63

Fig. 4. Average of 1000 simulations of the 1000th iteration of the MCMC algorithm. The left column shows the posterior distribution of the parameters, and the right column shows the posterior distribution of the parameters. The top row shows the posterior distribution of the parameters, and the bottom row shows the posterior distribution of the parameters.



2013

1974

—Abstracts begin on the opposite page and is continued on 1976.

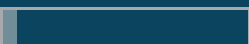




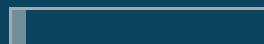
**1%**  
HINDU



**1%**  
BUDDHIST



**1%**  
JEWISH



CR1



# Needs Assessment Results

- ▶ 20% Indicated they are not knowledgeable about other religions
- ▶ 62% Reported that religion or spirituality was very important to them
- ▶ 84% Felt that one or more religions experience discrimination in Canada
- ▶ 88% Have experienced or witnessed kindness from other religious groups
- ▶ 45% Reported experiencing discrimination because of their religious beliefs
- ▶ 8% Reported experiencing discrimination once a month or more



# Needs Assessment Results

- ▶ 9% Felt that discrimination towards certain religions is justified
- ▶ 29% Felt that mainstream beliefs of some religions encourage violence or are inherently dangerous
- ▶ 46% Reported that Wood Buffalo is very inclusive
- ▶ 6% Report being targeted in a hate crime because of their beliefs
  - ▶ Only 4% of those reporting being targeted in a hate crime reported it to the police
- ▶ 71% Faith played a role in their experience of the wildfire response and recovery
- ▶ 33% Reported that their faith identity has become more important since the fire

# Key Findings



▶ Barriers to Practicing one's Faith in the Workplace and Institutions



▶ Negative Perceptions & Discrimination is Prevalent



▶ Role of Faith is Significant in Residents' Wildfire Recovery



▶ Incidence and Underreporting of Hate Crimes is Significant

# Recommendations

- ▶ Provide Quiet Spaces
- ▶ Provide religious inclusion and accommodation in the workplace
- ▶ Offer space for smaller religious and spiritual groups
- ▶ Build positive relationships and collaborative programming
- ▶ Provide workshops on hate crime prevention, rights, and responsibilities
- ▶ Increase knowledge and awareness of hate crimes and reporting hate crimes



## Recommendations (cont.)

- ▶ Increase opportunities for interfaith interactions, events, and gatherings
- ▶ Offer cultural competency and educational initiatives about religion and inclusion
- ▶ Promote awareness and understanding through public campaigns
- ▶ Ensure faith organizations have support and collaboration from recovery organizations
- ▶ Make certain recovery initiatives include an attention to spiritual needs of residents

# Request to Council

- ▶ Provide Quiet Spaces at Jubilee and Timberlea Landing Buildings
- ▶ Put forward recommendations to facilities to also provide a Quiet Space including: Fort McMurray International Airport, MacDonald Island Park, etc.
- ▶ Provide cultural competency training to all Municipal staff and RCMP
- ▶ Ensure Emergency Planning and Management initiatives include faith organizations and an attention to the spiritual needs of residents
- ▶ Provide a replacement RCMP representative to sit on CRI

# Community Report Back and Unity Walk



- ▶ Held on May 20, 2017 at the McMurray Experience
- ▶ The event got kicked off by Bernadette Dumais who sang the Canadian Anthem both in English and Cree
- ▶ Summary of findings and recommendations presented to the public. Info graphics made available in 9 different languages
- ▶ Guest speakers were Nicholas Ameyaw a Senior Consultant with the Government of Alberta, Acting Mayor Councillor Jane Stroud, Inspector Mark Hancock from the RCMP Wood Buffalo Detachment



# Community Report Back and Unity Walk (cont.)

- ▶ The Unity Walk started outside of Jubilee Plaza went on to the Markaz UI Islam Mosque, continued to All Saints Anglican Church, Fort McMurray First United Church, McMurray Gospel Assembly, and ended back at the Jubilee Plaza
- ▶ Live art session, led by Artist Brad Fraser, engaged the participants

