

# RESEARCH NOTE

**#PARG 2025-62RN** 

# **Religious Charities in Canada**

Overview

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#### Introduction

Considering the large number of religious registered charities (more than 32,000 charities, representing more than 37% of all registered charities), the amounts of assets in them and the cost to taxpayers, examining those organizations is justified. "Canadian taxpayers subsidize the advancement of religion by as much as \$3.2 billion annually as a result of income tax relief available to Canadians who donate to religious charities." (Dunham and Rosenblood, 2021b, p.3)

The purpose of this study is to examine religious and faith-based charities (advancement of religion objects, see Table 6) and their categories and sub-categories in Canada (Christianity, Islam, Judaism, and Other religions). This is part of a mapping exercise, which will look at specific religion and registered charities for financial information.

The study aims to better understand the philanthropic sector of religious and faith-based charities with the following research questions (RQ):

RQ1) What are the categories and sub-categories of religious charities in Canada?

RQ2) For each category and sub-categories of religious registered charities in Canada:

RQ2a) How many religious charities per assets and revenue levels?

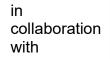
RQ2b) Who are the largest religious charities?

RQ2c) What are the distribution by provinces / territories of the religious charities?

This research note summarizes some general information regarding religion charities in Canada. The note includes definition of religion, presentation of the methodology for the series of notes, argumentation on the cost of religion, presentation of some statistics at the national level for nonprofits and registered charities for categories and subcategories.









## **Definition of Religion and Trends in Canada**

Religion is recognized in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance." (United Nations General Assembly, 1948, article 18)

In providing principles and recommendations for census, United Nations (2017) provides some quidance to the comparative study of religion (Statistics Canada, 2021a):

"Each country that investigates religion in its census should use the definition most appropriate to its needs and should display the definition that has been used as part of the metadata in the census publications and dissemination programme." (United Nations, 2017, par.4.174, p.203)

"For census purposes, religion may be defined as either: (a) Religious or spiritual belief of preference, regardless of whether or not this belief is represented by an organized group; or (b) Affiliation with an organized group having specific religious or spiritual tenets." (United Nations, 2017, par.4.175, p.203)

In the context of various approaches, the focus is on definitions rooted in Canadian perspectives. In Canadian law, the definition of religion originates from the majority decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in Syndicat Northcrest v. Amselem, (2004) (Kislowicz, 2012). In this court case, religion is defined as:

"While it is perhaps not possible to define religion precisely, some outer definition is useful since only beliefs, convictions and practices rooted in religion, as opposed to those that are secular, socially based or conscientiously held, are protected by the guarantee of freedom of religion. Defined broadly, religion typically involves a particular and comprehensive system of faith and worship. Religion also tends to involve the belief in a divine, superhuman or controlling power. In essence, religion is about freely and deeply held personal convictions or beliefs connected to an individual's spiritual faith and integrally linked to one's self-definition and spiritual fulfilment, the practices of which allow individuals to foster a connection with the divine or with the subject or object of that spiritual faith." (Syndicat Northcrest v. Amselem, 2004, par.39)

According to Statistics Canada (2022a), "[r]eligion refers to a person's self-identified connection to or affiliation with any religious denomination, group, body, or other religiously defined community or system of belief. Religion is not limited to formal membership in a religious organization or group." "For infants or children, religion refers to the specific religious group or denomination, if any, in which they are being raised." (Statistics Canada, 2022a) "Persons without a religious connection or affiliation can selfidentify as atheist, agnostic or humanist, or can provide another applicable response." (Statistics Canada, 2022a)







"A religion is a system of practices rationalized by beliefs according to which (1) the practices constitute fit, or (2) they produce a relation to an SR [supermundane reality] which is of value because it is instrumental to attaining human goods." (Stone, 2001, p.183) "Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism – each involve activities that, when done in the right way for the right reasons, constitute the practice of that religion. A religion is a kind of system of practices." (Stone, 2001, p.177)

"In recent decades, the religious landscape in Canada has undergone significant changes, including a decline in religious affiliation and the practice of religious activities, both collectively and individually." (Cornelissen, 2021, p.1) "In 2021, over 19.3 million people reported a Christian religion, representing just over half of the Canadian population (53.3%). However, this proportion is down from 67.3% in 2011 and 77.1% in 2001. Approximately 12.6 million people, or more than one-third of Canada's population, reported having no religious affiliation. The proportion of this population has more than doubled in 20 years, going from 16.5% in 2001 to 34.6% in 2021. While small, the proportion of Canada's population who reported being Muslim, Hindu or Sikh has more than doubled in 20 years. From 2001 to 2021, these shares rose from 2.0% to 4.9% for Muslims, from 1.0% to 2.3% for Hindus and from 0.9% to 2.1% for Sikhs." (Statistics Canada, 2022b, p.2)

"In recent decades, there has been a decline in religious affiliation, participation in group or individual religious or spiritual activities, and the importance of religious and spiritual beliefs in how people live their lives. Changes in indicators of religiosity over time appear to be the result of differences between younger and older cohorts. Compared with individuals born in Canada, those born outside Canada were more likely to report having a religious affiliation, to consider their religious and spiritual beliefs important to how they live their lives, and to engage in religious activities in groups or on their own. These differences were more pronounced among younger birth cohorts. There were some differences in religiosity across the country. For example, in British Columbia, religious non-affiliation was more common and generational differences in religious practice were smaller. In Quebec, religious affiliation was higher, but was more often combined with lower importance given to religious or spiritual beliefs. Religious practice was also generally lower in Quebec. Lastly, in the Atlantic provinces, the generational differences were larger than elsewhere in the country." (Cornelissen, 2021, p.1)











## Methodology

The methodology section describes the identification of Canadian religious charities and the data collection. A data-driven method was used to identify and analyze the religious charities. Most religious charities fall under "advancement of religion" charitable object / purpose. Brouard and Litalien (2024a, 2024b) have provided analysis of CRA statistics for all Canadian registered charities and for "advancement of religion" charitable object.

#### Advancement of religion

CRA (2002, 2013) provides some guidance to describe advancement of religion. "Purposes that advance religion may be charitable under the third category. Advancing religion in the charitable sense means manifesting, promoting, sustaining, or increasing belief in a religion's three key attributes, which are: faith in a higher unseen power such as a God, Supreme Being, or Entity; worship or reverence; and a particular and comprehensive system of doctrines and observances." (CRA, 2013, #34)

"Examples of purposes that advance religion include:

- advancing religion to adherents of the faith or the public by preaching and advancing the teachings of the (specify faith or religion) faith
- advancing religion to adherents of the faith or the public by establishing, maintaining, and supporting a house of worship with services held in accordance with the tenets and doctrines of the (specify faith or religion) faith
- advancing religion to adherents of the faith or the public by supporting and maintaining missions and missionaries to propagate the (specify faith or religion) faith" (CRA, 2013, #35)

As noted by Blumberg (2020, 2024) and Warren (2024), we agree that it is surprising that no guidance has been published by CRA on the object of advancement of religion. Some CRA's working draft guidance have been available since 2009 (Blumberg, 2009) with various versions in 2009, 2017, 2018 and 2019 (Blumberg, 2020). Even in a recent CRA's (2024) report, "[t]here is no mention of the advancement of religious guidance that was basically finalized many years ago but has still not been published" (Blumberg, 2024). Therefore, no additional definitions or explanations are provided in the present research note as official positions are not published yet. Some practical guidance may be offered, for example Advancement of religion versus the promotion of a philosophy (Blumberg, 2025).

Selection and data collection of Canadian religious charities

Figure A illustrates the selection and data collection process used in this research. The illustration presents the scope with four main components, the categories, the number of sub-categories per CRA classification and those used in Charitydata. Sources complete the figure.









The T3010 is the Registered Charity Information Return file with Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). The T3010 is the Registered Charity Information Return that is required for all registered charities operating in Canada. Information was obtained through the CharityData website, including T3010 information. Schedule 6 of the T3010 provides rich information on charities' assets, liabilities, revenue, and expenditures. The focus is on Assets and Revenue.

CharityData (2025) is a database on Canadian registered charities, compiling most — but not all — of the charities' financial data found on the CRA's website and gathered from their T3010 form. The CharityData Advanced Search tool was used to carry out data collection.

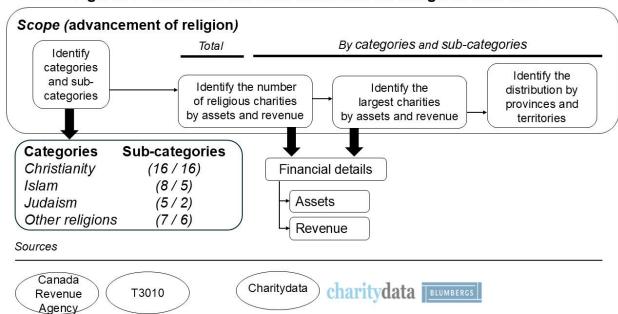


Figure A – Selection and Data collection for Religious charities

## CRA categories and sub-categories

The selection of charities in this research is based on CRA classification (RQ1). CRA has a classification of registered charities with categories and sub-categories for "advancement of religion" (Blumbergs, 2023). The categories regarding religions are Christianity, Islam, Judaism, and Other religions. The 36 sub-categories regarding each religions are Christianity (Adventist, Anglican, Apostolic, Baptist, Catholic, Christ of Christ, Gospel, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mennonite/ Brethren /Hutterite, Orthodox, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Protestant, Salvation Army Temples, United, Other), Islam (Ahmadi, Alevi, Ismaili, Salafi /Wahhabi, Shia, Sufi, Sunni, Other), Judaism (Conservative, Kabbalah, Orthodox, Reform, Other), Other religions (Baha'i, Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, Zoroastrianism, Other). (Brouard & Litalien, 2024a, p.11)







In addition of religions, another group of categories and sub-categories under "advancement of religion" is support of religion and other. The categories are Support of religions, Ecumenical and interfaith organizations, and Foundations advancing religions. Support of religions has 20 sub-categories. (Brouard & Litalien, 2024b) This other group is not used in this research.

Dunham and Rosenblood (2021a) point out that some charities may be registered under 'Advancement of religion', even if there are not mainly religious, and some faith-based charities may not be registered under the 'Advancement of religion', but under other objects. For example, "many YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) and YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association) organizations are categorized under 'Advancement of Religion' even if many see "those places as non-religious recreational facilities, often simply called, 'The Y' "; or they may be registered under 'Advancement of education': "Most notable in this category are educational charities that operate religious schools such as the Ottawa Islamic School, The Calgary Jewish Academy, and the Halifax Christian Academy"; or registered under the object of 'Other purposes beneficial to the community' (Dunham and Rosenblood, 2021a, p.8). However, the lack of detailed classification considering all the religious components may not allow for precise estimation of all the charities related to religion. A better search capability from CRA database information could allow for better research results. This represents a limit to this research.

#### Presentation of results in tables

Results are presented in three tables for each category and sub-categories of religious registered charities in Canada. Each table is a response to sub-questions of RQ2, namely:

RQ2a) How many religious charities per assets and revenue levels? (distribution per Assets (7 levels) and Revenue (6 levels)) (see Table 1)

Table 1 – Assets and Revenue for (category or sub-category)

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Assets \$	Number	%	Revenue \$	Number	%
More than 100 million	Х	x.x%	More than 5,000,000	X	x.x%
1,000,001-100 million	X	x.x%	1,500,001-5,000,000	X	x.x%
500,001-1,000,000	Х	x.x%	500,001-1,500,000	X	X.X%
200,001-500,000	Х	x.x%	150,001-500,000	X	x.x%
100,001-200,000	Х	x.x%	30,001-150,000	X	x.x%
50,001-100,000	Х	x.x%	30,000 or else	X	x.x%
50,000 or less	Х	x.x%	Unknown	Х	X.X%
Unknown	Х	x.x%			
Total	Х	100%	Total	Х	100%





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RQ2b) Who are the largest religious charities?

(focusing on those with the highest combined levels of Assets (normally greater than 100 million) and Revenue (normally greater than 5 million) (see Table 2)

Table 2 – Largest registered charities for (category or sub-category)

Name of registered charities	City, Prov	CRA#	Year	Total Assets 4200	Total Revenue 4700
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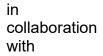
RQ2c) What are the distribution by provinces / territories of the religious charities? (see Table 3)

Table 3 – Distribution by provinces for (category or sub-category)

Can		Provinces									Territories		
total	BC	BC AB SK MB ON QC NB NS PE NL									YT	NT	NU
X	Х	X								X	Х	Х	Х
100%	x.x%	x.x%         x.x%         x.x%         x.x%         x.x%         x.x%         x.x%         x.x%									x.x%	x.x%	x.x%









## **Cost of Religion Preferred Tax Treatment**

Considering the level of tax advantages and cost of religion, studying religious organizations is arguably an interesting topic of study.

#### Tax expenditures

Although the focus is not on religious organizations, a recent study (Brouard and Litalien, 2024c) summarized estimates of tax expenditures for Canadian charities, donations and nonprofits at the federal and provincial levels. The amounts represent multiple billions of dollars.

Table 4 presents some federal tax expenditures regarding individual income tax, corporate income tax and Goods and Services Tax (GST). The estimates are not only for religious organizations, but for all charities.

Table 4 – Federal tax expenditures - Individual & Corporate income tax & GST

(millions of dollars)	Code	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Individual income tax		E	Е	Е	Е	Р	Р	Р	Р
Charitable donation tax	PIT	2,980	3,060	3,290	3,615	3,620	3,625	3,705	3,805
credit	TRU	30	30	45	45	45	50	50	50
Deduction for certain contributions by individuals who have taken vows of poverty	PIT	n.a.							

Corporate income tax		Е	Е	Е	E	Р	Р	Р	Р
Deductibility of charitable	CIT	690	890	715	1,030	990	835	865	870
donation									
Non-taxation of capital gains on donations of cultural property	CIT	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Non-taxation of registered charities	CIT	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

GST		Е	Е	Е	E	Р	Р	Р	Р
Exemption from GST for certain supplies made by charities and non-profit organizations	GST	1,345	1,405	1,455	1,510	1,640	1,740	1,815	1,885
Rebate for registered charities	GST	320	335	300	330	375	390	405	420

Source: Canada - Department of Finance (2024b, p.33) in Brouard and Litalien (2024c, p.13, 15, 17) Note: PIT = Personal income tax (excluding trusts); TRU = Personal income tax with respect to trusts;

CIT = Corporate income tax; GST = Goods and Services Tax;

n.a. = No data available; E = Estimation; P = Projection





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#### Cost of religion

The Centre for Inquiry Canada (CFIC) prepared a series of reports questioning the cost of religion from a tax point of view (Dunham, 2019; Dunham and Rosenblood, 2021a, 2021b, 2021c, 2021d, 2022). The CFIC want to "demonstrate that the financial and social costs of continuing to allow advancement of religion as a charitable purpose are extensive. There are many reasons to discontinue the practice of granting charitable status to organizations whose sole purpose is the advancement of religion. Canada can retain the positive impact of the charitable sector while adhering to secular values" (Dunham and Rosenblood (2021a, p.4).

"Tax is the major source of income for government and is a fundamental plank in social policy." (Dunham and Rosenblood, 2021d, p.3) "Having charitable status allows organizations to avoid paying taxes, permits them to receive government transfers for a variety of purposes, and makes it possible for them to issue charitable tax receipts to encourage donations." (Dunham and Rosenblood, 2021a, p.6)

#### Tax advantages for donations to religious charities issuing tax receipts

"Among the several benefits granted to Canada's 32,400 registered religious charities is the ability to issue charitable tax receipts for donations." (Dunham and Rosenblood, 2021b, p.3) In practice, this translates into a substantial public cost. "Canadian taxpayers subsidize the advancement of religion by as much as \$3.2 billion annually as a result of income tax relief available to Canadians who donate to religious charities." (2018 data) (Dunham and Rosenblood, 2021b, p.3)

Individuals and corporations can receive tax benefits for their donations. Religious charities, also benefit significantly from preferential tax treatments. "Canadian charities issued \$18 billion in official donation receipts. Over 41 percent of those charitable tax receipts, totaling almost \$7.5 billion, were issued by religious charities", and the "lost tax revenue from these religious tax credits alone is conservatively estimated to cost Canadian governments between \$1.7 billion and \$3.2 billion." (2018 data) (Dunham and Rosenblood, 2021b, p.3)

#### Tax advantages for religious charities

Religious charities in Canada are treated favorably under three key areas of taxation: income tax, property tax, and sales tax.

On income tax, "Neither charities nor non-profit-organizations pay income tax on most revenues, with the exceptions of rental income and capital gains". (Dunham and Rosenblood, 2021d, p.4)







Property taxation is also highly favorable, as "[m]ost charities receive special status regarding property taxes and churches are exempt from paying property tax in every Canadian province and territory". (Dunham and Rosenblood, 2021d, p.3-4)

"Sales tax is applied differently to charities and non-profits. Charities generally receive a rebate for a portion of the sales tax they pay (called a Public Service Body (PSB) rebate) and generally do not charge sales tax." (Dunham and Rosenblood, 2021d, p.4) "This rebate program for religious charities cost the federal and provincial treasuries over \$300 million in 2018." (Dunham and Rosenblood, 2021d, p.4)

#### Government transfers

"Many charities apply for and receive funding from the federal, provincial, and municipal levels of government. While T3010 forms (which all charities are required to submit to Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) annually) provide data on which level of government grants funding (and how much), they do not provide information on why charities receive funds, nor what their obligations may be in return." (Dunham and Rosenblood, 2021c, p.3)

"In 2018, 3,612 religious charities in Canada received funds from at least one level of government. In total, Canadian governments transferred slightly more than \$1 billion to charities incorporated under the category of advancement of religion." (Dunham and Rosenblood, 2021c, p.3)

Moreover, "[r]eligious institutions receive enormous financial support from Canadian governments in many other ways: from direct subsidization of evangelical universities to denominational family service agencies to religious hospitals being fully incorporated into Canada's healthcare system. Many of these organizations are also charities, founded under one of the three other 'heads' (advancement of education, relief of poverty, and other purposes beneficial to the community)." (Dunham and Rosenblood, 2022, p.6)







## Number of religious organizations in Canada

"Faith-based organizations (FBOs) are charitable or non-profit organizations associated with or informed by religion and may include congregations of all faiths, missionary societies, and religious media companies." (Global Philanthropic Canada, 2022)

Number of religious organizations as non-profits

Religious organizations represent a significant portion of Canada's non-profit sector and are particularly dependent on volunteers. They account for nearly one-fifth (19.8%) of all non-profits, second only to sports and recreation groups.

Table 5 presents the Distribution of non-profit organizations by primary activity in 2023 in Canada.

Table 5 – Distribution of non-profit organizations by primary activity in Canada

Organization	%
Sports and recreation	33.3%
Religion	19.8%
Grant-making, fundraising and voluntarism promotion	8.8%
Social services	8.5%
Development and housing	6.9%
Business and professional associations and unions	6.1%
Arts and culture	4.2%
Education and research	3.9%
Law, advocacy and politics	3.6%
Not elsewhere classified	3.5%
Health	1.0%
Environment	0.4%
All organizations	100%

Reference: Statistics Canada (2024)

Moreover, religious organizations are among the most likely to rely on volunteer support, with over nine in ten reporting volunteer involvement—well above the sector-wide average. As Statistics Canada (2024) notes:

"In 2023, the largest number of non-profit organizations primarily focused on sports and recreation (33.3%), followed by religious organizations (19.8%), grant-making, fundraising and promotion (8.8%) and social services (8.5%), with the lowest number of organizations in health (1.0%) and environment-focused activities (0.4%).

Volunteers are essential to many non-profit organizations and the non-profit sector as a whole. Over four-fifths (81.8%) of non-profit organizations had volunteers. Of these, 44.7% of organizations had 1 to 19 volunteers, 29.1% of organizations had 20 to 99 volunteers, and 8.0% of organizations had 100 or more volunteers.









Organizations that focus their services on arts and culture (93.0%), religion (92.5%), and law, advocacy and politics (92.2%) were most likely to have volunteers, while organizations focused on business and professional associations and unions (64.0%) and development and housing (71.0%) were least likely to have volunteers." (Statistics Canada, 2024)

Number of registered charities in advancement of religion

Table 6 presents the statistics of charity types (purposes / objects). The most popular purpose is advancement of religion both in August 2025 and December 2023.

Table 6 – Statistics of charity types / purposes / objects

	August	t 2025	Decemb	er 2023
Types / Purposes / Objects	Number	%	Number	%
Relief of poverty	11,169	13.34%	11,384	13.29%
Advancement of education	10,915	13.04%	11,134	13.00%
Advancement of religion	31,647	37.80%	32,290	37.71%
Other purpose beneficial to the community	29,991	35.80%	30,830	36.00%
Missing information	0	0.00%	1	0.00%
Total	83,722	100%	85,639	100%

Reference: CharityData (2025) for August 2025 / Brouard & Litalien (2024a, p.9) for December 2023

Table 7 presents statistics on the list of categories for advancement of religion, with seven categories. Most charities (86%) are for religions and the most popular religion is Christianity both in August 2025 and December 2023.

Table 7 – List of categories for advancement of religion

	Augu	st 2025	Decembe	er 2023
Categories	Number	%	Number	%
Christianity	25,389	80.23%	25,872	80.12%
Islam	494	1.56%	510	1.58%
Judaism	390	1.23%	397	1.23%
Other religions	1,043	3.30%	1,079	3.34%
Sub-total religions	27,316	86.32%	27,598	86.27%
Ecumenical and interfaith	1	0.00%	1	0.00%
organizations				
Foundations advancing religions	348	1.10%	354	1.10%
Support of religions	3,982	12.58%	4,077	12.63%
Total	31,647	100%	32,290	100%

Reference: CharityData (2025) for August 2025 / Brouard & Litalien (2024a, p.12) for December 2023





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Table 8 and Table 9 present the statistics regarding registered charities dedicated to advancement of religion by provinces and territories for 2025 and 2023 respectively.

Table 8 – Distribution of advancement of religion by provinces and territories – 2025

Can	Provinces									Territories			
total	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT	NU
31,637	4164	3834	1883	1773	12752	4058	1072	1168	226	609	47	43	8
100%	13.2%	12.1%	6.0%	5.6%	40.3%	12.8%	3.4%	3.7%	0.7%	1.9%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%

Source: CharityData (2025) for August 2025

Note: 10 organizations outside of Canada, in the United States (California, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Utah)

Table 9 – Distribution of advancement of religion by provinces and territories – 2023

Can		Provinces										Territories		
total	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT	NU	
32,285	4235	3890	1915	1808	13026	4193	1082	1194	232	610	49	43	8	
100%	13.1%	12.0%	5.9%	5.6%	40.3%	13.0%	3.4%	3.7%	0.8%	1.9%	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%	

Source: Brouard & Litalien (2024a, p.12) for December 2023

Note: 5 organizations outside of Canada or without provinces / territories

#### Religion Categories and Sub-categories in Canada

Multiple classifications could be used. We are mentioning two of them, i.e. CRA classification used also by CharityData and Statistics Canada.

#### CRA and CharityData Religion Category Classification

"Blumbergs (2023) offered a CRA Categories List with more details than the Type and Category, but also the Sub-category. The Sub-categories are not available on the CRA (2023) website and therefore data are not reported." (Brouard & Litalien, 2024b, p.6). Moreover, based on CharityData (2025), there are four main religion categories.

The sub-categories regarding religions are Christianity (Adventist, Anglican, Apostolic, Baptist, Catholic, Christ of Christ, Gospel, Johovah's Witnesses, Mennonite/ Brethren /Hutterite, Orthodox, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Protestant, Salvation Army Temples, United, Other), Islam (Ahmadi, Alevi, Ismaili, Salafi /Wahhabi, Shia, Sufi, Sunni, Other), Judaism (Conservative, Kabbalah, Orthodox, Reform, Other), Other religions (Baha'i, Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, Zoroastrianism, Other) (Blumbergs, 2023).

Table 10 shows the religion categories and subcategories based on CRA and CharityData. The list is slightly different between CRA sub-categories and those found in CharityData.





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Table 10 - The religion categories and subcategories based on CRA and CharityData

Category Description	Category Number	Sub-Category Number	Sub-Category Description (CRA)	Sub-Category Description (CharityData)
Christianity	30	1	Adventist	Adventist
Christianity	30	2	Anglican	Anglican
Christianity	30	3	Apostolic	Apostolic
Christianity	30	4	Baptist	Baptist
Christianity	30	5	Catholic	Catholic
Christianity	30	6	Church of Christ	Church of Christ
Christianity	30	7	Gospel	Gospel
Christianity	30	8	Jehovah's Witnesses	Jehovah's Witnesses
Christianity	30	9	Mennonite / Brethren / Hutterite	Mennonite/Brethren/ Hutterite
Christianity	30	10	Orthodox	Orthodox
Christianity	30	11	Pentecostal	Pentecostal
Christianity	30	12	Presbyterian	Presbyterian
Christianity	30	13	Protestant	Protestant
Christianity	30	14	Salvation Army Temples	Salvation Army Temples
Christianity	30	15	United	United
Christianity	30	99	Other	Other Christianity
Islam	40	1	Ahmadi	Ahmadi
Islam	40	2	Alevi	
Islam	40	3	Ismaili	
Islam	40	4	Salafi / Wahhabi	
Islam	40	5	Shia	Shia
Islam	40	6	Sufi	Sufi
Islam	40	7	Sunni	Sunni
Islam	40	99	Other	Other Islam
Judaism	50	1	Conservative	
Judaism	50	2	Kabbalah	
Judaism	50	3	Orthodox	Orthodox
Judaism	50	4	Reform	
Judaism	50	99	Other	Other Judaism
Other Religions	60	1	Baha'i	Baha'i
Other Religions	60	2	Buddhism	Buddhism
Other Religions	60	3	Hinduism	Hinduism
Other Religions	60	4	Jainism	Jainism
Other Religions	60	5	Sikhism	Sikhism
Other Religions	60	6	Zoroastrianism	
Other Religions	60	99	Other	Other Other Religion

Source: Blumbergs (2023) in Brouard & Litalien (2024b. p.7) and CharityData (2025)







## Statistics Canada Religion Category Classification

Statistics Canada offers another classification of religions, with categories of main religions, subcategories and sub- subcategories. More details are available when we compare with CRA classification. According to the List of Religions 2021 published by Statistics Canada (2021b), there are nine main religious categories: Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Traditional (North American Indigenous) spirituality, other religions and spiritual traditions, and No religion, and secular perspectives.

Table 11 presents religion category classification structure based on Statistics Canada.

Table 11 – Statistics Canada religion category classification

Code	Category Description				
1	Buddhist				
2	Christian				
3	Hindu				
4	Jewish				
5	Muslim				
6	Sikh				
7	Traditional (North American Indigenous) spirituality				
8	Other religions and spiritual traditions				
9	No religion and secular perspectives				

Source: Statistics Canada (2021b)

Appendix A includes nine tables (Tables A-1 to A-9) with classification structure for each category of religion listed in Table 11, providing details on their respective subcategories and sub-subcategories, based on Statistics Canada (2021b).







## A look at the largest registered charities by religion (category and sub-category)

Number of organizations under religion as registered charities

Table 12 shows the largest registered charities for the four categories under religion and their sub-categories.

Table 12 presents the number and percentages of registered charities for the four categories under religion and their sub-categories, based on their assets and revenue levels in a descending order.

Table 12 – Assets and Revenue for the four religions (category or sub-category)

				<u> </u>	
Assets \$	Number	%	Revenue \$	Number	%
More than 100 million	30	0.1%	More than 5,000,000	181	0.7%
1,000,001-100 million	7,358	26.9%	1,500,001-5,000,000	757	2.8%
500,001-1,000,000	3,842	14.1%	500,001-1,500,000	2,835	10.4%
200,001-500,000	4,247	15.5%	150,001-500,000	7,528	27.6%
100,001-200,000	2,596	9.5%	30,001-150,000	9,868	36.1%
50,001-100,000	1,903	7.0%	30,000 or else	6,099	22.3%
50,000 or less	7,292	26.7%	Unknown	48	0.2%
Unknown	48	0.2%			·
Total	27,316	100%	Total	27,316	100%

Source: CharityData (2025)

Table 13 presents the statistics regarding distribution by province and territories of Canadian registered charities for the four categories under religion and their subcategories.

Table 13 – Distribution by provinces for (category or sub-category)

Can					Prov	inces					7	<b>Territorie</b>	S
total	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT	NU
27,311	3,533	3,358	1,740	1,572	11,071	3,104	985	1,075	211	573	42	40	7
100%	12.9%	12.3%	6.4%	5.8%	40.5%	11.4%	3.6%	3.9%	0.8%	2.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%

Source: CharityData (2025)

Note: 5 organizations are outside of Canada, namely in California, Florida, New Jersey, Ohio, and Tennessee.





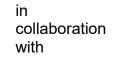




Table 14 presents information on the Top15 largest Canadian charities for the four categories under religion and their sub-categories.

Table 14 – Largest (Top 15) registered charities for the four religions (category)

Cat	Name of registered charities	City, Prov	CRA#	Year	Total Assets 4200	Total Revenue 4700
С	The Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada / Conseil de direction de l'Armée du Salut du Canada	Toronto, ON	107951618 RR0001	2024	1,783,068,921	524,103,583
С	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Canada	Cardston, AB	826344632 RR0001	2023	700,516,605	207,079,325
С	The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of Hamilton in Ontario	Hamilton, ON	119110450 RR0003	2023	456,284,931	46,386,758
С	Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Canada / La Tour de Garde Société de Bibles et de Tracts du Canada	Georgetown, ON	119288918 RR0001	2024	351,961,444	155,563,659
С	Roman Catholic Archbishop of Vancouver	Vancouver, BC	118849470 RR0004	2023	337,865,217	34,994,012
OR	Great Enlightenment Buddhist Institute Society	Little Sands, PE	837671320 RR0001	2023	288,353,789	50,172,268
С	Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto	Toronto, ON	107505059 RR0001	2023	217,361,068	22,844,966
С	The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of London in Ontario	London, ON	119109817 RR0010	2023	200,023,989	21,079,703
С	The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Ottawa- Cornwall	Gloucester, ON	128967353 RR0001	2023	184,610,212	29,356,084
С	L'Oratoire Saint-Joseph du Mont-Royal	Montréal, QC	107802753 RR0001	2023	179,183,968	37,105,065
С	La fabrique de la paroisse Notre-Dame de Montréal	Montréal, QC	107640344 RR0001	2023	153,302,716	22,252,278
OR	Great Wisdom Buddhist Institute Inc.	Vernon Bridge, PE	818232480 RR0001	2023	145,729,829	13,967,899
OR	National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Canada	Thornhill, ON	119051944 RR0001	2024	143,178,991	22,654,786
I	Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Canada Inc.	Maple, ON	113891717 RR0001	2024	141,276,098	33,411,791
I	Muslim Association of Canada	Mississauga, ON	880495163 RR0001	2023	108,837,390	50,225,399

Source: CharityData (2025)

Note: Cat = Category; C=Christianity; I=Islam; OR=Other religions





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# Largest religious organizations for Christianity for each sub-category

Table 15 shows the largest registered charities for each sub-category regarding Christianity.

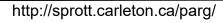
Table 15 – Largest registered charities for Christianity for each sub-category

Sub-category	Dest registered charities for Name of registered charities	CRA#	year	Total	Total
	Traine or regional and manual	<b></b>	)	Assets	Revenue
				4200	4700
Adventist	Ontario Conference of the	107797383 RR0008	2023	136,173,077	58,047,062
Advertise	Seventh-day Adventist Church	10110100011110000	2020	100,170,077	00,047,002
Anglican	Incorporated Synod of the	107505059 RR0001	2023	217,361,068	22,844,966
7 a.ig.i.ca.i.	Diocese of Toronto			,00,000	,0 : :,000
Apostolic	Bethel Apostolic Assembly of	771649704 RR0001	2023	821,964	371,814
'	Edmonton			•	•
Baptist	The First Baptist Church of	107384802 RR0001	2023	107,352,842	2,753,659
	Vancouver				
Catholic	The Roman Catholic Episcopal	119110450 RR0003	2023	456,284,931	46,386,758
	Corporation of the Diocese of				
	Hamilton in Ontario				
Church of Christ	Rose Church Winnipeg Inc.	787194679 RR0001	2024	656,748	900,772
Gospel	Malden Road Gospel Hall	732295308 RR0001	2023	2,261,045	646,426
Jehovah's	Watch Tower Bible and Tract	119288918 RR0001	2024	351,961,444	155,563,659
Witnesses	Society of Canada / La Tour de				
	Garde Société de Bibles et de				
11 (5 11	Tracts du Canada	440007004 BB0004	2221	01.001.050	10.011.00=
Mennonite/Brethr	Mennonite Benevolent Society	119037984 RR0001	2024	61,281,958	49,814,637
en/Hutterite	0 1 15 1 0 1 1	774070504 DD0004	0000	0.070.000	704.000
Orthodox	Qudus Mikael Eritrean Orthodox	771272531 RR0001	2023	8,272,666	764,820
Doutsestel	The Danta costs   Assambliag of	107833295 RR0374	2022	44 400 FCC	24 000 045
Pentecostal	The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada/Les Assemblées de la	107033293 KK0374	2023	41,488,566	31,098,815
	Pentecote du Canada				
Presbyterian	The Trustee Board of the	107856619 RR0001	2023	134,733,866	35,806,014
1 103bytonan	Presbyterian Church in Canada	10100001011110001	2020	104,700,000	00,000,014
Protestant	Evangelical Lutheran Church in	107354334 RR0001	2023	23,358,103	3,500,315
Trotootant	Canada		2020	20,000,100	0,000,010
Salvation Army	The Governing Council of the	107951618 RR0001	2024	1,783,068,92	524,103,583
Temples	Salvation Army in Canada /			1	, ,
•	Conseil de direction de l'Armée				
	du Salut du Canada				
United	The United Church of Canada	108102435 RR0003	2023	152,278,000	52,272,000
Other Christianity	The Church of Jesus Christ of	826344632 RR0001	2023	700,516,605	207,079,325
	Latter-Day Saints in Canada				

Source: CharityData (2025)







## Largest religious organizations for Islam for each sub-category

Table 16 shows the largest registered charities for each sub-category regarding Islam.

Table 16 – Largest registered charities for Islam for each sub-category

Sub-category	Name of registered charities	CRA #	year	Total	Total
				Assets	Revenue
				4200	4700
Ahmadi	Majlis Ansarullah Canada	715703674 RR0001	2023	5,338,946	3,326,080
Shia	The Shining Star Foundation	789486008 RR0001	2024	2,380,289	1,729,929
Sufi	Islamic Society of New Brunswick Inc.	718299936 RR0001	2023	1,386,059	156,882
Sunni	Masjid Al-Fatima Tuz Zahra(Sa) And Shah Sufi Congregation Centre	814436366 RR0001	2023	7,822,894	341,789
Other Islam	Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Canada Inc.	113891717 RR0001	2024	141,276,098	33,411,791

Source: CharityData (2025)

Largest religious organizations for Judaism for each sub-category

Table 17 shows the largest registered charities for each sub-category regarding Judaism.

Table 17 – Largest registered charities for Judaism for each sub-category

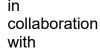
1011010 11 2011	geet regiotered charmes for			33.13	
Sub-category	Name of registered charities	CRA#	year	Total Assets 4200	Total Revenue 4700
Orthodox	Congregation Oholei Yom Tov Toronto	780732301 RR0001	2023	4,430,713	0
Other Judaism	Congregation Shaar Hashomayim	119147197 RR0001	2024	45,862,258	15,048,945

Source: CharityData (2025)











# Largest religious organizations for Other Religions for each sub-category

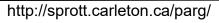
Table 18 shows the largest registered charities for each sub-category regarding Other religions.

Table 18 – Largest registered charities in for Other Religions for each sub-category

Sub-category	Name of registered charities	CRA#	year	Total	Total
				Assets	Revenue
				4200	4700
Baha'i	National Spiritual Assembly of The Baha'is of Canada	119051944 RR0001	2024	143,178,991	22,654,786
Buddhism	Great Enlightenment Buddhist Institute Society	837671320 RR0001	2023	288,353,789	50,172,268
Hinduism	Brampton Triveni Community Centre	717156699 RR0001	2023	22,280,504	658,432
Jainism	SRI Jain Mandir	861819993 RR0001	2023	969,460	121,573
Sikhism	Nanaksar Gurdwara - Gursikh Temple	119050904 RR0001	2023	86,657,800	4,275,753
Other Other Religions	Fung Loy Kok Institute of Taoism	118934371 RR0001	2023	44,911,461	7,136,859

Source: CharityData (2025)





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#### Research Notes in the Religious Charities in Canada series

Religious Charities in Canada – Overview, PARG #2025-62RN, October, 29p.

Religious Charities in Canada – Christianity, PARG #2025-63RN, October, 27p

Religious Charities in Canada – Islam, PARG #2025-64RN, October, 12p.

Religious Charities in Canada – Judaism, PARG #2025-65RN, October, 8p.

Religious Charities in Canada – Other Religions, PARG #2025-66RN, October, 13p.





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# Appendix A

List of Religions 2021 published by Statistics Canada (2021b)

Table A-1 – Statistics Canada classification – Buddhist

Code	Category Description	Sub-category Description	Sub-subcategory Description
1	Buddhist		
101		Buddhist, n.o.s.	
102		Mahayana Buddhist	
10201		-	Mahayana Buddhist, n.o.s.
10202			Zen Buddhist
10203			Mahayana Buddhist, n.i.e.
103		Theravada Buddhist	
104		Vajrayana Buddhist	
10401			Vajrayana Buddhist, n.o.s.
10402			Tibetan Buddhist
10403			Vajrayana Buddhist, n.i.e.
105		Buddhist, n.i.e.	

Source: Statistics Canada (2021b)

https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3VD.pl?Function=getVDStruct&TVD=1311612&CVD=1311613&CPV=1&CST=01042021&CLV=1&MLV=4

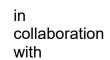
Table Δ-2 – Statistics Canada classification – Christian

Code	Category Description	Sub-category Description	Sub-subcategory Description
2	Christian	<b>,</b>	
201		Christian, n.o.s.	
202		Anabaptist	
20201			Anabaptist, n.o.s.
20202			Amish
20203			Apostolic Christian Church (Nazarean)
20204			Be in Christ Church of Canada
20205			Hutterite
20206			Mennonite
203		Anglican	
20301		<u> </u>	Anglican, n.o.s.
20302			Anglican Catholic Church
20303			Anglican Church of Canada
20304			Anglican Network in Canada
20305			Anglican, n.i.e.
204		Baptist	
20401			Baptist, n.o.s.
20402			Association of Evangelical Baptist Churches in Quebec
20403			Association of Regular Baptist Churches
20404			Baptist General Conference of Canada
20405			Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada
20406			Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec
20407			Canadian Baptists of Western Canada
20408			Canadian National Baptist Convention
20409			Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches (The
			Fellowship)
20410			Independent Baptist
20411			North American Baptist Conference
20412			Sovereign Grace Fellowship
205		Catholic	
20501			Eastern Catholic
20502			Roman Catholic
20503			Other Catholic denominations
206		Christian Orthodox	









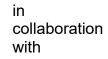


Code	Category Description	Sub-category Description	Sub-subcategory Description
20601	200011,00011	2000	Christian Orthodox, n.o.s.
20602			Eastern Orthodox
20603			Oriental Orthodox
207		Jehovah's Witness	
208		Latter Day Saints	
20801			Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon)
20802			Community of Christ (RLDS)
20803			Latter Day Saints, n.i.e.
209		Lutheran	,
20901			Lutheran, n.o.s.
20902			Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations
20903			Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
20904			Lutheran Church-Canada
20905			North American Lutheran Church
20906			Lutheran, n.i.e.
210		Methodist and Wesleyan (Holiness)	
21001			Methodist, n.o.s.
21002			Canadian Church of God Ministries
21003			Church of the Nazarene
21004			Evangelical Missionary Church
21005			Free Methodist Church
21006			Salvation Army
21007			United Methodist Church
21008			Wesleyan Church
21009			Methodist and Wesleyan (Holiness), n.i.e.
211		Pentecostal and other Charismatic	
21101			Pentecostal
21102			Other Charismatic
212		Presbyterian	
21201			Presbyterian, n.o.s.
21202			Presbyterian Church in America
21203			Presbyterian Church in Canada
21204			Presbyterian, n.i.e.
213		Reformed	
21301			Reformed, n.o.s.
21302			Canadian Reformed Church
21303			Christian Reformed Church
21304			Free Reformed Church
21305			Netherlands Reformed
21306			Reformed Church in America
21307			United Reformed Church
21308			Reformed, n.i.e.
214		United Church	
215		Other Christian and Christian-related traditions	
21501			Apostolic, n.o.s.
21502			Associated Gospel Churches
21503			Association chrétienne pour la francophonie (ACF)
21504			Brethren, n.o.s.
21505			Calvinist, n.o.s.
21506			Christadelphian
21507			Christian and Missionary Alliance
21508			Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
21509			Christian or Plymouth Brethren
21510			Christian Science
21511			Church of God (Armstrong)
21512			Church of God, n.o.s.
21513			Church of God (Seventh Day)
21514			Churches of Christ
21515			Congregational Christian Churches in Canada
21516			Congregational, n.o.s.
21517			Doukhobor
21518			Evangelical, n.o.s.











Code	Category Description	Sub-category Description	Sub-subcategory Description
21519	•	•	Evangelical Covenant Church
21520			Evangelical Free Church
21521			Grace Communion International
21522			Iglesia ni Cristo
21523			Interdenominational Christian
21524			Marthomite (Mar Thoma Church)
21525			Messianic Jewish
21526			Mission de l'Esprit Saint
21527			Moravian Church
21528			New Apostolic Church
21529			Non-denominational Christian
21530			Protestant, n.o.s.
21531			Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
21532			Seventh-day Adventist
21533			Swedenborgian (New Church)
21534			Village Missions
21535			Other Christian and Christian-related traditions, n.i.e.

Source: Statistics Canada (2021b)

https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3VD.pl?Function=getVDStruct&TVD=1311612&CVD=1311613&CPV=2&CST=0 1042021&CLV=1&MLV=4

Table A-3 – Statistics Canada classification – Hindu

Code	)	Category Description	Sub-category Description	Sub-subcategory Description
	3	Hindu		
30	01		Hindu, n.o.s.	
3(	02		Hindu, n.i.e.	

Source: Statistics Canada (2021b)

https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3VD.pl?Function=getVD&TVD=1311612&CVD=1311613&CPV=3&CST=0104202 1&CLV=1&MLV=4

Table A-4 – Statistics Canada classification – Jewish

Code	Category Description	Sub-category Description	Sub-subcategory Description
4	Jewish	<b>1</b>	
401		Jewish, n.o.s.	
402		Conservative Jewish	
403		Orthodox Jewish	
40301			Orthodox Jewish, n.o.s.
40302			Haredi Jewish
40303			Hasidic Jewish
40304			Modern Orthodox Jewish
40305			Orthodox Jewish, n.i.e.
404		Reform Jewish	
405		Secular Jewish	
406		Traditional Sephardic Jewish	
407		Jewish, n.i.e.	

Source: Statistics Canada (2021b)

https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3VD.pl?Function=getVDStruct&TVD=1311612&CVD=1311613&CPV=4&CST=01 042021&CLV=1&MLV=4





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Table A-5 – Statistics Canada classification – Muslim

Code	Category Description	Sub-category Description	Sub-subcategory Description
5	Muslim	•	·
501		Muslim, n.o.s.	
502		Ahmadi Muslim	
503		Ibadi Muslim	
504		Shi'a Muslim	
50401			Shi'a Muslim, n.o.s.
50402			Twelver/Itha' Ash'ari Muslim
50403			Ismaili Muslim
50404			Shi'a Muslim, n.i.e.
505		Sunni Muslim	
506		Muslim, n.i.e.	

Source: Statistics Canada (2021b)

https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3VD.pl?Function=getVDStruct&TVD=1311612&CVD=1311613&CPV=5&CST=01042021&CLV=1&MLV=4

Table A-6 – Statistics Canada classification – Sikh

Code	Category Description	Sub-category Description	Sub-subcategory Description
6	Muslim		<b>,</b>
601		Sikh, n.o.s.	
602		Ravidassia	
603		Sikh, n.i.e.	

Source: Statistics Canada (2021b)

https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3VD.pl?Function=getVDStruct&TVD=1311612&CVD=1311613&CPV=6&CST=01042021&CLV=1&MLV=4

Table A-7 – Statistics Canada classification – Traditional (North American Indigenous) spirituality

Code	Category Description	Sub-category Description	Sub-subcategory Description
7	Traditional (North American Indigenous) spirituality		
701	- 1	Traditional (North American Indigenous) spirituality, n.o.s.	
702		Indian Shaker Church	
703		Longhouse	
704		Midewiwin	
705		Native American Church	
706		Traditional (North American Indigenous) spirituality, n.i.e.	

Source: Statistics Canada (2021b)

https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3VD.pl?Function=getVD&TVD=1311612&CVD=1311613&CPV=7&CST=0104202 1&CLV=1&MLV=4





in collaboration with



Table A-8 – Statistics Canada classification – Other religions and spiritual traditions

Code	Category	Sub-category	Sub-subcategory
	Description	Description	Description
8	Other religions		
	and spiritual traditions		
801	uuuuuu	Animist	
802		Baha'i	
803		Caodaist	
804		Chinese religions and spiritual traditions	
80401		,	Ancestor veneration
80402			Confucian
80403			Taoist
80404			Chinese religions and spiritual traditions, n.i.e
805		Druze	
806		ECKist	
807		Gnostic	
808		Jain	
809		Japanese religions and spiritual traditions	
80901			Shinto
80902			Japanese religions and spiritual traditions, n.i.e.
810		Multi-faith, n.o.s.	
811		New Age	
812		New Thought-Unity-Religious Science	
813		Pagan beliefs and spiritual traditions	
81301			Pagan, n.o.s.
81302			Druidic
81303			Neopagan
81304			Wiccan
81305			Pagan beliefs and spiritual traditions, n.i.e.
814		Pantheist, n.o.s.	
815		Personal faith or spiritual beliefs, n.o.s.	
816		Raelian	
817		Rastafarian	
818		Satanist	
819		Scientologist	
820		Shamanist	
821 822		Spiritualist	
		Theist, n.o.s.	
823		Unitarian/Unitarian Universalist	
824		Zoroastrian	
825		Other religions or spiritual traditions, n.i.e.	

Source: Statistics Canada (2021b)

https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3VD.pl?Function=getVDStruct&TVD=1311612&CVD=1311613&CPV=8&CST=01042021&CLV=1&MLV=4

Table A-9 – Statistics Canada classification – No religion and secular perspectives

Code	Category Description	Sub-category Description	Sub-subcategory Description
9	No religion and secular perspectives		
901		No religion	
902		Secular perspectives	
90201			Secular perspectives, n.o.s.
90202			90202 - Agnostic
90203			90203 - Atheist
90204			90204 - Humanist
90205			90205 - Secular perspectives, n.i.e.

Source: Statistics Canada (2021b)

https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3VD.pl?Function=getVDStruct&TVD=1311612&CVD=1311613&CPV=9&CST=01042021&CLV=1&MLV=4

