


RELIGIOUS INCLUSION


in Wood Buffalo


375 Respondents


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. A needs assessment was conducted to help understand current issues that individuals face with regards to faith, knowledge and awareness of other faith groups, and thoughts and experiences relating to religion and spirituality. The results will help CRI support religious diversity and inclusion in our region.

76%


 Average score on Religious Trivia Quiz


20% indicated they are not knowledgeable about other religions outside of their own 

 Reported that Religion or Spirituality was very important to them
62%

84% Felt that one or more religions experience discrimination in Canada 


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 and 49%  felt it is somewhat inclusive

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

6%

 Report being targeted in a hate crime because of their beliefs, of those reporting being targeted in a hate crime only 40% reported the hate crime to the police

71%

 Faith played a role in their experience of the wildfire response and recovery

39%

 Reported that their faith identity has become more important since the fire



51%
CHRISTIAN



18%
MUSLIM



17%
NO RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION



5%
TRADITIONAL ABORIGINAL SPIRITUALITY



3%
SIKH



3%
OTHER



1%
HINDU



1%
JEWISH



1%
BUDDHIST



Fort McMurray First United Church



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

Reduce Barriers by:

- Provide multi-faith prayer spaces at public and private institutions such as the airport, college, businesses, healthcare facilities, group homes, recreation facilities, Municipal buildings and etc.
- Provide religious inclusion and accommodation in the workplace
- Offer space for smaller religious and spiritual groups to allow these groups a location to practice their faith

Build Safer Community by developing hate crime prevention and awareness strategies:

- Build positive relationships and collaborative programming between law enforcement, vulnerable groups, faith-based organizations, educational institutions, political and community leaders
- Provide workshops on hate crime prevention, rights, and responsibilities
- Increase knowledge and awareness of hate crimes and reporting hate crimes

Promote Religious Inclusion by:

- 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

Role of Faith after Wild Fire

- Ensure faith organizations have support and collaboration from recovery organizations
- Make certain recovery initiatives include an attention to spiritual needs of residents

