

News from Info-Cult

No 20, December 2011

30 Years and Counting

Quebec is recognized as fertile ground for the emergence of spiritual, religious, new age and other groups. Although most of these groups have not been a cause for concern, there are groups that exploit and harm individuals, families and have an impact on the community.

Not that long ago the murder of cult leader Roch Thériault was front page news. For a majority of the population, Thériault and the group he controlled represents the public's worst fears about cults and reinforces a persisting image that "cults" are groups led by manipulators who sexually, physically and financially abuse their members, who are seen as "weak". Sadly, this representation of "cults" leads many people to believe it could never happen to them or to a loved one. Furthermore, this attitude tends to stigmatize and isolate those who do get involved and who, in certain cases, suffer extreme hardships as a result of their involvement. The reality is that it can happen to anyone.

When the media does not focus on this issue, there is an assumption that the impact of "cults" is on the wane. However, those who seek information or have been harmed by their involvement in a cultic group contact Info-Cult on a daily basis.

We consider each caller's situation to be unique, and so responding to each request can take a significant amount of time. We consider the time well spent and we have had those sentiments confirmed by those who have benefited from our services since 1980.

In addition to the direct assistance we provide, our documentation center houses one of North America's largest collections of information on cultic phenomena.



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Who Is Info-Cult

Founded in 1980, Info-Cult is a non-profit charitable organization that helps people concerned about cults, new religious movements and related phenomena.

Our services include :
an information and assistance
phone line, consultation, research,
conferences, documentation centre
and a web site.

As well, our website (www.infocult.org) offers a vast collection of information and details the many other important activities and services we offer.

Info-Cult is recognized locally, regionally and internationally as a unique public service.

Education



Montreal 2012 International Conference

The upcoming annual International Cultic Studies Association (ICSA) conference that is being organized jointly with Info-Cult will be held in Montreal for the first time.

ICSA conferences bring together an enriching mix of academics, students, mental health professionals, former members and families. Besides scholarly papers, student research posters, and workshops for former members, there will be sessions for anyone having an interest in “cults”, “new religious movements” and related phenomena.

One of the goals of ICSA conferences is to encourage students to present and/or to participate. Students could submit a proposal and still have until December 31 to submit their work in a poster format, [here](#).

Information on conference registration, accommodations and more is now available and can be found at: [http://infosect.freeshell.org/infocult/flyer Montreal Tourist etc English.pdf](http://infosect.freeshell.org/infocult/flyer_Montreal_Tourist_etc_English.pdf)

Library and Documentation Centre

Info-Cult’s library regularly receives new acquisitions. The September 2011 list can be found [here](#): Past acquisitions can also be easily accessed and documents acquired over the last 12 years are listed [here](#).

Other pages on our site are regularly updated as new information is received, including the pages entitled *Government Reports, Legal Decisions, etc* and *TV, radio programs, conferences and other events*.

Bookmark our site: www.infocult.org and keep up to date.

Info-Cult E-mail Information Lists (English and French)

Info-Cult’s **free** email service offers to those who subscribe: articles on cults, new religious movements and related subjects, announcements of upcoming conferences, television programs and updates about Info-Cult.

If you are interested in subscribing to **either or both language lists**, email us at: infosect@qc.aibn.com

NOTE: The information sent on the English and French lists are generally different. The inclusion of information on a group in our mailings is provided solely as a source of information and does not denote that Info-Cult considers the group to be a cult or harmful.

Info-Cult is a registered charitable organization and relies on financial support from various sources to fund our day-to-day activities. Info-Cult is recognized for its role in responding to a very real need in our society. Donations to Info-Cult are greatly appreciated.

You can donate by mail to
Info-Cult at 5655 Park Ave., Suite 208, Montreal,
QC, Canada H2V 4H2.

Or online at:

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Go to www.infocult.org and click
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