

## News from Info-Cult

No 18, March 2011

### Is now the time?

British Columbia's Supreme Court reference case on polygamy will soon be concluding and the final arguments are scheduled to begin March 28. Not only will this be an historic case but the public will be able to see the final arguments via TV and the web.

Polygamy, and specifically "Fundamentalist Mormon" polygamy, has been in the media spotlight for the past few years. Besides TV programs that have popularized, and no doubt profited from this issue, two major legal cases have kept this story front and center in the public's attention. The first was the raid of the FLDS (Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints) ranch in Texas in 2008 where 439 children were pulled out by state authorities and the second is the case which is concluding in western Canada.

In our **News from Info-Cult bulletin #11, June 2008**, we wrote about the raid of the FLDS ranch in Texas and the millions of dollars it would cost for the foster care of the children moved from their community and for the ensuing legal fees.

Whether that intervention was justified or not, the question we raised is whether those who have been harmed in cult-like settings will ever receive compensation, help and the support they needed to reintegrate into society.

Whatever decision is taken in the British Columbia case (and with possible appeals, it could be years before such a decision is final), we raise the same question. Will those who have been harmed by such life experiences get the services and the support they need to lead a fruitful life? Will there be funding for specialized professional mental health services for those who have spent their formative years in closed communities and lack the basic living skills to fit into society?

For over 30 years, Info-Cult has been assisting former members of "cults", "new religious movements" and related groups, as well as their families. Info-Cult has also been speaking out about the needs of such victims and about the harm that some groups may cause.



#### *Who Is Info-Cult*

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

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

#### **In this issue**

Is now the Time?  
Education  
Info-Cult E-Mail Lists

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[www.infosecte.org](http://www.infosecte.org)

#### **Info-Cult Web Site**

#### **Polygamy—British Columbia Supreme Court Reference Case**

A new page has been added which has a number of documents on British Columbia's Supreme Court reference case on polygamy. You will find decisions made prior to the start of the case as well as a number of affidavits and statements submitted to the court.

A former member who spent his childhood in a Quebec-based closed religious “cult”, cut off from society, stated after leaving the group that he felt like “an immigrant” in his own country. For those who have grown up in such groups, such as FLDS in Bountiful, leaving them once they are teens, or even adults, will they, NOW, in their turn, be made to feel like “immigrants” in their own country? Or will they be welcomed and offered the services they desperately need in order to play an active and productive role in their own country?



## Education

### Public Conference

Mike Kropveld, Info-Cult’s Executive Director will be presenting a public lecture (in French) at the Mile End library, 5434 Park Ave, Tuesday April 5, 2011 at 7:00 PM. The title of his presentation is **Les sectes démythifiées**.

### Association québécoise Plaidoyer-Victime

This association with whom we collaborate will be launching the English version of their manual **Introduction to Intervention with Crime Victims**. Web site: [www.aqpv.com](http://www.aqpv.com)

### 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 [infosecte@qc.aibn.com](mailto:infosecte@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.

### July 7 – 9, 2011 ~ Barcelona, Spain, International Cultic Studies Association (ICSA) Annual International Conference

This conference is organized jointly with *Atención e Investigación de Socioadicciones* (AIS) of Barcelona in collaboration with Info-Cult/Info-Secte and the **University of Barcelona**. Sessions will be held in English and Spanish. Conference.

Info on the web site:

[www.icsahome.com](http://www.icsahome.com)

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.

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Info-Cult at 5655 Park Ave., Suite 208, Montreal,  
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