

No. 44, December 2018

## News from Info-Cult Info-Cult 2018

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This article focuses on some of the many activities carried out by Info-Cult during the past year.

### INQUIRIES \*

Most of our time is spent responding to inquiries from individuals, families, schools, professionals, group members and former members. As snail mail is a thing of the past, all inquiries were by phone, email or FACEBOOK. We consider every situation unique and, helping people as best we can takes up a considerable amount of our time.

Between January and September 2018, we received requests about more than 105 different groups and subjects. The majority of requests were of a general nature, with specific inquiries about the Jehovah's Witnesses, Landmark Education, Église Parole qui Libère (PQL), Order of the Solar Temple, Falun Gong and Scientology. The rest of the requests covered different groups and subjects ranging from religious to human potential to Satanism and voodoo.

### SUPPORT GROUP FOR FORMER MEMBERS

We are fortunate to have found two professionals who are volunteering their time to facilitate this support group which began in February in response to a need expressed by former members. At present, the group functions only in French. We hope to be able to offer a similar service in English in the near future.

### MEDIA

Among the numerous serious concerns about extreme and cultic groups is the abuse of its members. This has been a common theme which was highlighted this year by a number of documentaries and stories that attracted widespread attention and concern. Dealing with the media and the public on these issues is one of our many responsibilities and we were asked to comment on some of these stories.

More notably on the international scene, there was a documentary on **Rajneesh (OSHO)**, a controversial Indian guru who notably built a community of thousands in the United States during the 1980s before a series of crimes by his followers led to its demise of the group in Oregon; numerous reports and programs on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the **People's Temple** mass murder-suicides that occurred in Guyana; **NXIVM**, an international organization offering personal development seminars, whose leader and members were accused of sex abuse and women-branding, and the **Jehovah's Witnesses (JW)** on their policy of disfellowshipping of members and allegations of child sexual abuse.

Regionally, the death of a pregnant **JW** woman who refused a blood transfusion continued to raise considerable controversy; **Lev Tahor**, who fled Quebec in 2014 after accusations of child abuse, continued to make headlines this year as well as accusations of sexual abuse concerning **Pastor Paul Mukendi** and physical abuse against **Pastor Claude Guillot**.

Below you will find selected articles and interviews with Carole Tremblay, Info-Cult President, Marie-Andrée Pelland, member of the board and Mike Kropveld, Executive Director of Info-Cult.

\***Note:** The inclusion of a group does not necessarily mean that it is a cult. It is provided here for information purposes only.

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## Info-Cult 2018

- Mike Kropveld was cited in an exposé of a Pastor of a local church. The articles can be found here: <http://www.journaldemontreal.com/2018/01/29/ruines-par-un-gourou-qui-promet-des-miracles-1>
- April 16, 2018 - CKOI taped an interview with Mike Kropveld following an article that came out in La Presse newspaper on OSHO and the doc series on Netflix.
- May 16, 2018 - Info-Secte was mentioned in a Journal de Montreal article about the Provincial Youth Protection Department and a new guide on how to intervene in cultic situations.
- June 26, 2018 - *Winston Blackmore, coupable de polygamie, assigné à résidence à Bountiful pour six mois* - ICI.Radio-Canada.ca. Marie-Andrée Pelland explained that the members in Bountiful would see in his sentence a chance to experience their faith through suffering. <https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1109303/polygames-bountiful-peine-blackmore-oler>
- September 14, 2018 - Carole Tremblay was interviewed on the TV stations TVA Salut Bonjour and LCN following the airing of the JE program on the Esseniens, in which Mike Kropveld was interviewed (TVA, JE September 13, 2018)
- Mike Kropveld radio interview, 104.7 Gatineau – After NXIVM article in the media that mentioned the involvement of the Bronfman sisters in that group.
- Info-Secte was mentioned in the press release issued by the PQ about the petition started by Parti Québécois (PQ) deputy Agnes Maltais as well as in an interview Mme Maltais gave on TVA with Mario Dumont.
- 6 octobre 2018 - *Les sectes: Responsabilité partagée entre leader et disciples*, GENEVIÈVE GÉLINAS. Le Soleil. Marie-Andrée Pelland was cited in this article : <https://www.lesoleil.com/actualite/justice-et-faits-divers/les-sectes-responsabilite-partagee-entre-leader-et-disciples-f7cc323093fc30c25d55795bd570adbb>
- October 21, 2018 - Info-Cult was recommended as a resource in a column by Louise Deschâtelets, *Mon enfance gâchée par une secte*, Journal de Montréal. <https://www.journaldemontreal.com/2018/10/21/mon-enfance-gachee-par-une-secte>
- October 30, 2018 - Mike Kropveld was interviewed for the article, *(Cult)ivating Understanding: What cults can teach us about the need for belonging*, McGill Tribune, Keating Reid, Opinion Editor. <http://www.mcgilltribune.com/cultivating-understanding/>

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

The International Cultic Studies Association (ICSA) organizes their annual International Conferences **jointly with Info-Cult**. These conferences offer practical assistance, research findings, and information on cults, new religious movements and other groups from the leading professional organizations in the field. The conference, which took place in Philadelphia this past July, was one of the most successful to date.

The **2019 ICSA conference** will be held at the University of Salford in Greater Manchester, England. Information about the program, registration and much more, will be available soon at:

<http://infosecte.org/CongInt.html>



Greater Manchester, UK

## Library Collection

Info-Cult's library has acquired a vast quantity of materials on "cults", "new religious movements" and related groups and subjects: <http://infosecte.org/ic-pub.html>.

The documentation centre is the largest of its kind in North America and houses, thousands of files, more than 1,200 programs on audio/video cassettes, journals, newsletters, government and legal documents, academic reports, journals and thousands of books principally in English and French with a smaller collection of documents in Spanish, Italian, Japanese, and German. The collection spans critical and group generated information and other materials which are obtained from sources around the world.

## Governmental Reports

This page <http://infosecte.org/ic-gov.html> provides a range of government studies and reports, legal decisions and other documents from **21** countries and the Council of Europe.

## New Acquisitions - December 2018

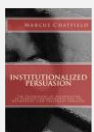


### BOOKS

Beaman, Lori G.  
[Religion & Canadian Society](#)  
Canadian Scholar's Press Inc.  
C2006, 2012, Toronto



Bourque, Judith  
[Robes of Silk, Feet of Clay: The true story of a love affair with Maharishi Mahesh Yogi](#)  
Printing Partners Group  
C2015, Estonia



Chatfield, Marcus  
[Institutionalized Persuasion: The Technology of Reformation in Straight Incorporated and the Residential Teen Treatment Industry](#)  
C2018, Marcus Chatfield, Columbia, SC



Introvigne, Massimo  
[The Plymouth Brethren](#)  
Oxford University Press  
C2018, New York



Rose, Sarah Elizabeth  
[Ordinarily Sarah](#)  
Inkswift  
C2016, Greenville

### THÈSES EN LIGNE / ONLINE THESIS

Swindle, Paula J.  
[A Twisting of the Sacred: The Lived Experience of Religious Abuse](#)  
A Dissertation Submitted to the Faculty of The Graduate School at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, c2017, Greensboro

### THÈSES / THESIS

Jenkinson, Gillian  
[Freeing the Authentic Self: Phases of Recovery and Growth from an Abusive Cult Experience](#)  
Thesis submitted to the University of Nottingham for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy  
C2016, Nottingham

## Info-Cult on Facebook



Find us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/InfoCult.InfoSecte>



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

Info-Cult's **free email service** offers subscribers: articles on cults, new religious movements and related subjects, announcements of upcoming conferences, television programs and updates about Info-Cult. For more information about this service:

[http://infosecte.org/Options\\_EN.html](http://infosecte.org/Options_EN.html)



Info-Cult's videos can be accessed on our YouTube page:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/infosecte>

Info-Cult is a registered charitable organization and is recognized for its role in responding to a real need in our society. Info-Cult is able to carry out its activities thanks in large part to the support of people like you who believe we provide a vital community service. Please consider donating to Info-Cult today.

Online at:



<https://www.canadahelps.org/services/wa/dnm/en/#/page/16231>

Or by:



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Or by mail to  
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**Donations to Info-Cult are tax deductible and are greatly appreciated.**