

Annual Report

2024/2025



Centre for Assistance and for the Study of Cultic Phenomena

Since 1980

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Message *from the* President *and the* Executive Director



On behalf of the entire Info-Cult team, it is with a deep sense of pride that we present to you our **2024-2025 Annual Report**.

This past year was marked by significant and transformative progress. We focused our efforts on consolidating a strategic plan initiated in 2021, in order to sustain our mission and optimize our impact.

Following an in-depth review conducted in 2023-2024, the implementation of a communications plan significantly increased our visibility. Indeed, a reinforced presence, both in traditional and digital media—led to a notable increase in demand for our services.

This renewed public recognition was also reflected through active participation in our various activities. Several presentations, workshops, and training sessions were given to key stakeholders, students, and target audiences. Our three

support groups, which are still popular, saw an increase in requests for participation, while sessions continued to be held regularly.

We are also very proud of the ongoing modernization of our documentation center, which is a unique resource in Canada and a key pillar of our service offerings. Welcoming four interns to our organization has also helped to energize our daily operations while strengthening our role in training the next generation.

We are now enthusiastically looking ahead to 2025-2026, during which we will implement an action plan aimed at ensuring the continuity of our regular activities while integrating major initiatives.

We will mark our **45th anniversary** with commemorative activities, reflecting our roots in the community. Another major project involves structural updates to our policies and general regulations. We also plan to develop new tools to promote our services. Finally, we hope to be able to diversify our funding sources to better support our users and upload our document centre catalog to a new search portal. This will culminate years of work and provide direct access to a wealth of useful information for many people around the world.

Before inviting you to discover more about the actions taken in the following pages, we would like to express our deep gratitude to all those who make our mission possible: our dedicated staff, our committed volunteers, the interns who have enriched our daily lives, our Board of Directors for their enlightened governance, our valued partners and collaborators, and the public, who for **45 years** have continued to recognize the relevance and importance of Info-Cult.

Thank you for being part of this wonderful collective journey.

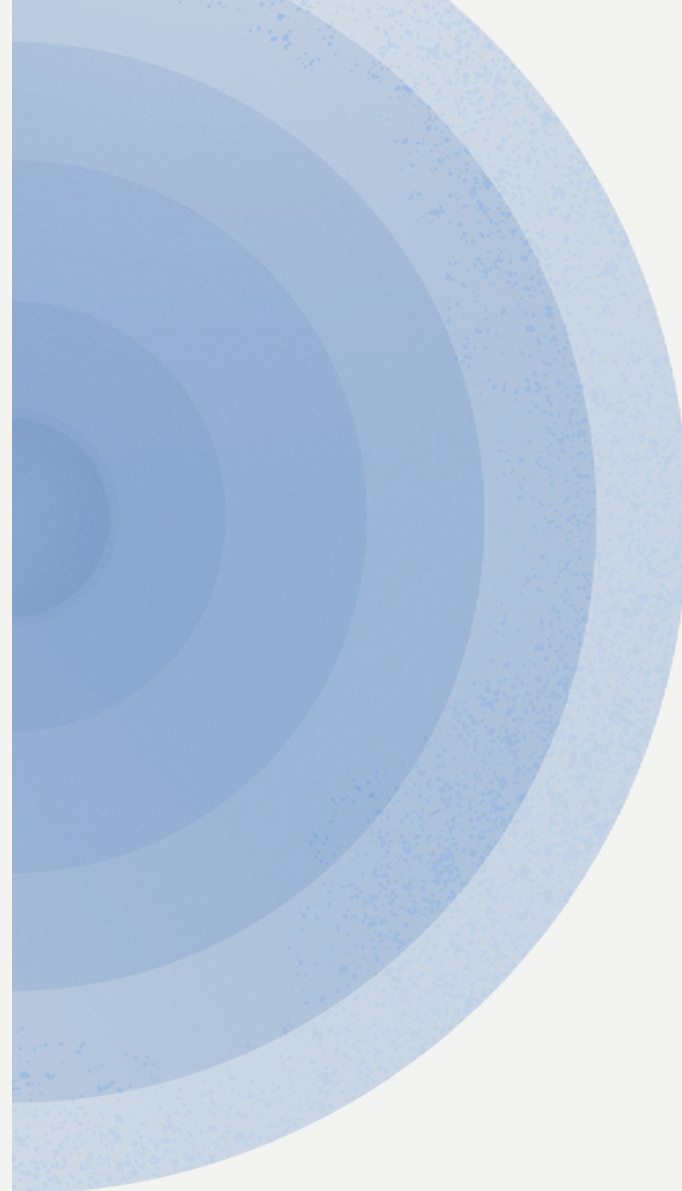
In solidarity,



Marie-Andrée Pelland



Mike Kropveld



Year in Numbers

Support or information services

815 requests processed (+ 5,7%)

Support groups

- **28** meetings
- **193** participants
- **68** new registration requests

Conferences and events

Over **700** attendees

Information mailing service

- **1,065** articles relayed (680 English / 385 French)
- **895** subscribers (+7.8%)

Three workshops

43 participants

Online awareness-raising

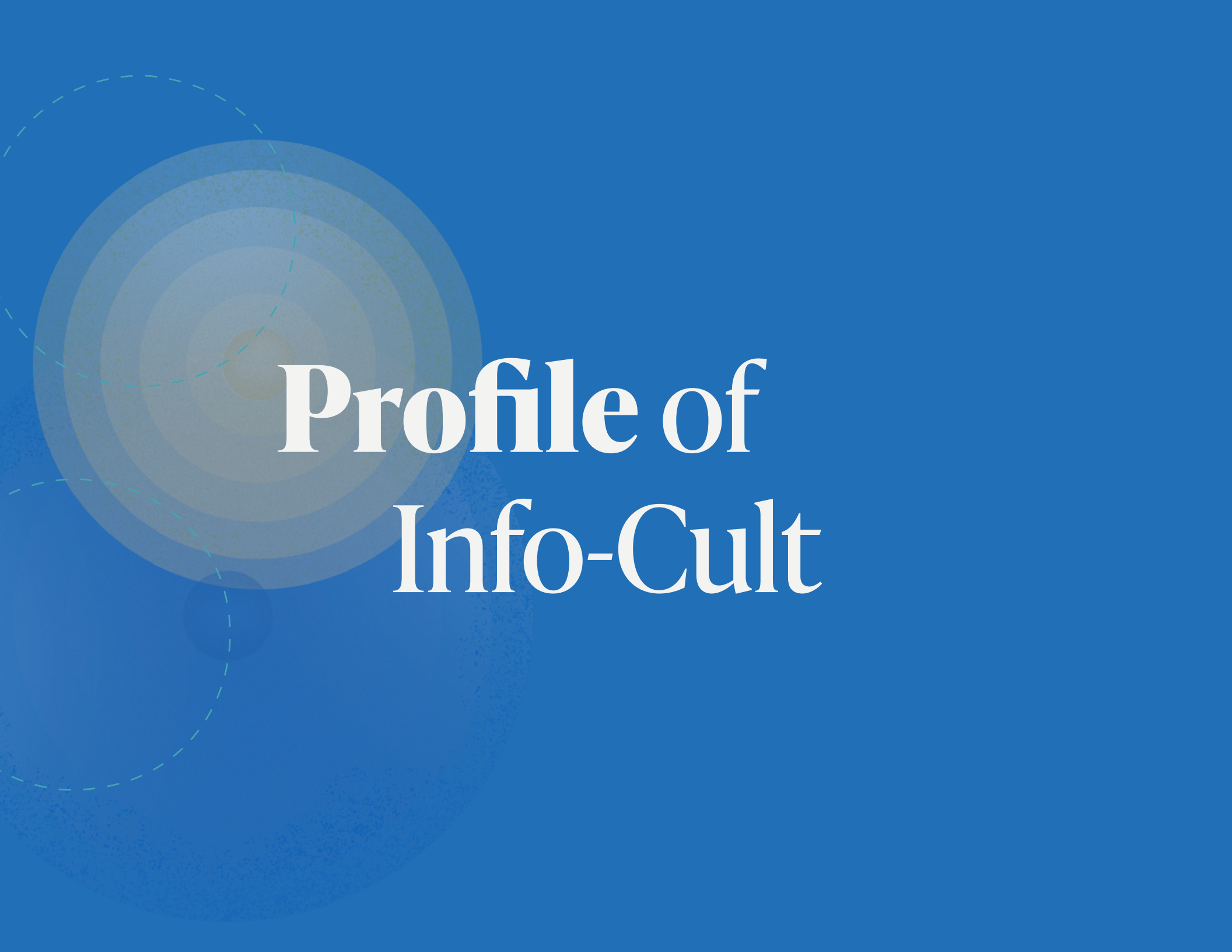
- **18,876** website visitors
- Promotion of **171** events (+19%)
- **441** social media posts
- **2,420** subscribers

Trainings

To **105** people

Media

15 appearances or interventions

The background is a solid blue color. On the left side, there are several concentric circles. The innermost circle is a light blue with a textured, grainy appearance. Surrounding it are several more circles, some of which are dashed lines in a slightly darker blue. The circles are centered on the left side of the image, and the text is positioned to their right.

Profile of Info-Cult

Profile

Founded in Montreal (Quebec, Canada) in 1980, *Info-Cult: Centre for Assistance and for the Study of Cultic Phenomena*, is the only organization of its kind in Quebec and in Canada. Its field of expertise is related to groups (“cults”, “new religious movements”, etc.), belief systems and ideologies.

Also distinguished by its **bilingualism**, Info-Cult offers different support and information services in response to the various individual requests and to the needs of the community related to groups and cultic phenomena.

With its specialized documentation centre (one of the largest in this field), its numerous collaborations with local and international experts, in addition to its education and awareness activities, Info-Cult represents a unique source of information worldwide.

Mission

Info-Cult aims to promote the dignity and integrity of the individual, respect for individual and collective rights, freedom of thought and expression as well as the right to access information.

Info-Cult’s mandate is to:

- promote the study of cultic phenomena;
- assist individuals with difficulties related to these phenomena.
- sensitize, inform and educate the public about these phenomena;

Perspective

Info-Cult focuses on the understanding of the processes of *engagement in* and *exiting from* various groups. It also pays particular attention to the terminology and values a nuanced analysis that considers the structures as well as the internal and external dynamics of groups.

This approach allows it to better:

- understand the individuality of experiences;
- equip individuals to face their own challenges;
- identify and understand settings that may involve risks of harm;
- support individuals in the understanding of their experiences.

Structure

Board of Directors

President

Marie-Andrée Pelland
Full Professor, Sociology
Department, University of
Moncton

Secretary

Michael Crelinsten
Executive Director,
Jewish Public Library

Treasurer

Marie-Hélène Frappier
Professor of Philosophy,
Ahuntsic College

Directors

Céline Castillo
Psychotherapist

Mike Kropveld
Executive Director
and Founder

Adriana Pacheco
Researcher

Louis Raphael
Lawyer and
computer technician

Carolle Tremblay
Family Law Attorney

**Sarah-Michèle
Vincent-Wright**
Doctoral student in Law

Staff

PERMANENT

Founder and Executive Director

Mike Kropveld (full-time since 1980)

He has been recognized for his work in this field by:

- the Government of Canada who awarded him the 125th Commemorative Medal “in recognition of his significant contribution to compatriots, community and to Canada” (1992);
- the *International Cultic Studies Association* (ICSA) who presented him with the Herbert L. Rosedale Award “in recognition of his leadership in the effort to preserve and protect individual freedom” (2007).

Assistant to the Executive Director

Antoine Tardif (full-time)

Intervention Support worker

Sam Down (full-time)

CONTRACTUAL

Paul Dawson
Web Services

Manon Exballin
Communications Manager

Alexandre Gauthier
Librarian

Gabriella Scali
Graphic Designer

Gilles Waltrer Peemby
Information management

Internships

Throughout the year, Info-Cult had the pleasure of welcoming interns from different educational institutions. Their contribution was invaluable in carrying out its daily activities as well as in the progress of certain projects, for example:

- updating its website;
- developing an inventory of administrative documents;
- developing a classification plan and a retention schedule for these administrative documents.

NAME OF INTERN	EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION	PROGRAM OF STUDY	DEPARTMENT OR ASSIGNED SERVICE	PERIOD OF INTERNSHIP
Michaël Sansfaçon-Vogel	Collège Lionel-Groulx	Information and Library Technologies program	Documentation Center	August to October 2024
Gilles Walter Peemby	Université du Québec à Montréal	Information and Archives Management	Administrative Documents	May to July 2024
Paul Dawson	Collège de Maisonneuve	Website design and programming	Communications	August to November 2024
Jaime Sierra	Université de Montréal – Institut d'études religieuses	Specialized postgraduate diploma in spirituality and health	Support Services	January to March 2025

In addition, in March 2025, two employees were invited by the managers of the Information and Library Technologies program at Lionel-Groulx College to give a brief presentation on the organization. This presentation was offered in preparation for the upcoming integration of a group of 18 students who will begin work on four separate projects related to current issues regarding the documentation centre.

These efforts and collaborations contribute to strengthening the ties between the organization and the educational community.

Info-Cult would like to thank everyone involved in these many projects last year as well as this year !

¹N.B.: All the interns whose names appear in this report have given their written consent.

Community Involvement

Members

The organization relies on the support of **34 members.**

The list of Info-Cult members brings together people with a shared interest or a sensitivity towards group dynamics or the issues of cultic phenomena.

It includes former members of groups, relatives of active members or former members of groups, academics, lawyers and mental health professionals.

Volunteers

The reputation and active presence of Info-Cult depend on the involvement of its **85 volunteers.** Thanks to this essential support, the organization is able to pursue its mission and objectives.

64 volunteers live in Quebec, in **8** administrative regions.

The list of volunteers is predominantly made up of people from the community setting and includes:

- professionals from various fields (education, mental health, law, sociology, criminology, library and information science, arts, business, IT, real estate, etc.);
- researchers or students;
- individuals with one or more relatives involved in a high-demand or high-control group;
- former members of groups who offer peer support to other former members of groups or their loved ones by sharing their experiences;
- individuals interested in cultic phenomena.

64

volunteers in the
province of Quebec



14

are based
in Canada

8 in Ontario

3 in British
Columbia

2 in New Brunswick

1 in the Yukon

5

in the United States

(Arizona, California, Florida,
New Jersey, New York)

2

in Europe
(England, France)

Because of its small staff, Info-Cult depends on the diversity of expertise and contributions from its volunteers, including:

- support for former members and families;
- facilitating support groups;
- development and drafting of policies;
- publicity for the organization;
- public awareness (participating in webinars, conferences, etc.);
- media presence;
- fundraising campaigns or soliciting donations;
- research and grant requests;
- technical or IT resources;
- assistance with the organization of events, symposiums or conferences;
- review and evaluation of submissions for the Dianne Casoni Award;
- sorting and cataloguing new acquisitions at our documentation centre;
- drafting or revising various documents;
- translation;
- video editing;
- graphic design;
- subtitling videos;
- updating our website;
- updating our social networks;
- sending articles for our mailing lists;
- legal advice;
- research;
- loans or donations of miscellaneous equipment;
- loans of workspaces or premises for meetings;
- contributions for renting space or for catering services during meetings;
- food preparation;
- transportation;
- general office work.



Administration



Administration

The operations of Info-Cult are carried out by the executive director. Policies and orientations of the organization are determined by the Board of Directors, which is made up of professionals working in a variety of fields and community settings: education, research, mental health, legal, IT, business.

During the last fiscal year, the Board met **six** times via videoconference.

June
19
2024

Annual General Meeting

8 members attending via videoconference

April
6
2024

Presentation of the 2023-2024 annual report and the planning for 2024-2025

Offered in hybrid mode, this activity, which the organization hopes to repeat annually, brought together 12 people (11 in person and one online).



Financing

Grants

Info-Cult is funded by the Quebec Ministry of Health and Social Services (MSSS) via the **Programme de soutien financier aux organismes communautaires** (PSOC). This annual and recurring grant constitutes its primary source of funding.

During the previous fiscal year, Info-Cult benefited from the **Community Services Recovery Fund program** administered by the Red Cross. The final payment of this one-time grant was made in 2024-2025, as were the activities planned and initiated in the various projects receiving this funding.

The following funding requests were also submitted during the financial year:

- Financial assistance from the City of Montreal to NGO tenants (obtained)
- Laurentian Bank: *Corporate Giving Program* (not obtained)
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC): *Partnership Engage Grants* (under review)
- Ministry of Employment and Social Solidarity, Quebec: *Consultation for employment - Human Resources Management Support* (obtained)
- Ministry of Employment and Social Solidarity, Quebec: *Social and Community Initiatives Support Program* (not obtained)
- Canada Summer Jobs (under review)
- Department of Justice Canada: *Victims Fund - Victims and Survivors of Crime Week* (obtained)

Private donations

Registered as a charity (Revenue - Canada No. 125754242 RR0001), Info-Cult depends on self-financing as an essential component of its functioning. Donations are mainly collected through platforms such as *CanadaHelps* or *PayPal Giving Fund*.

Several fundraising campaigns are carried out by staff throughout the year to generate private donations:

- **Spring:** a few dozen letters are sent out to ministers, foundations, communities and private groups.
- **Early summer:** several hundred emails are sent to new users.
- **Fall:** several hundred emails are sent (during the Giving Tuesday campaign, for example) and dozens of solicitation letters are sent to past donors.
- **At the end of the fiscal year:** a few dozen fundraising emails are sent to recent users.

In addition, the members of the board of directors also take part in this fundraising effort, occasionally offering their professional expertise in exchange for donations to Info-Cult.

Thank you so much for getting back to me. I would love to be able to speak with you directly as this is very important to me (...). I see there are places I can make a donation to your organization and would love to do so simply because you took the time to get back to me. My email and questions were not exactly what we call to be normal questions so I thank you for not disregarding them.

Family member



All of these efforts resulted in a sum of **26,017 \$** from:

125

individual
donations

122

donors, including
four regular donors

Financial Report

Financial results for the year ending on March 31, 2025

The financial results of Info-Cult for the period from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025 show revenues of **\$252,511** as well as expenses of **\$316,983**. The shortfall in income over expenses thus corresponds to \$64,472, while the unrestricted net assets for the year amount to \$16,588.

REVENUES	
Total government funding	\$211,026
Programme de soutien financier aux organismes communautaires (PSOC)	\$160,501
Community Services Recovery Fund (Canadian Red Cross Society)	\$48,895
Discretionary Funds of Ministers	\$900
City of Montreal: Financial assistance to Non-profits	\$730
Donations	\$26,017
Interests	\$1,592
Service-related earnings	\$700
Other	\$13,178

EXPENSES	
Salaries and social costs	\$207,778
Professional fees and subcontracts	\$58,568
General operating expenses	\$21,006
Public relations	\$11,334
Maintenance and office supplies	\$11,207
Other	\$7,090



Support Services

Help, Support *and* Information

Approach and Perspective

Since 1980, Info-Cult has been an essential community resource to assist those who need help or information regarding groups or cultic phenomena.

The organization receives different kinds of requests:

- help, advice and general support;
- specific assistance;
- referrals from professional resources - public or private;
- information about various groups, beliefs or cultic phenomena.

Responding to these requests is the principal service offered by Info-Cult. It is also the one to which its staff devotes the majority of its time.

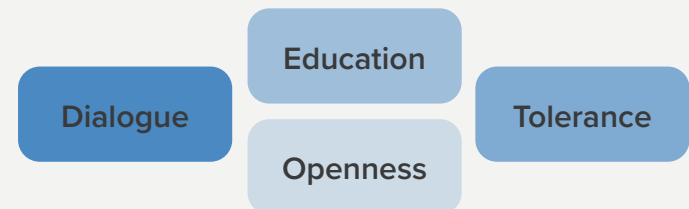
Thank you very much for your time the other day. I really appreciate the time you took to speak with me... Kind regards.

Family member

Info-Cult's approach is based on 45 years of experience in the field and discussions with numerous stakeholders.

Its analysis of individual experiences emphasizes a holistic approach that considers available factual information.

Its core values are:



Its response to various requests for help or information always takes these values into account and adopts a nuanced perspective on cultic groups and phenomena.

Its staff offers advice that is focused on improving relationships, whether with families, friends, professionals or community groups.

Accessibility



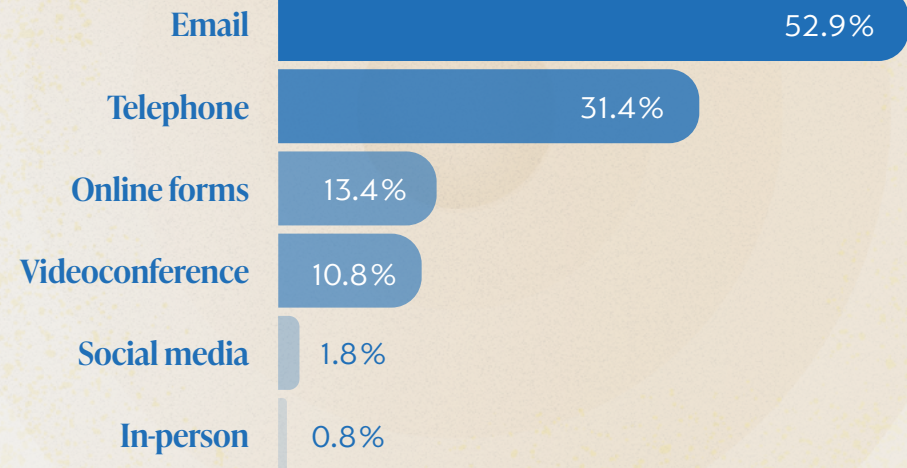
Office hours are usually open from **9 am to 5 pm**, Monday to Friday.

If necessary, staff can also receive and answer calls outside of regular hours.

I appreciate all that Info-Cult does and I'm thankful for your assistance more than a decade ago. It was a catalyst for a loved one to exit a sect. I say thank you every day.

Family member

COMMUNICATION METHODS

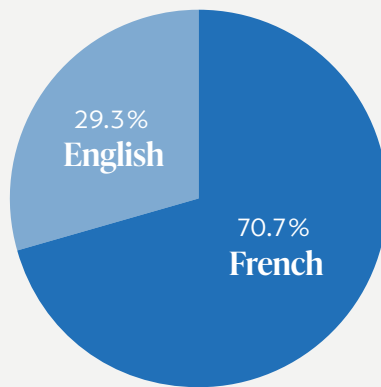


Statistics — ORIGIN OF REQUESTS

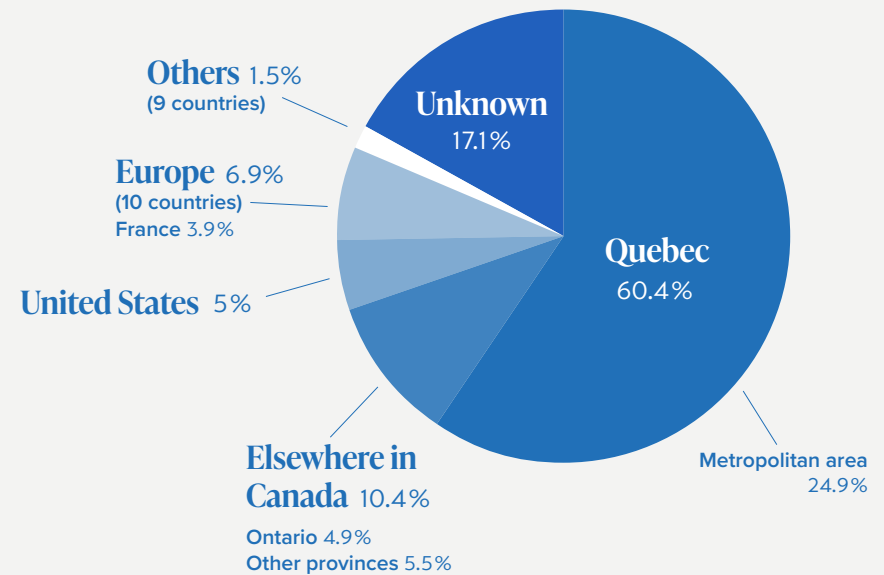
During 2024-2025, the organization responded to **815** requests, which is an increase of **5.7 %** compared to the previous year.

N.B. The percentages presented have been rounded off.

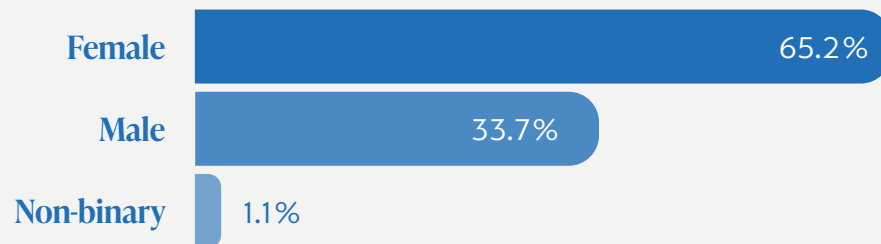
LANGUAGE OF FIRST CONTACT



TERRITORIAL REACH

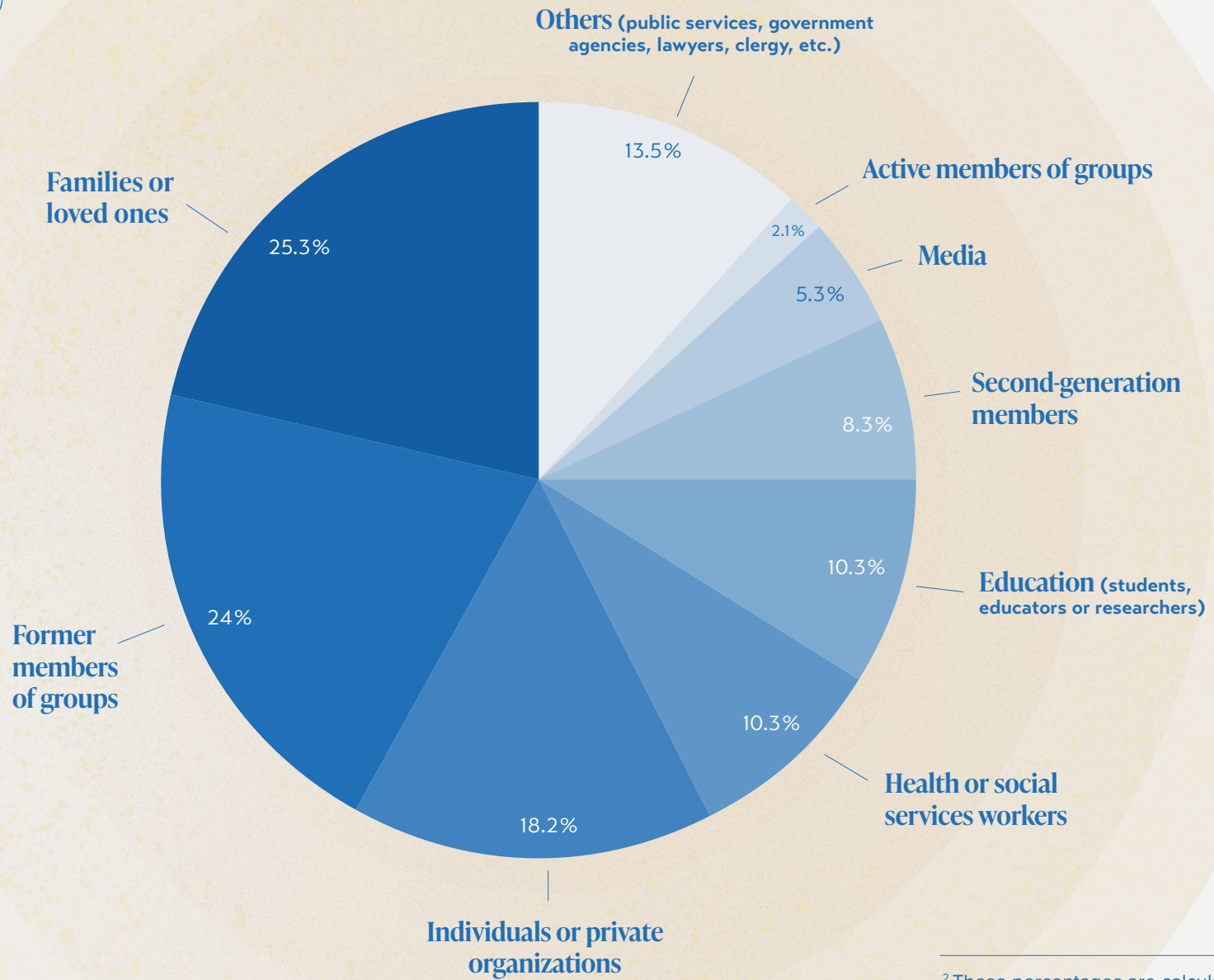


GENDER¹



¹ If this is known.

PROFILES²



² These percentages are calculated on all requests received (815).

These different categories of requests have *specific* needs.

Therefore, each request is treated individually and aims for a *specific* response.

For example, requests from **families or loved ones** may come from parents, children, spouses, friends, colleagues, etc. These individuals may express concerns about a loved one's commitment or belonging to a group. Many are looking for different kinds of support: mental health, mediation, legal aid, etc.

As for **former members or active members** of different groups, they usually seek help to better cope with their individual experiences. Many hope to obtain advice, information or references for other resources: mental health, housing, education, legal aid, social services, etc. Some former members may encounter difficulties integrating into society after leaving a group, whether this is more or less voluntary. Others simply want the opportunity to express themselves when they are going through difficult times. In this regard, the support groups offered by Info-Cult enable its participants to break their isolation and benefit from mutual understanding.

Another category of individuals seeking help are **second-generation members** (or « hereditary»). This designation applies to people whose history or involvement (more or less active) with a group is tied to the membership of their parents (or guardians).

Thanks for the info, will use all these resources. Nice to chat with someone that has a better understanding of what someone like me has been through. Thanks again.

Former member

Statistics — CONTENT OF REQUESTS

During 2024-2025, Info-Cult staff continued to refine their methods of compiling data relating to the requests they receive.

Of the 815 requests received³, **35.46% (289)** were related to administrative aspects or directly involved Info-Cult services, including:

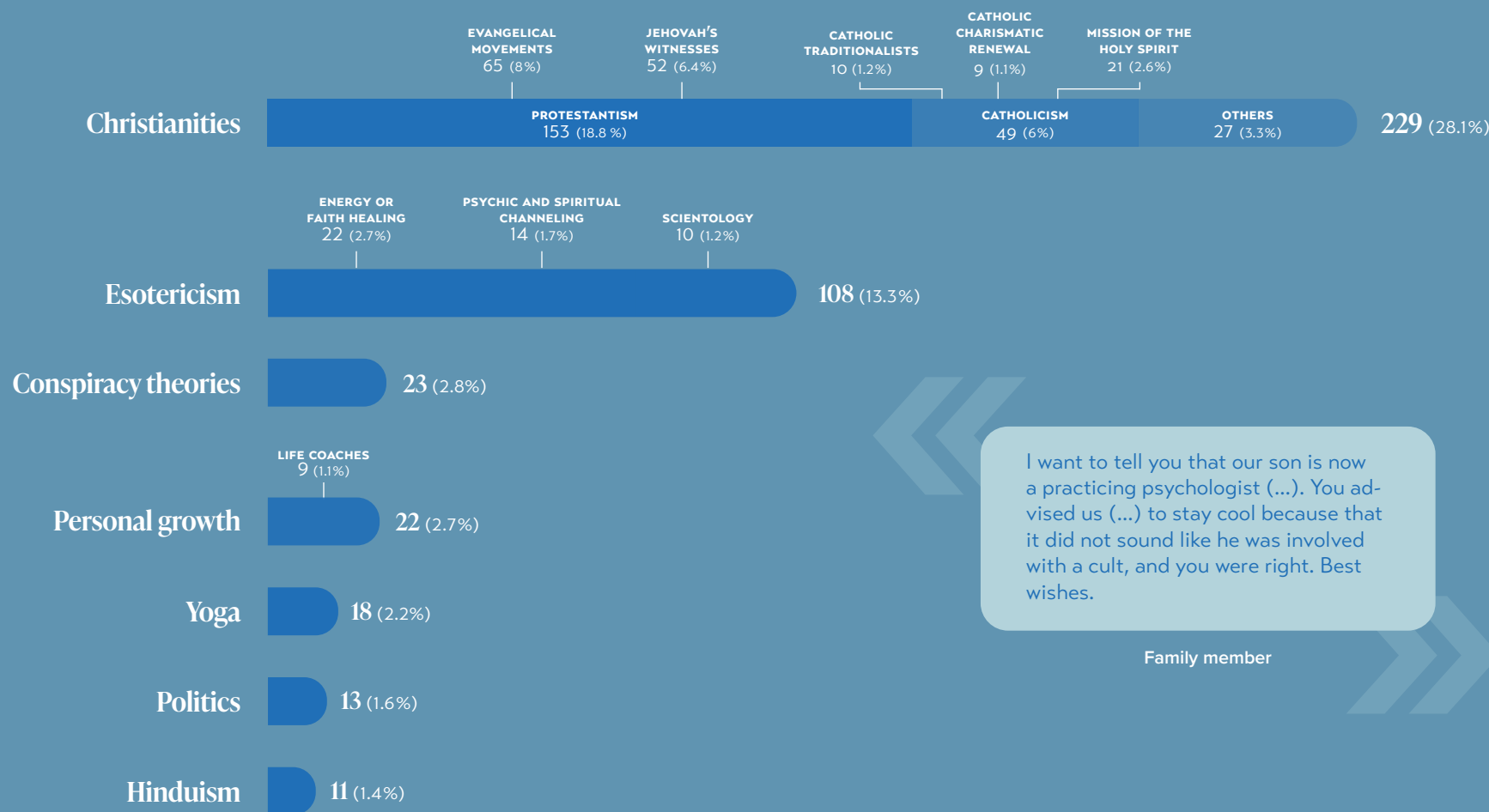
- Information on Info-Cult or its services = 11% (87)
- Events = 7.9% (64)
- Professional network = 3.8% (31)
- Media = 2.5% (20)
- Information and documentation = 2.2% (18)

³These percentages are calculated on all requests received (815).

BY SUBJECT OR THEME

Of these 815 requests, Info-Cult identified **211** different subjects that could be associated with groups, organizations, individuals or various traditions, beliefs, movements or ideologies.

These subjects are also grouped into more general themes. The following graph presents an overview of the most frequent themes and subjects*:



⁴ The numbers represent queries associated with the different topics. All percentages presented are rounded off and are calculated on all requests received (**815**). The presence of a group on these lists does not mean that Info-Cult considers it to be a cult, but only that it was the subject of one or more requests during the exercise.

Support Groups

For former members

In response to the needs expressed by former members, Info-Cult started its first support group (in French) in 2018.

These free meetings are **for individuals who have experienced or are experiencing controlling relationships**. This can include any situation related to groups, systems or environments with a high level of commitment, demand or control.

This support group aims to provide a confidential space that can:

- help break feelings of isolation;
- allow the free expression of experiences of victimization;
- encourage exchanges between people who share a similar experience or background;
- promote mutual recognition and understanding;
- facilitate the transition or adaptation of these people following their experiences.

I would like to express my gratitude (...) for the compassionate manner they held space for me during the meeting we had yesterday. I truly felt respected, comfortable to express myself and heard. Thank you so much.

Former member

While these meetings were originally held in person, in Montreal, the service was subsequently offered online, starting in 2020. This change also made it possible to cover a much larger territory.

Subsequently, a second support group (in English) for former members was created during the same year.

Since then, meetings have been organized for these two groups, on a monthly basis (with a two-month break in the summer).





For families and loved ones

In response to the needs expressed by families and loved ones, Info-Cult started another support group in 2021.

Offered free of charge and exclusively in French, this monthly service is intended **for families or friends of individuals who have experienced or are experiencing controlling relationships**. This can include any situation related to groups, systems or environments with a high level of commitment, demand or control.

This support group aims to provide a confidential space that can:

- foster exchanges between people who share similar experiences or backgrounds;
- promote mutual recognition and understanding;
- provide participants with the necessary resources so that they can better support their loved ones (former members of groups or active members);
- reduce feelings of isolation, guilt or helplessness.

I feel like I have fully healed after leaving the cult. Thank you for being there when I needed the support.

Former member

Statistics

Each of these groups meet on a monthly basis for approximately one and a half hours (**1h30**). These groups can accommodate a maximum of **ten** participants, and are led by two experienced professional volunteers (from the fields of mental health or social intervention) plus an Info-Cult staff member.

Group for former members in *English*

+30%
101 people registered

✓ **23** new registration requests

10 meetings welcomed an average of **nine** participants

Group for former members in *French*

+34%
88 people registered

✓ **22** new registration requests

10 meetings welcomed an average of **seven** participants

Group for families and loved ones (in French only)

+62%
60 people registered

23 new registration requests ✓

... **8** meetings welcomed an average of **three** participants



Surveys

In order to obtain feedback on the support group service for families and loved ones, a survey (form) was developed and circulated over the summer.

This effort enabled Info-Cult to solicit the participation of 40 people and to obtain critical assessment and comments from 9 of them around the following topics:

- Registration process;
- Reasons for participation;
- Modalities (online, frequency of meetings and schedule);
- Animation;
- Discussion themes;
- Individual follow-ups offered after the meetings.

Thematic Workshops

After having experienced a high-control group, some people may feel disoriented.

Since 2023-2024, Info-Cult has improved its services by offering thematic workshops geared for individuals with this profile.

The goal of these workshops is to honour personal empowerment and encourage the exploration of new avenues by allowing the sharing of experiences and fostering self-discovery. For example, participants may be invited to discuss a predetermined topic, such as a hobby or an activity they have recently discovered.

In 2024-2025, **two** such workshops were held with the following discussion themes:

1 *Going to Work: Professional experience and the challenges of job searching or integrating a professional environment*

English workshop
12 registrations / 6 participants

French workshop
11 registrations / 7 participants



2 *D'un monde fermé à un monde ouvert: Reconstruire son existence après une enfance dans une communauté sectaire* (From a Closed World to an Open World: Rebuilding Your Life After a Childhood in a Cultic Community)

In collaboration with Lorraine Derocher

The fate of children in closed and authoritarian communities is one of the fundamental issues of Info-Cult's mission. For many years, it has also been at the heart of Lorraine Derocher's research. She is a sociologist of religions, an expert in youth intervention and protection in cultic contexts, and the winner of the 2023 **Dianne Casoni International Award** for her book: *Ces enfants oubliés. Grandir dans une communauté sectaire*. (Éditions de l'Homme)

In collaboration with Lorraine Derocher, Info-Cult organized a workshop for former second-generation cult members.

This three-hour workshop presented research data on the trends and realities specific to the life paths of these type of individuals.

Thanks to the help of volunteers, this workshop was offered in hybrid format and reached approximately thirty people online or in person.

Info-Cult would like to thank Lorraine Derocher, the volunteers who made this workshop possible, and everyone who participated!



Research

With its extensive network and thanks to its specialized documentation centre, the expertise of Info-Cult is regularly called upon for evidence-based information about groups, beliefs or cultic phenomena.

People requesting this service come from anywhere in the world. They include:

- researchers;
- academics;
- students;
- lawyers (for assistance on legal issues);
- media (radio, television, newspapers or other);
- filmmakers or documentarians.

Thanks so much for helping me and my student RAs (Research assistants) yesterday. Info-Secte is an amazing asset."

Professor

In order to promote the study and advancement of knowledge on cultic phenomena in 2024-2025, Info-Cult has also:

- continued to circulate online surveys that hundreds of respondents have completed so far, including **295** in French and **119** in English.
- processed **four** requests for participants in research projects, following the adoption of a policy to promote these initiatives in 2023.
- assisted or hosted **five** students for consultations at its documentation centre.

Legal *or* Judicial Affairs

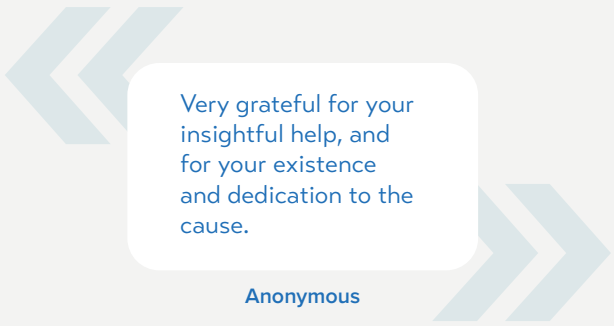
Concerted adjustments

With the religious and cultural pluralism that is present in Quebec society today, it sometimes happens that religious beliefs or practices come into conflict with established standards. At times, such situations can be dealt with in court (even up to the Supreme Court of Canada) and become widely publicized, as was the case during the “reasonable accommodation” controversy in Quebec at the turn of the 2000s.

For several years, Info-Cult has been a key community player in helping to avoid potential legal pitfalls by responding to citizen concerns related to various groups or communities. Requests for help can come from individuals, landlords, schools, businesses, organizations, government agencies, etc.

Thanks to a large network of contacts and access to accurate, reliable, up-to-date and contextualized information regarding thousands of groups, the expertise and nuanced approach of Info-Cult has contributed to the attainment of peaceful solutions and concerted adjustments in many conflict situations including:

- religious holidays;
- working conditions;
- blood transfusions, vaccination and other medical matters;
- clothing, religious or other symbols;
- behaviours, practices;
- schooling (private and public);
- diet.



Very grateful for your insightful help, and for your existence and dedication to the cause.

Anonymous

Expert witness

From a legal standpoint, Info-Cult is sometimes asked to testify as an expert witness in criminal and civil law cases in Canada as well as in the United States. The organization is also sometimes called upon to act as a consultant and to assist lawyers in the preparation of different cases (divorce, child custody, fraud, real estate disputes, etc.) in Canada, the United States and even in Europe.



Information and Awareness

Documentation Centre

With several hundred thousand archival documents, Info-Cult's library is unique in Canada.

Its rich collection includes a wide variety of documents related to cultic phenomena or to different kinds of groups (religious, political, personal growth, etc.)

The documents come from many different sources and offer diverse perspectives on the ideologies, worldviews, structure and dynamics of these groups.

The collection includes:

- more than 3,000 books;
- thousands of newspaper, journal and magazine articles from local, national and international sources;
- hundreds of research reports, theses and dissertations;
- government publications, legal documents and international rulings;
- more than 1,200 hours of programs or reports in audio and video formats;
- documents from a variety of primary sources (from different groups, biographies, etc.).

Considering the rarity, quality and the generally good condition of the documents, the specialized collection of Info-Cult continues to be a valuable resource for the education and research community. Students, teachers and researchers are grateful that it complements the catalogue of more traditional libraries (university, municipal, national, etc.).

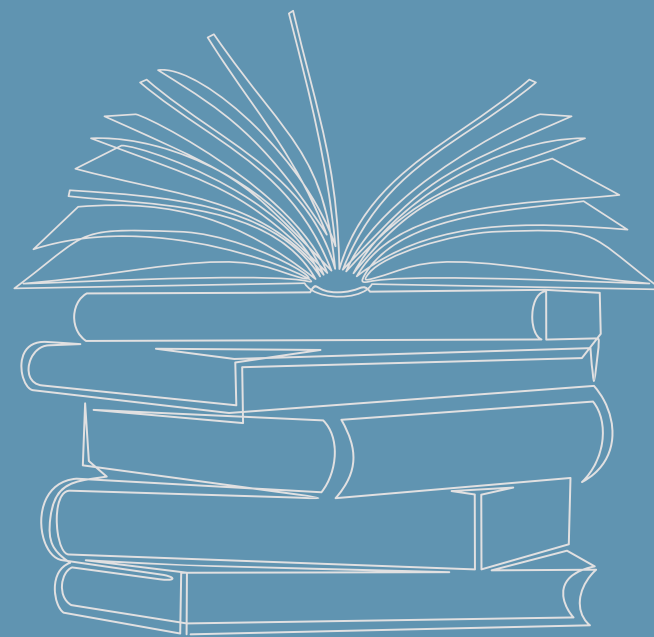


Modernization

With the aim of enhancing this collection and improving the access to its catalogue, the modernization of Info-Cult's documentation centre continued in 2024-2025.

Several volunteer contributions, as well as the hiring of a contract librarian (in 2023-2024), have greatly facilitated the following activities:

- Acquisition and installation of equipment, furniture, and storage materials;
- Development of operating policies;
- Migration of collections to new IT systems and directories;
- Creation and circulation of internship offers;
- Production of various inventories.



Communications

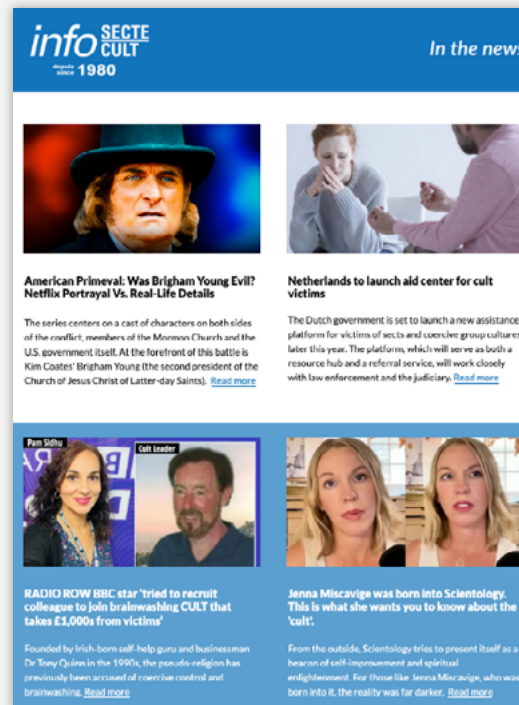
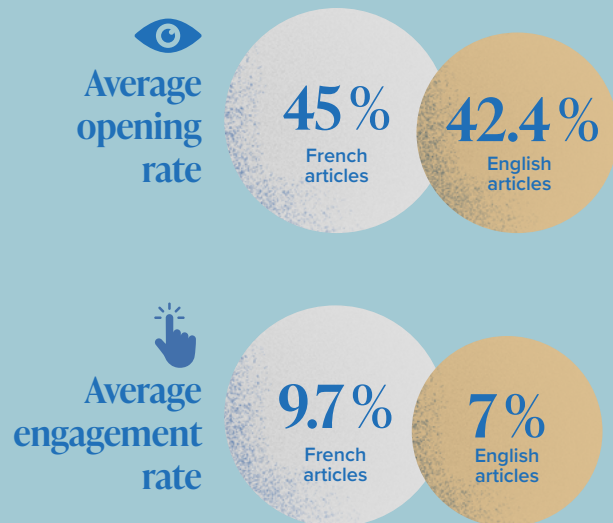
Thanks to a one-time grant from the *Community Services Recovery Fund* in 2023-2024, activities already underway were able to continue in 2024-2025.

Following the hiring of a **communications manager** (on a contractual basis), a broad reflection was also conducted on public relations, in collaboration with the firm Bête Féroce. This led to the development of a communications plan that includes a variety of strategies to increase the organization's reach and target its audiences more effectively.

Mailing Lists

Since the early 2000s, Info-Cult has been providing a free information service by email. Anyone who subscribes to this service can receive, on a regular basis, a selection of articles in French or in English from different sources on a variety of groups or topics related to cultic phenomena. Other mailings may include information about upcoming events, reports, TV programs or movies.

During 2024-2025, this Info-Cult service underwent significant updates on several levels. It now has a new look, as illustrated below:



This modernization also improved statistical monitoring:

At the end of 2024-2025, the total number of subscribers to this service was **895** (+7.8%), including 476 subscriptions for news in English and 419 (+20 %) for news in French.

A total of **1,065 articles** (680 in English and 385 in French) were relayed via this service, for a weekly average of 20 articles (13 in English and 7 in French).

Newsletter

Since 2005, Info-Cult has published a newsletter a few times a year reporting on the organization's activities and news.

In addition to encouraging donations, this newsletter can also be a platform to address certain current issues.



In 2024-2025, **five** editions were published and distributed to an average of 2,823 unique email addresses.



At the end of the year, the total number of subscribers to this newsletter was **2,731** (1,727 in French and 1,004 in English).



Average opening rate

40.7%

in French

4.9%

45.1%

in English

6%



Average engagement rate

3.4%

in English

3%

in French



I just wanted to let you know that we appreciate this news service that you provide. We look at it and utilize / download many of the articles. Thanks so much.

Employee of a non-profit organization

Note that a PDF version of this newsletter is also published on the Info-Cult website and shared on social media.

Website

Since its first version in 1999, the Info-Cult website has received an average of tens of thousands of visits annually.

In its new form since 2022, it presents information on the organization's structure, mission, perspective, services and history. It also offers a wealth of advice and general information, and allows users to consult all of Info-Cult's publications, as well as a vast collection of legal documents and government reports from several countries.

Other features, such as forms and frequently asked questions (FAQs), save staff considerable time in processing individual requests.

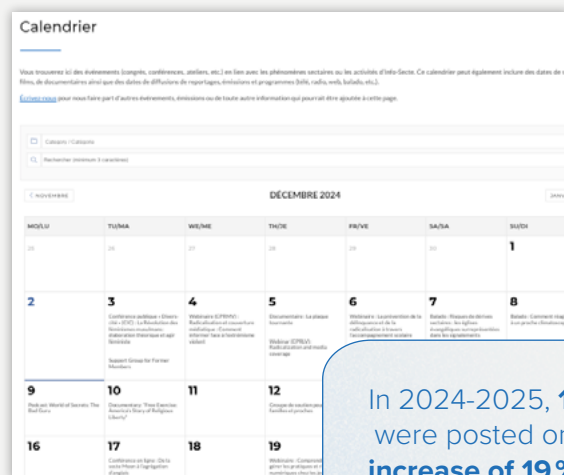
The site also includes a Calendar which is frequently updated. It presents the main news and events related to groups or cultic phenomena: broadcasts, podcasts, screenings, conferences, training, online documentaries, etc.



Each month, a list of programs available in replay is also distributed on social media.

In addition to contributing to a better dissemination of knowledge and raising public awareness of cultic phenomena, this tool creates many opportunities for dialogue and collaboration between organizations, broadcasters, researchers, professionals, and the general public.

Finally, several sections of the site were enhanced or underwent significant updates during 2024-2025, including the homepage.



In 2024-2025, **171** specific events were posted on this calendar (an **increase of 19%** compared to the previous year).

Your new website is great! Simple, clear, good graphics - easy to use!!

Public

According to Google Analytics, as of March 31, 2025, a total of **62,753** pages had been viewed by **18,876** distinct users (3.3 pages per user on average) for an average duration of 1 minute 20 seconds.



On behalf of those who benefit from invaluable information resources, Info-Cult wishes to express its gratitude to all the people who, over time, have donated their expertise and time for the creation, maintenance, updates and improvements to this site.

Other Online Activity

Info-Cult maintains its presence and is active on various online platforms which allow it to reach a larger and more diverse audience. These activities provide additional ways to disseminate information or various perspectives on actual topics.

Here are the main statistics that these different media presented at the end of 2024-2025:



Facebook

1,100⁺¹³
likes

1,304^{+7.2%}
followers

4,300+
visits

60
posts

15,500+
views

900+
interactions

(online since 2013, thanks to the initiative and work of a volunteer)

NEW!

Instagram



Info-Cult has taken another step in its modernization with the launch of an Instagram page during the year.

As of March 31, 2024, this page shows the following data:

308
followers

800+
visits

8,700+
views

21
posts

280+
interactions

Some content has been advertised on both Meta platforms (Facebook and Instagram), which has generated numerous reactions, including:

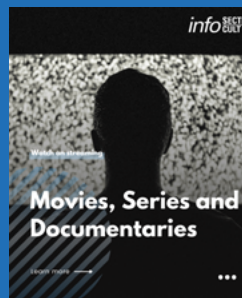
A reel about the history of Info-Cult



Promotion of the news delivery service



Programs to watch on replay



X

287
followers

133
posts

(online since 2020)



Bluesky

59
followers

44
posts

(online since November 2024)



LinkedIn

Online since 2023, the *Company* page had the following numbers as of March 31, 2025:

414^{+123%}
followers

183
posts

580
interactions

616
visits

2 500+
clicks

27 500^{+14.6%}
views



YouTube

Completely revised since 2023, the Info-Cult YouTube channel has playlists and about twenty videos, including conferences, interviews and documentaries co-produced by the organization (*Au-delà des mirages* and *Beyond the Mirage*).

At the end of 2024-2025, the channel had 36 subscribers (+ **33 %**) and a total of **2,177** views (+ **41 %**).



Info-Cult is also active on **Alignable** (account online since 2020) and **Threads** (online since July 2024).

Media Presence

Over the years, staff, board members and volunteers of Info-Cult have been contacted by numerous medias, either for information or to conduct interviews for national and international television or radio programs as well as for documentaries or magazine or newspaper articles.

In 2024-2025, Info-Cult was involved in **15** releases or publications from different media:

General

Spring 2024 – Dernière Heure

[Les Sectes au Québec](#) (Contribution by Mike Kropveld)

May 6, 2024 – Le Soleil

[Mouvements religieux et enfants: doit-on s'y pencher davantage?](#) (Contribution by Mike Kropveld)

November 27, 2024 – Noovo

[La différence entre mouvements religieux, sectes et cultes](#) (Contribution by Mike Kropveld)

December 23, 2024 – TVA Nouvelles CIMT/CHAU

[Le Cénacle de Cacouna: un lieu de prière qui suscite des questions](#) (Info-Cult cited)

January 23, 2025 – Qub Radio – Richard Martineau

[Comment est-ce qu'on peut reconnaître une secte?](#) (Interview with Marie-Andrée Pelland)

Conspiracy Theories

May 28, 2024 – Pivot

[Que sont devenus les mouvements complotistes, quatre ans plus tard?](#) (Contribution by Mike Kropveld)

The Mission of the Holy Spirit

November 26, 2024 – Crave

[La prison de l'Esprit Saint](#) (Contribution by Marie-Andrée Pelland)

November 27, 2024 – Noovo

[«La prison de l'Esprit-Saint»: Info-Secte note une augmentation d'appels depuis la diffusion du documentaire](#) (Interview with Marie-Andrée Pelland)

December 10, 2024 – Bell Media

[Noovo Info: une performance en forte hausse à la télé et sur le Web](#) (Info-Cult cited)

Order of the Solar Temple (OTS)

October 3, 2024 – Téléjournal (Radio-Canada)

L'Ordre du temple solaire – Le pouvoir des sectes (Interview with Marie-Andrée Pelland)

October 4, 2024 – La Presse – Opinions

Ordre du temple solaire: Trente ans après les tragédies (Publication of Marie-André Pelland, Mike Kropveld and Antoine Tardif)

October 4, 2024 – La journée (est encore jeune) (Radio-Canada)

Marie-Andrée Pelland parle de l'Ordre du Temple solaire, 30 ans après la première tragédie (Interview with Marie-Andrée Pelland)

October 8, 2024 – Des matins en or (ICI Première en Abitibi-Témiscamingue)

30 ans après le drame de l'Ordre du Temple solaire: Doit-on encore craindre les sectes? (Interview with Marie-Andrée Pelland)

Scientology

January 27, 2025 – La Presse

La scientologie en quatre questions (Contribution by Mike Kropveld)

Jehovah's Witnesses

November 20, 2024 – Dérives – balado (Radio-Canada – Ohio)

Épisode spécial (deuxième partie) – Le sang (Info-Secte cited as a resource)

Dianne Casoni

international Award



Dianne Casoni was an important collaborator of Info-Cult for more than 25 years, in addition to sitting on the board of directors for more than a decade. She was a prominent figure in research in the field of religion and cultic phenomena. As an experienced psychologist and psychoanalyst, she taught for over twenty years in the School of Criminology at the Université de Montréal.

To honour the memory of Dianne and to highlight her important contributions to research, Info-Cult established the [Dianne Casoni International Award](#) in 2020. Created with the approval of her daughters, this international award aims to promote and reward written work (in French or in English) which addresses one or more aspects of cultic phenomena or which deals with the various areas of intervention in cultic environments.

Due to the wide variety of literary genres submitted during the first year of the competition, the Dianne Casoni Award has two distinct components since the 2023 competition: *Scientific* and *Popular*.

In the *Scientific* category, candidates are invited to submit the results of their empirical or theoretical research in the form of an article, dissertation, thesis or book. The *Popular* category welcomes texts that tend to be geared for a wider audience, for example, a guide or manual for professionals, or a biographical or fictional work recounting one or more experiences involving one (or more) group(s).

Made up of eight experts in the field (from Canada, the United States and England), the committee was responsible for evaluating **10** applications (seven in English and three in French) from **five** different countries. Applications for the 2024 Award included the following literary genres: article, dissertation, thesis, guidebook, novel, essay, and biographical memoir.

Congratulations to the winners!



Scientific Component

Omar Saldaña, Emma Antelo and Álvaro Rodríguez-Carballeira

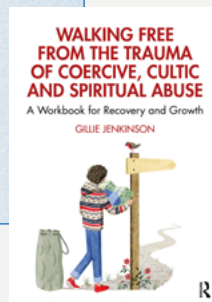
Group Psychological Abuse Perpetration: Development and Validation of a Measure Using Classical and Modern Test Theory (Article published in the *Psychology of Violence* journal)



Popular Component

Gillie Jenkinson

Walking Free from the Trauma of Coercive, Cultic and Spiritual Abuse. A Workbook for Recovery and Growth (Book – Routledge)



Each category was accompanied by a \$500 CAD prize as well as a commemorative plaque.

The awards ceremony took place during the annual conference of the *International Cultic Studies Association* (ICSA) in Barcelona, Spain. To capture the moment, a video of the ceremony was produced and [posted online](#).

Numerous advertisements related to the call for submissions and the announcement of the winners were shared online as well as by email.

Info-Cult warmly thanks all the people who were involved in each of the stages leading to the granting of this annual award!

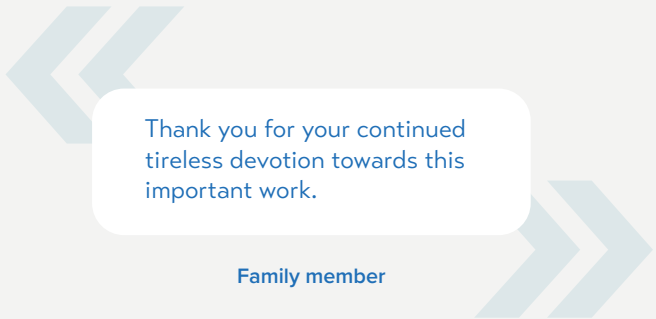
Educational *and* Training Programs

Info-Cult offers various types of training and educational programs to meet the needs of different communities within the public, parapublic, private or non-profit sectors:

- clients or service users;
- students;
- employees;
- professional orders, unions, judicial community, etc.

The aim of these programs is to inform and sensitize participants about cultic phenomena and to provide resources so they are better able to:

- provide support to members or former group members;
- assess social or religious groups who seek collaboration;
- assist an employee or client who has been affected directly or indirectly by these phenomena;
- recognize situations of victimization or potential abuse.



Thank you for your continued tireless devotion towards this important work.

Family member

List of training sessions given in 2024-2025:

November 5, 2024

Mike Kropveld (Executive Director), Marie-Andrée Pelland (President), and Sam Downs (Support Services Worker) were asked to give a presentation during a full-day event organized by the Provincial Coordinating Committee on Hate Crimes and Incidents. Offered in hybrid format, the event brought together more than 70 staff members from the Sûreté du Québec and various municipal police forces. This 90-minute presentation focused on Info-Cult's services and approach, as well as best practices in prevention and intervention.

January 21, 2025

Mike Kropveld, Marie-Andrée Pelland, and Sam Downs gave a presentation and answered questions from four staff members of the Quebec Ministry of Education. The discussion focused on the possible impacts of high-control groups or cultic phenomena on education as well as the best intervention approaches.



**COMITÉ DE COORDINATION
PROVINCIALE SUR LES CRIMES
ET INCIDENTS HAINEUX**



November 12, 2024

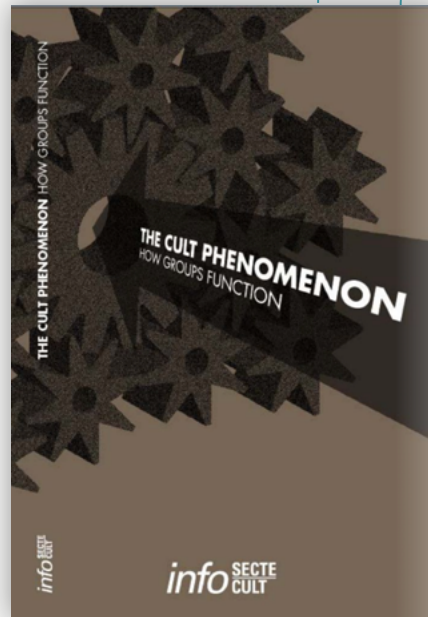
Sam Downs gave a presentation on the Info-Cult approach to a class of about thirty students, as part of an undergraduate course taught by Sharyn Sepinwall at Concordia University (Department of Applied Human Sciences). Entitled *Understanding Cultic Phenomena*, the presentation was followed by a Q&A.

Publications *by* Info-Cult

Book

Info-Cult's book, entitled *The Cult Phenomenon: How Groups Function* (2006) is the English version of *Le phénomène des sectes: l'étude du fonctionnement des groupes* (2003). Still relevant today, both versions can be downloaded for free on Info-Cult's website.

Also available in hard copy, these books offer information resources which are designed to provide a better understanding of group dynamics and cultic phenomena.



Other Publications

Info-Cult's staff, colleagues and board members have published a number of works over the years. Below is a selection from the last fifteen years.

Note that the [complete list](#) of publications is available at no cost on Info-Cult's website.

Pelland, M-A., Kropveld, M. & Tardif, A. (2024). *The Order of The Solar Temple: 30 Years After The Tragedies*, Translation of *L'Ordre du temple solaire: Trente ans après les tragédies*. Published online by La Presse (October 4, 2024).

Pelland, M-A., Kropveld, M. & Tardif, A. (2024). *L'Ordre du temple solaire: Trente ans après les tragédies*, La Presse – Opinions, Online version, October 4, 2024.

Lambole, M., Pelland, M-A. & Goguen, C. (2022). *Introduction: Numéro spécial en hommage à Dianne Casoni*, *Criminologie*, Volume 55, No. 1.

Pelland, M-A., Vacheret, M. & Wemmers, J-O. (2022). *Les gardiennes de l'honneur: Entre victimes et agentes de contrôle coercitif dans des communautés patriarcales*, *Criminologie*, Volume 55, No. 1.

Colin, M., Lefebvre, S. & Casoni, D. (2022). *Endoctriner et radicaliser sur la Toile: De l'usage des mêmes par l'extrême-droite*, *Communication*, Volume 39, No. 1.

Pacheco, Adriana. (2021). *Internados y niños autóctonos en Canadá*, *La Razón de México*, 6/8/2021.

Kropveld, Mike. (2017). *A multi-perspective approach for understanding and evaluating groups*, Presentation given at a conference in Wuhan (China), December 2-3, 2017.

Kropveld, Mike. (2016). *Info-Cult at 35: Observations, Insights, and Lessons Learned*, *ICSA Today*, Volume 7, No. 2. pp. 10-14.

Kropveld, Mike. (2015). *UNDERSTANDING THE RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE: THE INFO-SECTE/INFO-CULT PERSPECTIVE* (An Interview with Michael Kropveld), *Cult Awareness movement - World Religions and Spirituality Forum*, Posted 12/29/2015.

Segal, Herschel. (2015). *Opinion: Une vision étroite de la radicalisation*, *La Presse*, version en ligne, le 3 septembre 2015 (version imprimée, le 31 août 2015).

Info-Secte. (2015). *Rapport sur Lev Tahor*, *Communiqué de Presse*, 13 juillet 2015.

Info-Cult. (2015). *Report on Lev Tahor*, *Press Release*, July 13, 2015.

Segal, Herschel. (2015). *Opinion: Federal anti-radicalization efforts have taken too narrow an approach*, *Montreal Gazette*, July 16, 2015.

Tremblay, C. & Kropveld, M. (2015). *Radicalisation et dérive sectaire: des parallèles?*, *Le Huffington Post Québec*, 6 mars 2015.

Casoni, D., Pacheco, A., & Kropveld, M. (2015). *State Intervention Against The Baptist Church of Windsor: From Law-Abiding Citizens to Perpetrators of Severe Child Physical Abuse*, *International Journal of Cultic Studies*, Vol. 6, 2015, 83-99.

Pacheco, Adriana. (2015). *Quebec francophone Conservative Protestants and youth protection laws: Conflict between secular law and divine law?*, *News from Info-Cult #29*, February 2015.

Pacheco, Adriana. (2015). *Les protestants conservateurs québécois francophones face aux lois de la protection de l'enfance. Conflit entre loi séculière et loi divine?*, *Nouvelles d'Info-Secte #29*, février 2015.

Tremblay, C. & Kropveld, M. (2015). *Opinion: Terrorist groups and cults have some things in common*, *Montreal Gazette*, February 20, 2015.

Giambalvo, C., Kropveld, M., & Langone, M. (2013). *Changes in the North American Cult Awareness Movements*, Published on ICSA's website and also appeared in a shorter version in the book *Revisionism and Diversification in New Religious Movements*, Edited by Eileen Barker, Ashgate Publishing, pp. 227-245.

Pelland, M-A. & Kropveld, M. (2013). *Gourous et adeptes*, *Nouvelles d'Info-Secte #25*, juin 2013.

Pelland, M-A. & Kropveld, M. (2013). *Gurus and Follower*, *News from Info-Cult #25*, June 2013.

Langone, M. & Kropveld, M. et al. (2013). *Avantages du dialogue*. Traduction d'un article paru dans le *ICSA Today*, Volume 4, No. 3, pp. 2-7.

Langone, M. & Kropveld, M. et al. (2013). *Benefits of dialogue*. *ICSA Today*, Volume 4, No. 3, pp. 2-7.

Kropveld, Mike. (2013). *Info-Secte. Présentation à l'Association francophone pour le savoir (ACFAS)*, le 6 mai 2013.

Other Outreach Initiatives

Sometimes, events or outreach initiatives can have an impact on Info-Cult in a more or less direct way.

This can result in an increase in public or media interest in cultic phenomena or certain groups. Consequently, this can provide greater visibility to Info-Cult, which, in turn, can result in a greater demand for its services.

The year 2024-2025 was marked by several events or releases of this type, in particular:

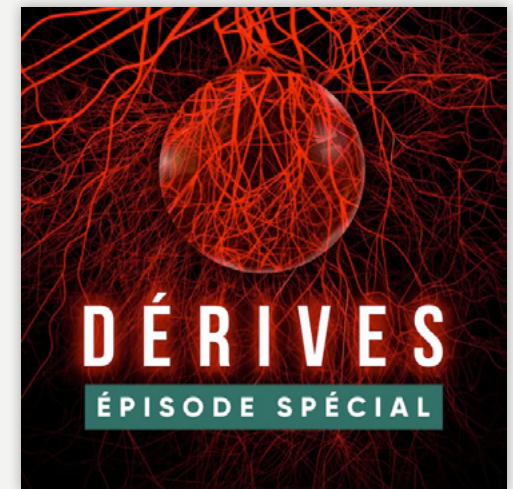
October 2024

- Commemoration of the [30th anniversary of the tragedy of the Order of the Solar Temple](#)
- [Scandal at Bedford school](#)



Novembre 2024

- Documentary online [La prison de l'Esprit-Saint](#) (on Noovo / Crave)
- Special episode of the [Dérives](#) podcast (Olivier Bernard, Radio-Canada-Ohdio)



The background is a solid blue color. On the left side, there are several concentric circles in shades of blue and grey, creating a ripple effect. A dashed line in a light yellowish-gold color starts from a small circle and extends upwards and to the right, ending near the top of the text. Another dashed line in a light teal color starts from a small circle and extends downwards and to the right, ending near the bottom of the text.

Networking and Partnerships

Collaborations



Advisory Committee

Former Members of Groups

Former members of high-level control groups make up a large proportion of Info-Cult users. For this reason, a consultation committee with nearly ten people matching this profile was created in 2023, at the initiative of the staff.

While providing participants with opportunities to express themselves about the mission, activities and services of Info-Cult, this consultation project constitutes a favorable place for collaborations or developing projects. Similar to online surveys or support groups feedback forms, this new Info-Cult initiative is part of a broader process related to the consultation of its audience and users to improve its services and optimize its outreach.

This committee, with an average of five people, met twice online during 2024-2025.

Provincial Discussion Forum

This other Info-Cult initiative, which began in 2022-2023, continued during the past year.

This concertation project aims to bring together different people working within local and national organizations in order to regularly promote opportunities for exchange of expertise or views on common issues and concerns. The goal is also to explore new avenues of collaboration and consolidate community relations from a multidisciplinary perspective.



So far, the meetings have brought together people working within the following organizations:

- Association humaniste du Québec
- Association québécoise Plaidoyer-Victimes (AQPV)
- Centre for Research on Children and Families (CRCF)¹
- Centre de ressources et d'observation de l'innovation religieuse (CROIR)²
- Centre d'écoute et d'interprétation des nouvelles recherches du croire (CÉINR)³
- Center for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence (CPRLV)
- Chair in Cultural and Religious Diversity Management at the University of Montreal & UNESCO-PREV Chair
- Polarization Clinic⁴

Following the initial meetings, which generated some interest, a full day of discussions was organized on **May 3, 2024, at the Université de Montréal**, with twelve people present in person or online. Info-Cult would like to thank the CÉINR staff for their welcome and collaboration, which made this special day possible!

Three additional meetings were subsequently held online (November 6, 2024, February 6, and March 13, 2025), with an average of seven participants.

¹ Associated with McGill University

² Associated with the Université Laval

³ Associated with the Université de Montréal

⁴ Associated with the CIUSSS of West-Central Montreal



International Cultic Studies Association

Since 2009, the executive director of Info-Cult, Mike Kropveld, has been on the Board of directors of ICSA and chairs the committee of its annual conference, which has been organized jointly with Info-Cult since 2001.

Founded in 1979 and based in the United States, ICSA is one of the leading organizations in the field of cultic studies. Its international network includes former members of groups, families, researchers and professionals who all have in common a concern for cultic phenomena and for the dynamics of groups with a high level of control, demand or commitment.

The mission of ICSA is similar to that of Info-Cult:

- Help former group members;
- Provide support for families and loved ones;
- Educate the public about these phenomena;
- Encourage and support the study of these phenomena;
- Provide resources to professionals.

International Meetings

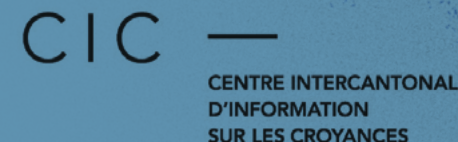
Since 2009, Info-Cult staff have participated in annual meetings with representatives from three European organizations:



*Information Network on
Religious Movements (INFORM),
London (UK)*



*Centre d'information et d'avis sur les
organisations sectaires nuisibles (CIAOSN),
Brussels (Belgium)*



*Centre Intercantonal d'Information
sur les Croyances (CIC),
Geneva (Switzerland)*

N.B. Since 2022-2023, these meetings also include representatives from ICSA

The purpose of the annual meetings, which sometimes takes place over two days, is to exchange ideas and share information with the different stakeholders.

In addition, the meetings make it possible to:

- establish new collaborations;
- reflect on current topics or issues regarding groups and cultic phenomena;
- share the different ways in which work is carried out by each organization;
- discuss the type of requests received during the year or on the different challenges encountered on a daily basis.

These meetings can also sometimes provide opportunities for dialogue with representatives of groups that may be perceived as “controversial” or identified as “cults”.

The latest annual meeting, organized by INFORM, was held in **London (United Kingdom), on June 9-10, 2024**. Mike Kropveld (Executive Director) and Sam Downs (Support Services Provider) were present for the occasion. The meeting also welcomed staff from the Religious Studies Media and Information Service (REMID), a German organization.

Note that online meetings between Mike Kropveld and the CIC and CIAOSN management staff also continue on a regular basis throughout the year.

Other Local Collaborations



Association québécoise Plaidoyer-Victimes

While 2025 marks the 45th anniversary of Info-Cult, we would also like to highlight that the Association québécoise Plaidoyer-Victimes (AQPV) celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2024. Throughout the year, several special events took place to mark this important anniversary.

To highlight the long-standing collaboration between the two organizations, the AQPV offered Info-Cult the opportunity for two volunteer support group facilitators to expand their knowledge and benefit from a free training session entitled *Victimisation des enfants en contexte sectaire* (Child Victimization in Cultic Setting) given by Lorraine Derocher.

On behalf of Info-Cult and its users, thank you to the AQPV!



Nouvelles Racines

In 2024-2025, Info-Cult collaborated with *Nouvelles Racines*, an organization dedicated to supporting people who have experienced a break with a religious environment. Drawing on its expertise developed over several decades, Info-Cult shared some of its knowledge and resources with this young organization. This collaboration helped diversify the support offered to these individuals, while fostering the emergence of a new voice in the community.



CENTRE FOR THE
PREVENTION
OF RADICALIZATION
LEADING TO VIOLENCE

Centre de prévention de la radicalisation menant à la violence

At the same time, Info-Cult has been collaborating for several years with the *Center for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence* (CPRLV), providing advice on setting up and maintaining its support groups. These spaces for exchange provide a complementary service to better meet the needs of the population.

Other International Collaborations

- On August 20, 2024, Sam Downs was invited to Vienna by an Austrian organization, the *Bundesstelle Für Sektenfragen*, to participate in a discussion with other experts in the field.
- On February 11, 2025, Mike Kropveld, Sam Downs, and Antoine Tardif (Deputy Executive Director) were invited by the *Groupe d'étude des Mouvements de Pensée en vue de la Protection de l'Individu* (GEMPPi) (*Group for the Study of Spiritual Movements and Cults for the Protection of the Individual*) to give a brief presentation on Info-Cult's approach and discuss statistics on support services. The online meeting, which lasted 1.5 hours, brought together around fifteen members or speakers affiliated with this organization that operates throughout France.

ICSA Annual International Conferences

Since 2001, Info-Cult has been co-organizing the annual ICSA (International Cultic Studies Association) conferences and promotes them through its various networks.

These annual conferences alternate between North America and Europe.

They are must-attend events in the field, not only for the exchange of knowledge they foster, but also for the networking opportunities they offer to hundreds of participants with diverse backgrounds:

- Researchers;
- Mental health professionals;
- Active or former group members;
- Families;
- Students and educators;
- Law enforcement agents;
- Lawyers;
- Representatives of religious organizations (or others)

These conferences may include:

- workshops for professionals, researchers and families;
- round tables;
- sessions that present research findings, reflections or information on groups or cultic phenomena.



Year after year, the involvement of Info-Cult in the organization of these conferences serves as a gateway to the participation of many students, researchers and professionals from Quebec and the rest of Canada who have the opportunity to make presentations to an international audience.

2024 Annual Conference

The last annual conference took place July 3-6, 2024, in Barcelona, Spain.

The organizing committee decided to continue offering the opportunity to attend online, which allows for a wider audience.

Developed around the theme "*Evidence-based Practices in Cult Recovery*" this year's event brought together:

280
participants
(including several from Quebec and the rest of Canada)

135
speakers

Registrants from
at least
21
countries

105
presentations
and panels

4
workshops

Six rooms were used to accommodate the conference program, and the presentations were live-streamed on three on-line channels. Following the conference, most of the videos were made available for replay.



Thanks for the workshop yesterday (...) I think it worked out really well! I was really inspired by what everyone shared and learned a lot. It was nice to see the different approaches to hobbies like for relaxation, exploring identity, and pure recreation- not for mastery or practical purpose.

Former member

Once again, Info-Cult's active participation in this conference provided an important platform in various ways, at different times:

- At the opening ceremony, where Mike Kropveld (Executive Director) and Céline Castillo (Administrator) welcomed participants.
- The conference program included three presentations (two in Spanish) from members of its team or staff, as well as a lecture presenting the research work of a student of Marie-Andrée Pelland (President).
- At the closing ceremony, where Mike Kropveld (Executive Director) and Adriana Pacheco presented the *Dianne Casoni Award* recipients who were also present.
- Numerous advertisements and online publications circulated before, during, and after the event.
- Banners were installed in various locations on site (entrance, registration table, stage, etc.).

Other Events, Conferences or Trainings

Each year, Info-Cult staff actively participates in many activities to promote dialogue and continue reflection on cultic groups and phenomena, as well as best practices. These efforts also contribute to strengthening the organization's position as an essential community resource.



Annual Conference May 13-17, 2024

Taking place at the University of Ottawa and bringing together hundreds of participants and researchers, Info-Cult was represented by its president, Marie-Andrée Pelland. As a full professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Moncton, she was accompanied by students to give two presentations highlighting recent research as follows:

La trajectoire des services en français de femmes victimes de violences sexuelles
Presented with Lise Savoie and Naomie Mazerolle of the University of Moncton

Analyse du processus décisionnel d'institutions d'enseignement post-secondaire de ne pas implanter un programme de prévention de la violence à caractère sexuel

Presented with Isabelle Daigneault (Université de Montréal), Karine Baril (Université du Québec en Outaouais), Manon Bergeron (Université du Québec à Montréal), Christian Dagenais (Université de Montréal), and Lise Savoie (Université de Moncton).

CESNUR Annual Conference – Center for Studies on New Religions June 12-15, 2024

At this conference held in Bordeaux, France, Sam Downs (support services consultant) gave a presentation entitled *The Pragmatics of Peer Support Groups for Former Members of High-Control Groups*. Presented to approximately twenty people, the presentation explored the various aspects and potential challenges associated with support group services for former members of high-control groups.



Virtual Conference: Professional Orders and Radicalization: Understanding and Taking Action

January 30, 2025

As part of this event organized by the Conseil interprofessionnel du Québec (CIQ), Mike Kropveld (Executive Director) was invited to participate in a panel discussion with David Juneau (Director of Public Affairs at AUCOIN Strategy & Communication) and Caroline Briand (Partner at Langlois Avocats). This conference reached an online audience of over 250 people.

Other Events

During the year, Info-Cult staff also participated in other public events, conferences, webinars, and training sessions:

TRAINING - APRIL 24, 2024

Superviser une équipe de travail (Centre St-Pierre)
– On-site (Montreal)

MEETING - JUNE 14-15, 2024

2024 Annual Assembly (FECRIS - European Federation of Centers of Research and Information on Cults and Sects)
– On-site (Stuttgart, Germany)

CONFERENCE - JULY 3-6, 2024

ICSA Annual International Conference: Evidence-based Practices in Cult Recovery (ICSA and Info-Cult)
– Online and on-site (Barcelone, Spain)

CONFERENCE - OCTOBER 10, 2024

Rencontre nationale: L'emprise sectaire: hier, aujourd'hui, demain (CAFFES – Centre national d'Accompagnement Familial Face à l'Emprise Sectaire)
– On-site (Lille, France)

CONFERENCE - JANUARY 14, 2025

Social Work and Religion: Understanding Public Needs and Adapting Services (CIC – Centre intercantonal d'information sur les croyances)
– Online

CONFERENCE - JUNE 12-15, 2024

2024 Annual Conference (CESNUR – Center for Studies on New Religions)
– On-site (Bordeaux, France)

CONFERENCE - JUNE 19-24, 2024

Second World Conference for Religious Dialogue and Cooperation – Religion and Politics: Is Secularization a Myth or Reality? (Centre for Intercultural Studies and Research – University of Skopje and CESNUR)
– On-site (Strumica, North Macedonia)

TRAINING - OCTOBER 3, 2024

Evaluation of a Board of Directors (Non-Profit Leadership Lab)
– Online

WEBINAR - NOVEMBER 7, 2024

Grant Application Tips (Hellodarwin)
– Online

MEETING-CONFERENCE - FEBRUARY 20, 2025

Closing event for AQPV's 40th anniversary and lecture by Vincent Denault: Vérité et crédibilité au tribunal : quand les stéréotypes et les préjugés s'en mêlent (Association québécoise Plaidoyer-Victimes)
– On-site (Montreal)

Community Relations

At the local level, Info-Cult receives hundreds of reference requests annually from many users and stakeholders working in a wide variety of organizations:

Support, Health, Safety and Social Services

- 811
- Youth Protection Services
- Association québécoise Plaidoyer-Victimes
- Association québécoise pour la réadaptation psychosociale
- Canadian Centre for Child Protection
- Crime Victims Assistance Centre (CAVAC)
- Information and Referral Centre of Greater Montreal
- CISSS and hospitals (throughout Quebec)
- Polarization Clinic (CIUSSS of West-Central Montreal)
- Director of Youth Protection (DYP)
- eSantéMentale.ca
- Fédération des maisons d'hébergement pour femmes
- Marie-Vincent Foundation
- Fondation Normand Brie
- Indemnisation des victimes d'actes criminels (IVAC)
- Kids Help Phone
- Ministry of Health and Social Services
- Minister of Public Security
- Regroupement des Services d'Intervention de Crise du Québec
- Missing Children's Network
- SOS Conjugal Violence
- Suicide Action Montréal (SAM)
- Tel-jeunes

Legal Information

- McGill Legal Information Clinic
- Commission for Human Rights and Youth Rights (CDPDJ)
- Éducaloi
- Juripop
- Consumer protection office
- Consumer Option
- Quebec Society for Legal Information (SOQUIJ)



Information and Research

Info-Cult also maintains relations with researchers and educators in several faculties at local universities:

Département d'études anciennes
et de sciences des religions –
Université d'Ottawa

Département de sciences
des religions – Université du
Québec à Montréal

Department of
Religions and Cultures –
Concordia University

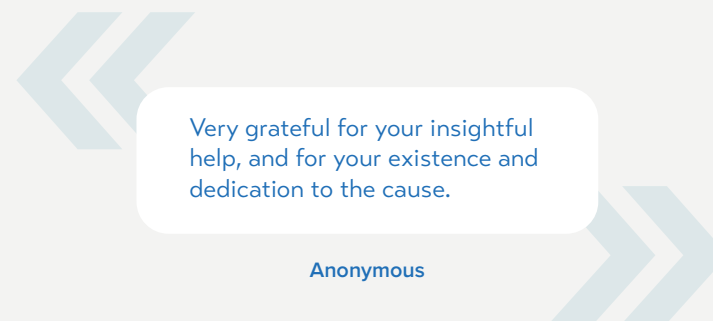
Faculté de théologie et
de sciences religieuses –
Université Laval

Institut d'études religieuses –
Université de Montréal

School of Religious Studies –
McGill University

Over the years, Info-Cult has also developed important ties, both locally and internationally, with stakeholders interested in similar issues: individuals, researchers, associations, organizations, religious communities, ecumenical centres and multidisciplinary professionals.

In addition to contributing to the organization's influence and promoting support services that are better adapted to the realities of individuals and communities, this extended network allows for a diversity of sources of information and a more efficient dissemination of knowledge and perspectives related to cultic phenomena.



Canada

- Association humaniste du Québec
- Canadian Center to End Human Trafficking
- Centre d'écoute et d'interprétation des nouvelles recherches du croire (CEINR)
- Centre on Hate, Bias and Extremism – Ontario Tech University
- Centre d'étude du religieux contemporain - Université de Sherbrooke
- Centre d'expertise et de formation sur les intégrismes religieux, les idéologies politiques et la radicalisation (CEFIR)
- Centre de recherche Sociétés Droits et Religions de l'Université de Sherbrooke (SODRUS)
- Centre de ressources et d'observation de l'innovation religieuse (CROIR)
- Centre for Research on Children and Families (CRCF)
- Centre for Research on Religion (CREOR)
- Centre for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence (CPRLV)
- Narratives of Identity: Spirituality in the Modern World
- Recherche et Action sur les Polarisation Sociales (RAPS)
- Religion and child abuse news
- Religion and Diversity Project
- Sceptiques du Québec

International Network

Australia

Cult Consulting Australia

Cult Information and Family Support (CIFS)

Ex-Religious Support Network (ESN)

Austria

Bundesstelle für Sektenfragen

Forum for Religious Freedom Europe (FOREF)

Belgium

Centre d'information et d'aide sur les organisations sectaires nuisibles (CIAOSN)

Human Rights Without Frontiers (HRWF)

Prévention, Recherche et Formation Emprise et Résilience (PREFER)

Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN)

Finland

Uskonnot Suomessa

Uskontojen Uhrien Tuki Ry (U.U.T.) (Support for victims of religion)

France

Association d'étude et d'information sur les mouvements religieux (AEIMR)

Association française pour l'information scientifique (AFIS)

Centre national d'Accompagnement Familial Face à l'Emprise Sectaire (CAFFES)

Centre Roger Ikor - Centre contre les manipulations mentales (CCMM)

Coordination des Associations & Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience (CAPLC)

Fédération Européenne des Centres de Recherche et d'Information sur le Sectarisme (FECRIS)

Groupe d'étude des mouvements de pensée en vue de la protection de l'individu (GEMPPPI)

Mission interministérielle de vigilance et de combat contre les dérives sectaires (MIVILUDES)

Société Française de Recherche et d'Analyse en Emprise Mentale (SFRAEM)

Strasbourg Consortium Freedom of Conscience and Religion at the European Court of Human Rights

Union nationale des Associations de défense des Familles et de l'Individu victimes de sectes (UNADFI)

Germany

Sekteninfo NRW

Holland

Apologetics Index

CounterCultSearch.com

Ireland

Dialogue Ireland

Israel

Hillel

Italy

Atlas of Religious or Belief Minority Rights

CESNUR - Center for Studies on New Religions

Japan

National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales

Spain

Atención e Investigación de Socioadicciones (AIS)

redUNE: InfoSECTARISMO

Asociación Iberoamericana para la Investigación del Abuso Psicológico (AIAP)

Educasectas

Sweden

Exit

Hjälpkällan

Switzerland

Centre intercantonal d'information sur les croyances (CIC)

Centre de liaison et d'information concernant les minorités spirituelles (CLIMS)

Pôle de compétences sur les questions religieuses et idéologiques

Religioscope

UK

Cult Information Centre

Family Survival Trust

Information Network on Religious Movements (INFORM)

Open Minds Foundation

United States

American Atheists

Centers for Apologetics Research (CFAR)

Children's Health Care is a Legal Duty (CHILD)

Cult Education Institute (CEI)

Families Against Cult Threats (F.A.C.T.)

Footsteps

Freedom from Religion Foundation

Freedom of Mind Resource Center

iGotOut.org

International Cultic Studies Association (ICSA)

Internet Sacred Text Archive

Life After Hate

Meadow Haven

National Council Against Health Fraud (NCAHF)

Quackwatch: Your Guide to Quackery, Health Fraud, and Intelligent Decisions

RealClearReligion (Opinion, News, Analysis)

Recovering from Religion

Red de Apoyo para Víctimas de Sectas

Religious Sounds

Religion and Sexual Abuse Project

Safe Passage Foundation

Shunning is a crime

Skeptical Inquirer

The Skeptics Society & Skeptic magazine

Southern Poverty Law Center

Spiritual Abuse Forum for Education (SAFE)

Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests

Wellspring Retreat - Recovery for Victims of Cults and Cultic Abuse

World Religions and Spirituality Project (WRSP)

The background is a solid blue color. On the left side, there are several overlapping circles of different shades of blue. A dashed white line forms a large circle that partially encloses the word 'Acknowledgements'.

Acknowledgements

Info-Cult wishes to express its gratitude for the trust, support and continued commitment from all its members, volunteers, donors and staff.

A huge thank you !

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since **1980**