

# Annual Report 2020 - 2021

*info* **SECTE**  
**CULT**  
depuis **1980**  
since

***info* SECTE  
CULT**  
depuis **1980**  
since

Centre for Assistance and for the Study of Cultic Phenomena

5655 Park Avenue, Suite 208  
Montreal, Quebec  
H2V 4H2

Phone: (514) 274-2333

Fax: (514) 274-7576

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

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



Office hours, Monday to Friday 9 – 5.

## President's and Executive Director's Message

The pandemic is a surreal experience for everyone and continues to have a dramatic impact on our daily lives. When I wrote you last year, it had just begun and Info-Cult's staff had started working from home. Here we are, over a year later, in the same situation, yet there has not been a lull in the requests for our services. In fact, the complexity of the concerns has increased.

A significant change has been the number of requests from families and friends with a loved-one who has gone down the "rabbit hole" of conspiracy theories. This has led many of these conspiracy believers to restrict, and even cut off contact with their families who they view as non-believers, and even part of the conspiracy. These family situations are similar to what we have observed in those who have become members of extreme religious or radical groups. In the past year, we responded to **ninety-nine (99)** inquiries relating solely to the issue of conspiracies. Most of the inquiries have come since the end of summer 2020 and they have not stopped coming.

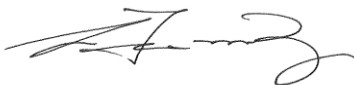
As in most of the cases we deal with, the inquiries are complex, and we take the time to deal with each situation with an individual approach. We help people to have a better understanding of what is happening and discuss strategies on how to keep the lines of communication open and improve the contact with their loved-ones. It is hard to put into words the pain and anguish we hear about loving relationships that, in a short period of time, have been torn apart over extreme ideological beliefs.

The stress and isolation caused by the pandemic has made more people susceptible to the appeal of groups who offer simple explanations and solutions to complex social and individual problems. Many people are spending a considerable amount of time at home in front of their computer screens, and various groups (religious, alternative health, esoteric, etc.) are increasingly directing their recruitment and sales approaches to the public via diverse online platforms.

As a front-line service, Info-Cult's staff has spent a considerable of time helping those in need. In addition, among other activities, we have been hard at work:

- Offering monthly support groups for former member (in English and in French). These groups are facilitated by professionals who volunteer their time and expertise;
- Responding to requests for information and strategies about cases from social workers, from Youth Protection and other public and non-profit organizations;
- Providing background information to journalists and giving interviews to the media;
- Giving online interviews to students working on projects and reports;
- Organizing the 2021 Montreal virtual conference of the International Cultic Studies Association (ICSA) July 1-3, 2021.

Since its founding, Info-Cult benefits from the close collaboration of its Board of Directors, made up of professionals in the fields of law, education, business and mental health. As well, with the support of many volunteers and an international network, Info-Cult continues to make important contributions to its mission of informing and educating the public about the cultic phenomenon.



Carolle Tremblay  
President



Mike Kropveld  
Executive Director



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## 1. INFO-CULT

**Profile**

**Objectives**

**Board of Directors, Volunteers, Staff**

Board of Directors

Members

Volunteers

Staff

**Decision making and Funding**

**History of Community Service**

**Testimonials**

## 2. SERVICES, RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES

**Assistance and Support Services**

Overview

Second generation

Support group

Reasonable Accommodations

Radicalization

Missing persons

**Education and Information Resources**

Information for Students and Teachers

Educational Programs

Selection of publications by Info-Cult  
and Colleagues

Info-Cult's Book

Info-Cult's Video

Conferences

Meetings with Groups

Give but Give Wisely / A Policy for Renting  
Rooms

Documentation Centre

Web Site

Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Alignable

YouTube

E-mail information lists

Newsletter: *News from Info-Cult*

Research Service

**Media appearances**

Radio and Television

Print Media

## 3. STATISTICS

**Breakdown: Origin of Tabulated Requests**

**Subjects/Groups**

**Statistics by decades since 1980**

## 4. COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND NETWORKING

**Community Relations**

**National and International Networking**

## 5. FINANCIAL REPORT

# 1. INFO-CULT

## Profile

Info-Cult, Centre for Assistance and for the Study of Cultic Phenomena is one of the leading organizations involved in responding to questions and concerns about cults, new religious movements and related groups and subjects. It is the only organization of its

kind in Quebec and unique in Canada. Info-Cult houses one of the largest collections in the world of information in this field and we provide a variety of services in response to individual and community needs.

## Objectives

The objective of Info-Cult is to promote the dignity and integrity of the individual, the respect of collective and individual rights, the freedom of thought and expression, and the right of access to information.

Our objectives as indicated in our charter are:

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

## Board of Directors, Members, Volunteers, Staff

### President

Carolle Tremblay  
Lawyer  
Jolicœur Lacasse Avocats

### Vice President

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

### Secretary

Michael Crelinsten  
Executive Director  
Jewish Public Library

### Treasurer

Marie-Hélène Frappier  
Professor of Philosophy  
Ahuntsic College



### Directors

Louis Raphael

Isabelle Renaud

Herschel Segal  
Businessman

Sarah-Michèle Vincent-Wright

### Executive Director

Mike Kropveld

## **Members**

There are **28** who include former group members, parents, academics, lawyers and mental health professionals who share a common concern about

## **Volunteers**

Volunteers play an essential role in Info-Cult's daily operations. Many people assume that Info-Cult is a large organization with different departments. The reality is Info-Cult operates with a skeleton staff. This impression has come about as a result of the profile Info-Cult has attained and is in large part due to the countless hours that volunteers have dedicated to the organization. There are more than **35** volunteers who donate their time and expertise to our organization.

Volunteers are involved, in policy development and decision making, providing legal advice, publicity, office work, fund-raising, research, public education, helping to organize conferences, cataloguing of new acquisitions to our documentation centre, translation of documents from English to French and French into English, in constructing and maintaining our web site and in a very important area - support to ex-members and families.

Volunteers who are former members play an integral role and we cannot underline enough the time that

the "cult" issue and are involved in supporting the activities and services of the organization.

they have volunteered to talk with:

- Other former members in need of support;
- Families who were in a time of crisis; and
- The media in search of a former member's experience.

Volunteers include:

- Professionals (including educators, mental health professionals, lawyers, business professionals, etc.) who recognize the need for Info-Cult and offer their expertise.
- Concerned individuals who have taken the time to learn about the issue.
- Individuals who have, or have had a child, sibling, parent or friend involved in a cultic group and understand the harm that such a crisis situation can cause.
- Former members who want to use their experience to alert others to the potential harm that involvement in a group can entail.

## **Staff**

Info-Cult's founder and Executive Director, Mike Kropveld was the full-time staff person assisted by Antoine Tardif a half time employee. In addition, Info-Cult is assisted by two contractual employees.

The Executive Director serves on the:

- Board of Directors [since 2009] **International Cultic Studies Association (ICSA)\*** and as Chair of the ICSA Conference Committee

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

**The Government of Canada:** In 1992 he received the 125th Commemorative Medal *in recognition of*

*significant contribution to compatriots, community and to Canada.*

**ICSA:** In 2007 he received the HERBERT L. ROSEDALE AWARD *presented in recognition of leadership in the effort to preserve and protect individual freedom.*

- \* The International Cultic Studies Association (ICSA) founded in 1979, is the leading professional organization in the field. Based in the United States, ICSA is a global network of people concerned about psychological manipulation and abuse in cultic groups, alternative movements, and other environments. ([www.icsahome.com](http://www.icsahome.com))

## **Decision Making and Funding**

### ***Decision Making***

The day-to-day operations and decisions are taken by the Executive Director. On matters of policy and the direction of the center, Info-Cult's Board meets during the course of the year. Six virtual **Board meetings** were held during the year and a virtual

**General Assembly**, attended by **10 members**. Alternative methods such as conference calls or email are used to reach a consensus on matters that require a rapid decision. Virtual meetings were instituted at the start of the pandemic.

### ***Funding***

Info-Cult receives funding from various sources, as shown in our financial statements which are accessible on our website. In **2020-2021**, Info-Cult received its annual grant from the **Quebec Ministry of Health and Social Services**, which is a major source of our funding.

Self-financing is a vital part of our funding and

includes:

- Individual donors
- Foundations,
- Companies,
- Religious communities and private groups.

Info-Cult is a registered Canadian charity - Revenue Canada No. 125754242 RR0001

## History and Highlights of Community Service

Info-Cult was founded in **1980** under the name **Cult Project** and at the time was under the auspices of the B'nai Brith Hillel Foundation of Montreal. In August **1990**, **Info-Cult** was formed as an independent, bilingual, non-denominational centre run by a Board of Directors concerned by the impact of cult phenomena on our society.

Info-Cult is widely recognized for many of its services and specifically for its expertise in assisting families and individuals affected by cult-related problems and in providing the community at large with objective information on “cults”, “new religious movements” and related groups and subjects. Info-Cult has evolved since its founding and like the groups that it observes and studies has developed and modified its perception and understanding of cult phenomena, which is in turn reflected in the services it provides.

Through the years, there have been numerous events of note. A few selected ones include:

- Since our inception, and again in **2020-2021**, Info-Cult has assisted hundreds of individuals and families looking for help and information and reached thousands of others through our newsletters, and our Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and Alignable platforms. Our French support group for former members, in existence since 2018 and run by professionals, went online at the start of the pandemic. We started an English online support group in April.
- In response to the expressed needs of former

members Info-Cult started a support group in **2018**. The group is run by a psychologist and psycho-educator who are generously giving of their time and expertise.

- **2014 - 2015** The recent global concerns about radicalization, extremism and violence, are what Info-Cult has been dealing with since we began operating in 1980.
- **2012:** Info-Cult hosted the *International Cultic Studies Association* Annual Conference in Montreal. This conference is the only one of its kind in the world.
- Prior to December 21, 2012 Info-Cult responded to questions and concerns from the media and families about the “End of the World”.
- **2010** marked **30 years of service** to the community. Over that period Info-Cult responded to tens of thousands of requests, detailed in our Statistics section.
- **2009:** Info-Cult ([www.infocult.org](http://www.infocult.org)) has been on line for 10 years, providing a wealth of English and French information and is constantly updated.
- Info-Cult in collaboration with two other Montreal organizations organized a 2-day conference at the University of Montreal. ***Du croire à l'extrême et des pratiques sectaires: prendre en compte et intervenir.***
- Info-Cult plays a key role in organizing ICSA

international conferences. Since **2009** our Executive Director, who is on the Board of ICSA, has served as Chair of the Conference Committee. In 2012 the conference was held in Montreal.

- The Publication in **2006** of Info-Cult's book by Mike Kropveld and Marie-Andrée Pelland, **The Cult Phenomenon: How Groups Function**, an updated English version of ***Le phénomène des sectes : l'étude du fonctionnement des groupes*** published in **2003**. The two versions are downloadable from Info-Cult's website at no charge. Production of this book was made possible thanks to a grant from Québec's *Ministère des Relations avec les citoyens et de l'Immigration* and the English version thanks to the support of Canadian Heritage.
- In **2005** Info-Cult celebrated its 25th Anniversary of public service. A booklet commemorating the event was published and included congratulatory remarks from prominent individuals. The booklet is available on our website.
- **1999**: [www.infocult.org](http://www.infocult.org) was launched.
- In the years **1994** and **1995** the world saw and heard about the tragedies related to the Order of the Solar Temple in Canada, Switzerland and France, the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas and the Aum Shinri Kyo in Japan. Info-Cult served as an important resource to the media and others for background information about those groups and to assist in providing a

context to understanding these tragedies.

- Info-Cult released its educational documentary, *Beyond the Mirage* in **1994** an original English version of its French version *Au-delà des Mirages* which was launched in 1993.

The documentaries were made for the general public, with a special focus on youth, to raise awareness about the cult phenomenon. The videos have been used as a teaching tool in schools across Canada and the United States.

- Also in **1993**, Info-Cult submitted a report to a Quebec Parliamentary Commission on "alternative therapies". In its submission concerns were raised about the harm associated with the practices of certain alternative therapies.
- **1991** a bilingual information pamphlet was published by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (R.C.M.P.) in collaboration with Info-Cult. The pamphlet, entitled *Are You Vulnerable?* was distributed throughout Canada.
- In the **1980s** different reports were completed, such as in 1987, on cultism in France, funded in part by the *Office Franco-Québécois pour la Jeunesse*; in 1986, on charitable solicitation in Canada, funded by *Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada* and in the same year on consumer problems related to new religious movements in Quebec, funded by a grant from *l'Office de la Protection du consommateur du Québec*. And in 1982, a report on cults in the Francophone sector in Montreal.

## Testimonials

Thank you very much for your time the other day. I really appreciate the time you took to speak with me. (Wife of a member)

*Je vous félicite. Je viens de faire un don à votre organisme, parce que j'estime que vous m'avez vraiment éclairée dans la situation difficile avec X, la nièce de mon conjoint. Merci encore! .... Votre organisme offre des services indispensables et vous avez de grandes qualités humaines, Mike (Family member)*

Thank you very much for your support when I really needed some. Info cult is a professional and extremely knowledgeable organism out of which anyone who needs accurate information about cults and gurus can get a great value and great support. Long Life. Much respect for your work. (Husband)

*Nous nous sommes parlé il y a quelques semaines au sujet de ma mère qui m'inquiétait avec ses théories du complot avec X. Je voulais vous remercier. Elle suis toujours cet homme sur le web mais pour ma part, je me sens plus sereine. Suite à la discussion que nous avons eu, je sais mieux comment me situer dans cette situation qui n'est pas évidente. (Daughter)*

I have read this and other articles you've sent, some of which I've emailed to clients, who, like myself, are former cult members. Thank you for your good work! Best, (Former member)

*Merci pour votre gentillesse, j'en ai appris beaucoup lors de notre conversation. Je me sens un peu plus « zen » maintenant et je crois que ma contribution est maintenant plus bénéfique! (Family member)*

*J'ai pris connaissance des Nouvelles d'Info-Secte #52.*

Still grateful for the help you gave to me many years ago, Mike, to understand my (now wife's) experiences as a member of the religious cult operating out of St. X. (Husband of a former member)

*Sans prétention, ça me donne du baume au cœur de penser que l'entrevue que j'ai faite avec les X a peut-être aidé d'autres personnes dans la même situation, en faisant connaître d'avantage votre organisme. C'était mon objectif. Ça n'a pas été facile pour moi de collaborer avec ces journalistes. Un stress de plus à gérer avec ce que je vivais.*

*Encore merci pour votre précieux travail, à vous et toute l'équipe!*

Dear Mike, I always "mean" to send you more donations than I do. You'll never know truly how much I appreciate your organization and the work it does. Sincerely, (Former member)

*De mon côté, à l'aide de tous vos bons conseils, je réussis à maintenir ma relation avec ma mère. Mais que c'est épuisant de gérer tout cela au quotidien! Je n'ai pas de BAC en psychologie et je dois gérer la situation comme si.*

*Au moins, les choses évoluent et c'est ça qui importe.*

*Encore merci et continuez votre beau travail! (daughter)*

*À l'équipe de Info-Secte,*

*Nos remerciements pour le soutien constant et les conseils avisés. (Mother of a member)*

*Merci à vous. Le patient et persévérant travail que vous faites est essentiel. (Priest)*

*Merci pour votre excellent travail ! J'apprécie beaucoup de recevoir vos courriels ! Je souhaite un joyeux temps des Fêtes à toute l'équipe. (Member of the public)*

*Bravo pour votre beau travail. Ça m'a beaucoup aidé (Parent).*

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)

*Votre cause me tient à cœur, je vois dans ma pratique les dégâts que font les sectes. (Lawyer)*

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

I have read this and other articles you've sent, some of which I've emailed to clients, who, like myself, are former cult members. Thank you for your good work! Best, (Former member)

*Merci beaucoup de votre accueil et de votre écoute surtout. Continuez le beau travail de sensibilisation! (Former member)*

Thanks for the info, I will utilize 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)

*Les informations sur la séance de « X » s'est déroulée exactement comme vous m'aviez dit. Les mises en garde m'ont été précieuses et ont servi à me préparer face aux pressions pour l'inscription. Les gens étaient vraiment sous l'émotion de leur week-end de nettoyage! (Member of the public)*

... Shunning is not a nice practice. This group doesn't blow people up but they promote emotional terrorism. Thanks for your help. (Former member)

*I have read this and other articles you've sent, some of which I've emailed to clients, who, like myself, are former cult members. Thank you for your good work! (Former member)*

Bonjour, Je voulais vous remercier pour notre conversation téléphonique et ces informations. Cela est très apprécié. Je vous ai trouvé très gentil et professionnel. J'ai décidé de ne pas y aller finalement. J'ai écouté mon intuition et mes rêves... Je vous remercie. Bonne continuation. (Member of the public)

*Bonjour Mike, je vous écris pour faire un suivi au sujet de mon frère X, finalement tout s'est bien réglé, nous nous sommes parlés et il a raconté pourquoi il avait écrit cette lettre, d'un autre côté nous avons pu lui exprimer ce que nous nous avons vécu (quand je dis nous, je parle surtout de mon père) alors tout est bien qui finit bien. Un gros merci pour vos bonnes paroles données si généreusement. Ce fut très utile. (Sister of a member)*

... Vos courriels sont très appréciés. Votre travail contribue à la réflexion : qu'est-ce que la liberté, qu'est-ce que la liberté de religion, qu'est-ce qu'une communauté de foi. Il ne faut jamais faire l'économie de la raison humaine. Merci pour votre travail (Head of a Religious Community)

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 and has taken up much of my life since April. 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).

*Pour l'aide que M. Mike Kropveld m'a apporté il y a quelques années avec une grande compétence, compréhension et aussi pour sa grande ouverture d'esprit. En espérant que ce don puisse aider le moins possible d'autres personnes. (Parent)*

Bonjour, J'ai dû abandonner la proposition de reportage dont nous avons parlé ...Cependant, merci énormément pour vos explications. Cela m'a beaucoup aidé. Cordialement, (Étudiante en journalisme)

*Vous n'avez pas idée combien vos conseils me sont précieux. Je les avais tous notés après notre rencontre. C'est vraiment de ce genre de conseils pratiques dont j'avais besoin! Merci encore, (Former member)*

Dear Mike, I always "mean" to send you more donations than I do. You'll never know truly how much I appreciate your organization and the work it does. Sincerely, (Former member)

*Bonjour Mike, J'ai pensé te donner des nouvelles vu que ça fait longtemps qu'on s'est vus. Je suis maintenant certaine de ne plus vouloir être de « X ». Je ne fais pas de démarches pour me dissocier officiellement, mais je 'fade out' comme on dit. Et j'ai commencé à le dire à mon entourage, comme à mes collègues de travail, ma famille et mes amis proches (membres ou non). (Former member)*

...I will tell you that our son is now a practicing psychologist...You advised us...to Stay cool/that it did not sound like he was involved with a cult, and you were right. (Parent)

*Je quitte mon travail demain après 35 ans de travail au secteur public et parapublic. J'ai beaucoup apprécié les collaborations que nous avons eues au fil des ans. Non seulement ton expertise est unique mais la façon dont tu sais en faire bénéficier le public et les intervenants de tous les secteurs est remarquable. Tes conseils ont toujours été judicieux et ton approche a toujours témoigné d'un grand respect pour les gens que tu as aidés. Ce fut un plaisir de te connaître. (Professional, public service)*

I hope all is well for you and Info-Sect. We are busier than ever... too busy really. 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. Take care, (Non-profit rehab center for former members)

Je ne puis laisser passer l'occasion de la fin de ce merveilleux colloque des deux derniers jours sans vous remercier d'une façon toute particulière de votre dévouement à organiser cet événement...J'ai puisé dans ces conférences, des ressources nouvelles de compréhension que je pourrai vulgariser sur le terrain auprès des gens que je connais et à qui j'offre de l'écoute suite à leur passé dans des milieux religieux fermés. (Former member)

*... Je trouve que vous faites un travail en profondeur depuis tant d'années, travail qui agit comme une vague de fond et qui nous mènera un jour pas trop lointain, espérons-le, vers une législation plus éclairée concernant les droits des enfants sur ce sujet très pointu. Mieux équipés, nous pourrions alors éviter à d'innombrables enfants les effets néfastes des expériences en milieux sectaires totalitaires, et par extension mieux accompagner les enfants-adultes qui posent le geste volontaire de quitter de tels milieux. Je suis reparti mieux outillé pour la compréhension des effets et des étapes du parcours psychologique quand il s'agit d'enfants élevés en bas âge dans ces groupes, avec de meilleurs moyens d'intervention et avec une ouverture plus humaine sur des possibilités d'aide pour ceux qui font l'expérience du vécu en milieu sectaire. J'espère avoir encore l'occasion de puiser à votre savoir. Humblement, (Former member)*

## 2. SERVICES, RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES

### Assistance and Support Services

#### *Overview*

Most people's first contact with Info-Cult is by phone, email or Facebook. Office hours are from 9-5 Monday to Friday, though we can also be reached at other times by email, voicemail or Facebook.

In **2020-2021** Info-Cult dealt with **780 inquiries** for help and information. The requests come from people with different needs and from all walks of life (see Statistics for a breakdown). Among them are:

- **Former group** members who are having problems integrating or reintegrating into society. Increasingly over the past few years more callers include **second generation members**, (those born or raised in a group);
- **Families** who are worrying about a loved-one's involvement in a group (requests come from among others, parents calling about their children, adults about their parents, husbands about their wives or vice versa);
- **Mental health professionals**, lawyers and, law enforcement officers, or community workers seeking our advice about a specific situation or to refer a client;
- **Regular callers** who are in need of someone to talk to when going through a difficult period.

Many of the people contacting us are going through a difficult period, due to a loved-one's dramatic behaviour change on becoming involved in a group, former members who are desperately seeking

assistance and support to deal with their experiences and a myriad of other callers that contact us for help. This is our most important service and the one to which we devote the most time.

With nearly every caller we provide the added dimension of preventive education by taking the time to exclaim how Info-Cult functions, and our view and position on the issue of "cults". We clarify that we do not simply reply that a group is or isn't a cult. Even though there are extreme groups, the reality is that a simple answer in this area rarely exists. Our position is one that is moderate and balanced based on objective information as well as on our near 40 years of experience in working in this field.

Info-Cult has assisted thousands of families and ex-cult members since 1980 and this year responded among others, to **142 family related concerns, and 22 former and current members of cultic or controversial groups.**



**Mike Kropveld, Executive Director  
Info-Cult**

## ***Born and Raised Former Members***

These are former group members who were born or raised in high demand / high control groups. These former members in contrast to other former members have no previous non-group identity and the problems they face often vary considerably from other former members. More time is required in providing them with support and assistance in helping them integrate into a world that in many cases is foreign to them.

## ***Support Group***

In response to the expressed needs of former members Info-Cult started a support group run in French in Montreal in 2018 and an English one that started in 2020. These two support groups are for those who have gone through a controlling relationship (conjugal, ideological or group). The groups are led by a psychologist and psycho-educator who are volunteering their time and expertise. Meetings take place on a monthly basis and since the start of the pandemic are offered virtually.

## ***Reasonable Accommodation***

Over the years our society has become more culturally and religiously diverse. One effect of the changes has been those individuals and groups' religious beliefs and practices have sometimes come into conflict in the workplace, schools, hospitals, etc... Some cases have been widely publicized and on occasion gone before the courts.

We encourage them to seek professional help in dealing with the emotional, psychological, and financial problems they face and we make them aware of our support groups. Major obstacles for most former members include: few professionals knowledgeable about their specific predicament, there are costs involved and they have little or no money, they have minimal marketable skills and often no support network.

The purpose of the group is to help former members move on after their experience. After being involved in an environment that was so intense, post-group life can be quite lonely and isolating. A group for former members can help counteract that sense of loneliness. It's also helpful for former members to see that the manipulations and power tactics used on them were similar whether they were involved in a religious, new age, political, therapy cult or cultic relationship.

Info-Cult's approach is to help avoid conflict, if possible, by providing information and analysis, based on our experience and access to information on thousands of religious and other groups. We have responded to among others, businesses, landlords, schools, government and government agencies and the Supreme Court of Canada.

Some of the situations we have been asked about include:

- Religious holidays
- Working conditions
- Blood transfusions, vaccinations and other medical questions
- Head gear
- Schooling (public and private)

- Clothing
- Diet
- Behavior

In many situations, our insight helped individuals, businesses, agencies and organizations resolve their concerns and avoid potential problems.

### ***Radicalization (Cultic Dynamics and Radicalization)***

During the past few years, we have assisted family and institutions with concerns about adolescents getting involved with extremist ideologies.

In 2017, the ICSA annual conference which Info-Cult co-organizes had as its theme: *Cultic Dynamics and Radicalization* Attacks by terrorists here and abroad have led some to suggest that the process of radicalization is similar to cult recruitment. Some have stated that terrorist groups are cults. Regardless of the label we tag onto a group there is

one striking similarity, and that is the violence that is carried out by some groups. For **forty-one (41) years** Info-Cult has been addressing concerns about high control groups commonly referred to as “cults” and to the issue of cultic phenomena in general. Info-Cult’s focus has been on how and why people join or are recruited and converted to extreme and marginal groups, how these groups function, how they change over time and the role of leaders in these groups

### ***Missing Persons***

Every so often we receive calls from families who haven’t seen or heard from a family member in months or even years. Their disappearance has been reported to the Police but uncertain of what has happened to their loved-ones and not content just to wait, they call us. These are some of the saddest calls we listen to.

We are seen as a last resort, a family grasping at straws, hoping that maybe their family member who disappeared is alive and in a “cult” and influenced to

cut off all contact with their past. The pain is evident in their voices as they describe to us the events surrounding the person’s disappearance.

We take the time to listen to them though the majority of these callers have no information that they can provide that would point to a group being involved in their loved ones’ disappearance. All we can do is empathize with their situation and indicate that if they do find any details possibly relating to a group, they should feel free to contact us again.

## Education and Information Resources

### *Information for Students and Teachers*

The subject of “cults”, “new religious movements” and marginal groups is included in the curriculum of many High Schools, Cegeps and Universities. Info-Cult responds to requests for information from students and teachers. Students are often referred to us and/or our website to obtain information and assistance for school assignments.

This is an important step in the development of the study and understanding of how groups (cults, new religious movements and other related groups) function and their potential impact on individuals and society.

We take the time to respond to phone inquiries by students and frequently have students visit our offices. Student projects can range from one-page written assignments, audio or video documentary projects to Master’s and Doctoral Theses. Students from Montreal as well as from other cities in Quebec have visited our offices. Since the start of the pandemic meetings with students have taken place online

### *Educational Programs*

This year due to the pandemic there were no in person presentations. We were involved in two (2) virtual presentations:

CLSC de Chicoutimi - Conspiracy Theories and Impact on Families

Fédération de l'Âge d'Or du Québec - Région des Laurentides (FADOQ-RLS), Moment partagé

Vidéoconférence sur les phénomènes sectaires ([Part 1](#) & [Part 2](#))

Other programs included podcasts. They are listed under the section: **Media appearances**

### *Selected Publications from Info-Cult and Colleagues*

Over the years Info-Cult staff, board and colleagues have given many presentations and written articles and book chapters. A selection is presented here. The complete list can be accessed from our website at: <http://infosect.freeshell.org/infocult/ICPubs.html>

- Kropveld, M. (2017). *A multi-perspective approach for understanding and evaluating groups*, presentation given at a conference in Wuhan, China — December 2-3, 2017.
- Kropveld, M. (2016). *Info-Secte à 35 ans : observations, perspectives et leçons retenues*, Nouvelles d'Info-Secte, No. 37, décembre 2016

- Kropveld, M. (2016). *Info-Cult at 35 : Observations, Insights, and Lessons Learned*, ICSA Today, Volume 7 No. 2. pp. 10-14
- Info-Secte, Rapport sur Lev Tahor, Communiqué de Presse, 13 juillet 2015
- Info-Cult, Report on Lev Tahor, Press Release, July 13, 2015
- CULT AWARENESS MOVEMENT, UNDERSTANDING THE RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE: THE INFO-SECTE/INFO-CULT PERSPECTIVE An interview with Michael Kropveld, World Religions and Spirituality Forum, Posted 12/29/2015
- Segal, Herschel. Opinion: Une vision étroite de la radicalisation, La Presse, version en ligne, le 3 septembre 2015 (la version imprimée, le 31 août 2015).
- Segal, Herschel. Opinion: Federal anti-radicalization efforts have taken too narrow an approach, Montreal Gazette, July 16, 2015
- Tremblay, Carolle & Kropveld, M. 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, A. (2015) Quebec francophone Conservative Protestants and youth protection laws: Conflict between secular law and divine law? News from Info-Cult, #29, February 2015.
- Pacheco, A. (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, Carolle & Kropveld, M. Opinion: Terrorist groups and cults have some things in common, Montreal Gazette, February 20, 2015
- Giambalvo, C., Kropveld, M., & Langone, M. (2013). Changes in North American Cult Awareness Organizations, in *Revisionism and Diversification n New Religious Movements*, Edited by Eileen Barker, Ashgate Publishing, p. 227-46. To access an earlier, much longer draft of the chapter go [here](#).
- 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
- Kropveld, Mike. (2013). "Culti" e globalizzazione: Riflessioni e domande, MANIPOLAZIONI E VESSAZIONI Anno 2-n°2|agosto 2013. Italian translation of *Cults and globalization: Reflections and questions*. Published in 2012, ICSA Today, 3(2), pp. 2-5. See Kropveld, M. (2011).
- Kropveld, Mike (2013). Info-Secte. Présentation à l'Association francophone pour le savoir (ACFAS), le 6 mai 2013
- Kropveld, M. (2011). "Cults" and Globalization: Reflections and Questions. Bangkok, Thailand. *The International Symposium on Cultic Studies*

## **Info-Cult's Book**

Info-Cult's *The Cult Phenomenon: How Groups Function* is the English version of *Le phénomène des sectes: l'étude du fonctionnement des groupes*. Both versions are downloadable at no cost from our



website. The books are a relevant resource in understanding the cult phenomenon and encompass the emergence of extreme and marginal beliefs and groups.



## **Info-Cult's Videos**

The documentaries *Beyond the Mirage* and the French version *Au-delà des mirages* were produced as a tool to educate students and the public. Both

versions can be downloaded at no cost from our website.



## **Conferences**

### **ICSA Annual International Conferences**

In addition to conferences and presentations given by Info-Cult staff and volunteers, **Info-Cult** is one of the principal organizers of the Annual International Cultic Studies Association (ICSA - ([www.icsahome.com](http://www.icsahome.com)) Conferences. ICSA conferences offer practical assistance, research findings, and information on cults, new religious movements and other groups from the leading professionals and organizations in the field. Attendees and speakers are diverse, including academicians, helping professionals, former group members, current group members, families, clergy, educators, and others.

ICSA conferences have been held in locations in North America and Europe and included Edmonton (Canada), Madrid and Barcelona (Spain), Brussels (Belgium), Philadelphia (US), Geneva (Switzerland), Washington D.C.(US), Montreal (Canada), Stockholm (Sweden), Bordeaux (France) and Manchester (U.K.). The 2020 ICSA conference was scheduled to be in Montreal to celebrate Info-Cult's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. However, because of the pandemic the conference was postponed to 2021 and will be held virtually.

Working with ICSA has reinforced Info-Cult's belief in the importance of international cooperation. The international representation at these conferences reflects the global nature of this issue and over the years the growing collaboration of individuals and organizations in other countries around the world has strengthened the work we are involved in and has helped to enhance the quality of the information and assistance we are able to provide to those in need.

The conferences include forums for the exchange of information, specifically new approaches in helping individuals and families with someone in a high intensity closed group and in treatment for those who have had a cult-related experience. Info-Cult's involvement in the organizing of these conferences offers students and professionals from Montreal, the province of Quebec and the rest of the country the opportunity to participate and learn more about this subject and to present their work before an international audience. Info-Cult's involvement has also helped to establish and strengthen our national and international contacts in this area.



Info-Cult has been collaborating with ICSA for nearly twenty years in organizing International Conferences. Participants at ICSA conferences include academics, mental health professional, law enforcement personnel, families, media, members and former group members and the general public. The conference provides a range of sessions for academics, mental health professionals, families and former members.

### ***Meetings with Groups***

Since 2009 Info-Cult in conjunction with three European organizations organize **Meetings with Controversial Groups**. These meetings (participation is by invitation) are centred on topics which encourage discussion with groups often viewed as controversial or “cults”. Meetings have taken place on a yearly basis among the participating governmental and non-governmental organizations. **Info-Cult** is the only non-European representative. The other organisations are **INFORM** (Information Network on Religious Movements) London, United Kingdom – [www.inform.ac](http://www.inform.ac), **CIAOSN** (Centre d'information et d'avis sur les organisations sectaires nuisibles) Bruxelles, Belgique – <http://www.ciaosn.be/> and **CIC** (Centre Intercantonal d'Information sur les Croyances) Genève, Suisse – [www.cic-info.ch](http://www.cic-info.ch). The 2019 meeting was held in Brussels and hosted by CIAOSN. The 2020 meeting was held in February in Geneva. There is no meeting being planned until the end of the pandemic. However, in the interim the CIC, CIAOSN and Info-Cult meet virtually on a monthly basis to exchange information.

## ***Give But Give Wisely / A Policy for Renting Room Spaces***

Two important Public Service Announcements (PSAs) are posted on our website to encourage people and organizations considering donating to a cause to *Give but Give Wisely*. For public and

private institutions thinking of renting space to an outside group we encourage them to develop a *Policy* on this. We provide a sample on our website that they can use.

## ***Documentation Centre***



Info-Cult's documentation centre has acquired a vast and unique quantity of materials on "cults", "new religious movements" and related groups and subjects.

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, CDs and DVDs, 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.

Most of the collection has been acquired from former members, private organizations and the public. Since 1999, new acquisitions of books, government reports, and journals to Info-Cult's documentation centre are listed on our web site with links that provide further information about the materials or access to the entire document.

Over the years our collection, which continues to grow, has become increasingly well known internationally and has attracted visitors to our centre from other countries. As the life of video cassettes is limited Info-Cult started to digitalize its collection in order to protect this unique collection.

## **Web Site**

Info-Cult's website ([www.infocult.org](http://www.infocult.org)) has been online since 1999 and is regularly updated. We hope to have a new website online shortly. Our website provides: information about Info-Cult's history and services, advice for those who have a problem, help for those who are thinking about joining a group, general information on the phenomenon of "cults" and "new religious movements", Info-Cult's publications (including our books, conferences, articles, etc.), a large collection of government reports from different countries, a list of upcoming TV programs, conferences and other events.



Our web site provides an invaluable resource for those interested in learning about "cults", "new religious movements" and related subjects and

is visited by tens of thousands every year.

The use of our website by people looking for information on specific groups and on the cult phenomenon in general demonstrates the importance of this service. With its unique collection of information and its easy accessibility across all platforms, our website has been visited by hundreds of thousands of visitors from around the world. The planning, creation and maintenance of the site has been in the very competent hands of Robert Seely and Louis Raphael. Info-Cult is extremely fortunate to have dedicated volunteers, who over the years have given thousands of hours of their time and expertise to this very important project. We are extremely grateful for their continued commitment.

## **Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Alignable**

Info-Cult has had a **FACEBOOK** page since 2013. The idea and initial set up are the work of Isabelle Renaud, a volunteer at that time and now a board member. Our Facebook page has 800 followers.

[www.facebook.com/infocult/infosecte](http://www.facebook.com/infocult/infosecte)

We recently can also be found on LinkedIn, Twitter and Alignable

[twitter.com/info\\_secte](https://twitter.com/info_secte)

<https://ca.linkedin.com/in/mike-kropveld-info-secte-35bb01150>

<https://www.alignable.com/montreal-qc/info-secte>

This visibility allows us to reach a greater and more diverse audience.



## **Info-Cult on YouTube**

Info-Cult's videos are easily accessible via our YouTube page:

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



### ***E-mail information lists (English and French)***

Info-Cult provides a free service whereby anyone who subscribes can receive articles and other information on cults, new religious movements and related phenomena, announcements of upcoming conferences, television programs and updates about Info-Cult. Subscribers can receive up to 25 notices per week.

We have an English and French list and the information sent is generally different. There are **388** subscribers on the English list and **259** on the French list. Subscribers include individuals, former members, media, law-enforcement, community and religious groups, professionals (social workers, psychologists, lawyers, etc.

### ***Newsletter: News from Info-Cult***

For **15 years** we have published a newsletter in which we have expressed our views on specific subjects as well as highlighting some of our activities. The newsletter which is published on an irregular basis is distributed primarily by email to **two thousand eight**

**hundred and fifty-six (2,856)** unique addresses as well as mailed to selected organizations in the public and private sector. Newsletters are also posted on our web site and social media platforms. In **2020–2021 five (5)** editions were published.

### ***Research Service***

This service satisfies the needs of those who are looking for information on a group or subject and are not able to visit our offices.

Requests are received from the Montreal area as well as from the rest of the province, other parts of Canada and abroad.

### **Media appearances**

Over the years Info-Cult staff, board members and volunteers have given thousands of interviews to national and international television and radio programs and documentaries or have provided information and interviews for newspaper and magazine articles. In the past year, Info-Cult staff and board members responded to **44 requests** from the media, for information or for an interview. Here is a list of interviews/programs in which the Info-Cult board were involved this year:

#### **Conspiracies**

- February 28th 2021 – La Presse

Comment je suis « tombé là-dedans »

- February 25th 2021 – McGill Newsroom

Zen and the Art of Talking to Conspiracy Theorists

- February 24th 2021 – Undark

Can Cult Studies Offer Help With QAnon? The Science Is Thin.

- February 3rd 2021 – L'actualité

Faut-il avoir peur... des dérives sectaires ?

- January 23rd 2021 – Radio-Canada, Décrypteurs

QAnon : quand les prophéties se heurtent à la réalité

- January 22nd 2021 – Radio-Canada, La croisée (Calgary, Alberta)

Comment aider un proche à se sortir des milieux complotistes ?

- November 19th 2020 – Radio-Canada, Enquête

Qonspiration... La suite

- November 19th 2020 – Radio-Canada

Comment d'anciens complotistes se sont libérés de QAnon

- October 20th 2020 – Radio-Canada, L'Heure de pointe (Toronto/Windsor)

Comment les gens qui adhèrent aux complots s'isolent-ils de leurs famille ?

- October 19th 2020 - CBC Radio, Let's Go Conspiracies

- October 16th 2020 - Radio-Canada

Après les Qonspirations, les conflits de famille

- October 6th 2020 - Métro Montréal

Que faire quand un proche sombre dans les théories du complot?

- October 1st 2020 - Journal de Montréal

Des conspirationnistes inquiètent leurs proches

- September 17th 2020 - Québec Science

Du 11 septembre aux vaccins: être complotiste, c'est pour la vie?

- August 1st 2020 - Le Devoir

La pandémie a profité à la prolifération de la pensée complotiste

- April 25th 2020 - ici.radio-canada

Quand un proche est happé par les théories du complot

## **General**

le 20 mars 2021 – Radio-Canada, Deuxième chance, Épisode 10

<https://ici.tou.tv/deuxieme-chance/S04E10?lectureauto=1>

- January 20th 2021 – Paranoid Planet Podcast

"The Cultic Culture Club" (part 2 of 5)

- January 14th 2021 – Club Illico

Cultes religieux : des enfants oubliés

- November 14th 2020 – Radio-Canada, Michel le samedi (NL)

**Le silence** de Renée Blanchar : Quelle suite pour les victimes ?

## **Jehovah's Witnesses**

- November 5th 2020 - Acadie nouvelle

Les Témoins de Jéhovah s'adaptent eux aussi à la pandémie

## **Sweating Session**

- September 15th 2020 - ici.radio-canada, Dérives (podcast)

**Mike Kropveld** (Founder and Executive Director - Info-Cult)

- August 14th 2020 - Un moment intime avec Mike Kropveld

Below is a selection of media in which Info-Cult board and staff have appeared over the past **41 years**.

## ***Radio and Television***

### ***Radio***

As It Happens, C.B.C. Radio  
B.B.C. Radio, England  
C.F.R.A., Ottawa  
C.F.R.B., Toronto  
C.H.R.C., Québec  
C.J.A.D., Montréal  
C.J.F.M., Montréal  
C.K.A.C. Montréal  
C.K.N.W., Vancouver  
C.H.O.I. Québec  
Fastband.com  
Internet Radio Network  
N.T.R., Montréal  
Newsweek Radio  
Q.R.77, Calgary  
Austrian Radio  
Radio-Canada International  
Radio France International  
Radio RTBF (Belgium)  
BBC  
Choix 98.1

### ***Television***

Second regard  
Claire Lamarche, TVA  
C.T.V. News, Canada AM, CTV  
Dateline, NBC  
Droit de parole, Radio-Québec  
Enjeux, Radio-Canada  
Fox on Psychology, Fox News, FOX  
Global News  
Independent Satellite News  
Infoman, Radio-Canada  
Légendes urbaines, Canal D  
Match de la vie, TVA  
MAtv  
Montréal ce soir, Radio-Canada  
National News, 5<sup>th</sup> Estate, CBC  
Newsworld  
National News, CTV  
Sunday Edition, CTV  
TVA Nouvelles  
RDI  
RDI – Les Grands Reportages  
Grand Journal, TQS  
Canal Historia  
Canal D

### ***Print Media***

Agence France Presse  
Amazon News Media  
Baltimore Sun  
Boston Globe  
Canoe.com  
Deseret News  
Elle (Malaysia)  
Gazette  
Globe & Mail  
Journal de Montréal  
Journal de Québec  
L'Actualité  
La Presse  
Le Devoir

Le Droit  
Le Figaro  
Le Monde  
Le Nouvelliste  
Le Nouvel Observateur  
Le Point AFP  
Le Québec sceptique  
Le Soleil  
London Daily Telegraph  
Maclean's Magazine  
McGill Daily  
Miami Herald  
New York Daily News  
New York Times

Newsweek  
Ottawa Citizen  
Phnom Penh Post  
Vice Magazine  
Canadian Press  
Québec Science  
Reuters  
The Walrus  
Time  
Toronto Star  
Toronto Sun  
USA Today  
Wall Street Journal  
Western Star

### 3. STATISTICS

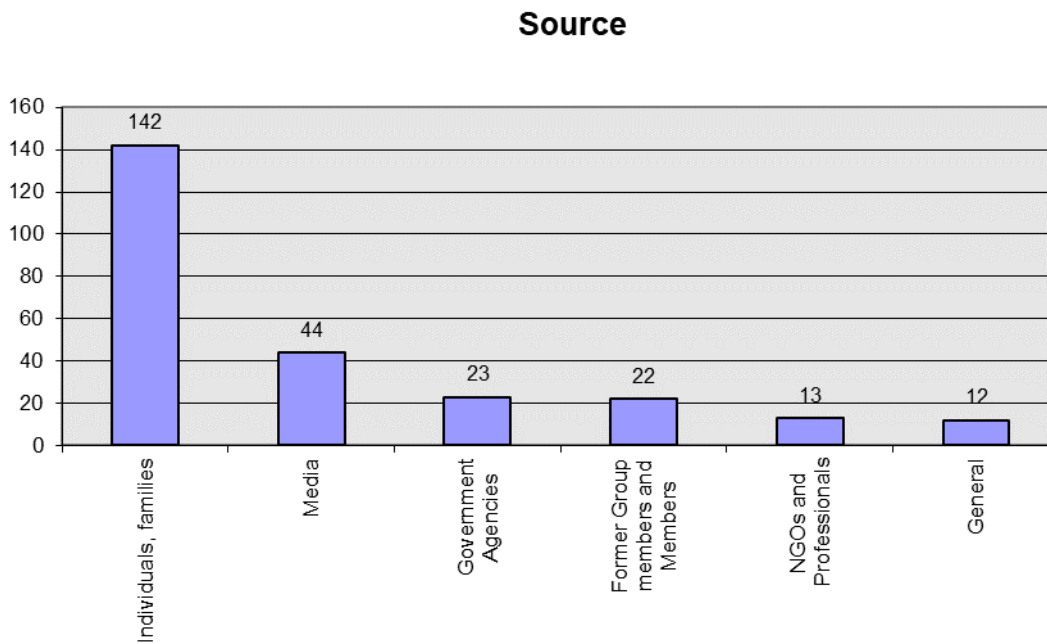
Info-Cult dealt with **780** calls, emails and Facebook messages in **2020-2021**.

These requests represent; individual and family concerns about a loved one getting involved in a group or who are presently a member, individuals asking for information about a specific group or looking for general information on the cult phenomenon. Requests from professionals, businesses, non-profits, and other private and governmental institutions relate to a specific client, case, or situation. The media's requests were either for interviews and/or information about a particular group or subject.

Requests are received by phone, email, Facebook and other social media.

We are in the process of making changes to our record keeping and as a result, statistics are only a partial representation of what was actually received at our center.

#### Breakdown: Origin of Tabulated Requests



## Breakdown of Groups/Subjects\*

This year we received requests on **108** different groups or subjects.

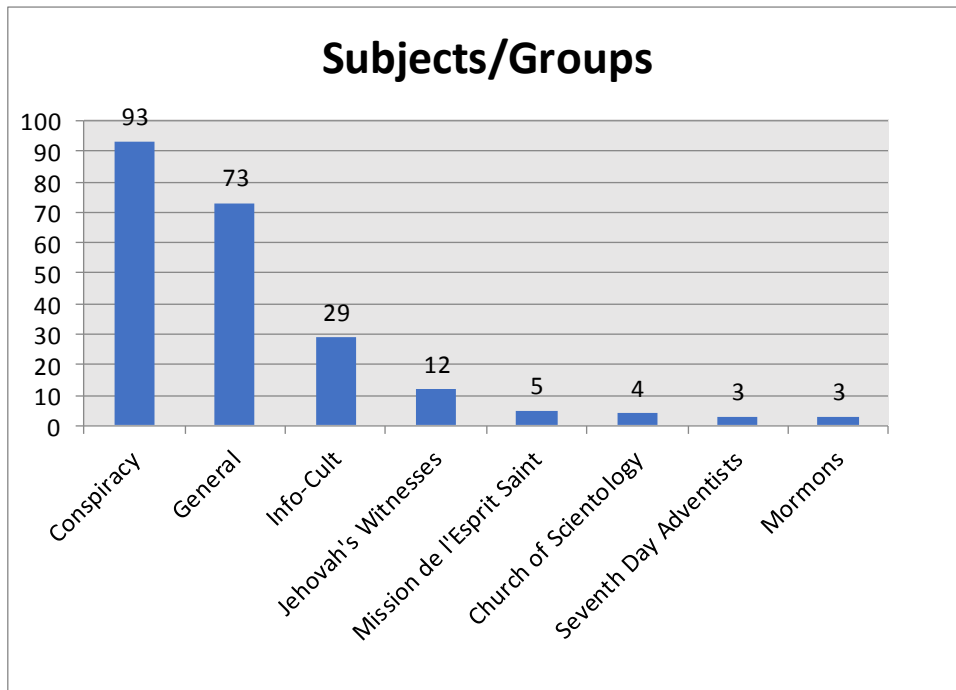
The most requested in **2020-2021** are indicated in the graph below. The majority of requests dealt with conspiracies and most concerned specific family situations.

Regarding General inquiries the majority of requests were either for general information on the cult phenomenon or concerned specific family situations.

In the case of the latter the name of the group was known but in a number of situations the name was unknown to the caller.

We are in the process of making changes to our record keeping and this year's statistics are only a partial representation of what was actually received at our center.

The most requested groups appear below. The remainder, the 100 groups or subjects requested, generated either 1 or 2 inquiries.



\*The inclusion of a group on this list does not denote that it is a cult only that an inquiry was received about it. It does not include a breakdown of all emails or requests made through our social media platforms.

## Info-Cult Statistics: 1980-2020

The lists below provide a snapshot, of the past four decades of the 10 most requested groups or subjects. Certain groups or subjects appear throughout, while others have changed. There are several reasons to explain this. Firstly, some of the groups are more present in Quebec from which we get the most requests, thereby generating more interest or concern. Secondly, specific events or tragedies generate increased media scrutiny and subsequent public interest for a limited period of time. For example, Satanism was a hot topic in the 80s and 90s as a result of numerous newspaper stories, books and TV programs. As well, the Raelians have been the focus of countless media stories and exposes, including worldwide media coverage of their claims of having cloned a human being. Following these false claims, the media has been less willing to give the Raelians the publicity it seems to crave. Finally, some groups have ceased to exist over the years, or have changed the way in which they operate, thus attracting less attention and public interest.

### 10 Most Requested Subjects/Groups by Decades

#### 1980-1990

- General (1,997)
- Church of Scientology (360)
- Jehovah's Witnesses (225)
- est [The Forum – Landmark Education] (173)
- Unification Church (134)
- Hare Krishna [ISKCON] (85)
- Satanism (82)
- Transcendental Meditation [TM] (51)
- Worldwide Church of God [WWCOG] (48)
- Rajneesh (44)

#### 1990- 2000

- General (3,453)
- Jehovah's Witnesses (1,185)
- Church of Scientology (860)
- Info-Secte (760)
- Raelians (676)
- Satanism (274)
- Eglise Vie et Réveil (274)
- est [The Forum - Landmark Education] (247)
- Mormons (240)
- Rosicrucians (235)

#### 2000-2010

- General (1,116)
- Info-Secte (393)
- Jehovah's Witnesses (388)
- est [The Forum - Landmark Education] (276)
- Raelians (262)
- Church of Scientology (224)
- Mission de l'Esprit Saint (124)
- Eglise Vie et Reveil (93)
- Eckankar (75)
- Mormons (74)

#### 2010-2020

- General (424)
- Jehovah's Witnesses (215)
- Info-Cult (123)
- est [The Forum - Landmark Education] (73)
- Church of Scientology (63)
- Mission de l'Esprit Saint (58)
- Lev Tahor (43)
- Marcel Pontbriand (37)
- Mormons (25)
- Église essénienne chrétienne (24)

**NOTE:** The inclusion of a group on this list does not denote that it is a cult only that some inquiries were received about it.

## 4. COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND NETWORKING

### Community Relations

Info-Cult has established contact with many public, private and community organizations. We have a network of groups with whom we exchange information, assistance, resources and referrals either on a regular basis or according to need.

Info-Cult receives requests and referrals from a variety of organizations (public and private). Info-Cult is also cited as a resource by academic and city libraries, community groups and referral centers, and listed in books, newsletters and journals. Over the last number of years, the internet has played a major role in providing the public with access to resources on cults, new religious movements and related groups and subjects and Info-Cult can be found listed on a range of websites around the world. Selected examples follow:

[arrondissement.com](http://arrondissement.com)

[quebec.cioc.ca/](http://quebec.cioc.ca/)

[cscapitale.qc.ca/bottindessources/info-secte.htm](http://cscapitale.qc.ca/bottindessources/info-secte.htm)

[quebechebdo.com](http://quebechebdo.com)

[recherche.211quebecregions.ca/record/QBC1262?UseEq=on](http://recherche.211quebecregions.ca/record/QBC1262?UseEq=on)

[apavecq.qc.ca/](http://apavecq.qc.ca/)

[ciaosn.be](http://ciaosn.be)

[cultinformation.org.uk/](http://cultinformation.org.uk/)

[apologeticsindex.org/i00.html](http://apologeticsindex.org/i00.html)

[factnet.org/cris\\_org.htm](http://factnet.org/cris_org.htm)

<https://www.gemppi.org/>

[einet.net/directory/43487/Cults.htm](http://einet.net/directory/43487/Cults.htm)

[victimsofviolence.on.ca/rev2/index.php](http://victimsofviolence.on.ca/rev2/index.php)

[ex-cult.org/](http://ex-cult.org/)

[dir.yahoo.com/Society\\_and\\_Culture/Religion\\_and\\_Spirituality/Cults/](http://dir.yahoo.com/Society_and_Culture/Religion_and_Spirituality/Cults/)

<https://jewishboard.org/toile.com/search>

[sciencepresse.qc.ca/cyber-express/286.html](http://sciencepresse.qc.ca/cyber-express/286.html)

[fecris.org](http://fecris.org)

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

<http://wrldreels.org/2017/03/13/media-room/>

Here is a selected list of local and regional organizations and groups with whom we have contact or who refer people to us:

- Consumer Protection Offices
- L'Association québécoise Plaidoyer-Victimes
- CLSCs throughout the province
- Option-Consommateur
- Youth Protection Departments
- Kids Help Line
- Centre de Référence du Grand Montréal
- Public and Institutionnal Libraries
- Law Enforcement Departments
- Health professionals (psychologists, doctors, social workers, therapists, etc...)
- Community organizations such as consumer groups, youth centres, sexual assault centres and crisis intervention centres
- Missing Children's Network
- Quebec Sceptics
- Teachers (High School, Cegeps, and Universities)
- Clergy
- Religious and cultural communities (Catholic Community Services, Federation CJA, etc.)
- Shelters for Women and Children victims of conjugal violence
- Ecumenical Center
- Centre for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence (CPRLV)
- Secours-Amitié Estrie

## National and International Networking

Info-Cult maintains contact with numerous individuals, agencies and organizations in the province of Quebec. As well, Info-Cult maintains relations with individuals, academics, professionals and organizations specializing in the area of cults and new religious movements across Canada and worldwide. This networking enables Info-Cult to exchange information and to be up to date with the current research, studies and activities in this area.

Some of the many organizations around the world with whom we keep contact:

### Canada:

- Centre d'écoute et d'interprétation des nouvelles recherches du croire – CEINR - Montreal
- Centre de ressources et d'observation de l'innovation religieuse – CROIR - de l'Université Laval

### United States

- International Cultic Studies Association – ICSA
- New England Institute of Religious Research – NEIRR
- Centers for Apologetics Research
- Freedom of Mind Resource Center
- Wellspring Retreat and Resource Center

### Japan

- Mind Control Research Center
- National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales

### Australia

- Cult Counselling Australia
- Cult Information & Family Support Inc

### Europe

- Information and Advice Center on Harmful Sectarian Organizations – CIAOSN - (Belgium Government centre)
- Human Rights Without Frontiers International – HRWF Int'l – (Belgium)
- Interministerial Mission of Vigilance and Combat against Sectarian Aberrations - MIVILUDES – (French Government centre)
- Centre intercantonal d'information sur les croyances – CIC - Switzerland (government funded)
- Asesoramiento e Informacion sobre Sectas – AIS - Spain (government funded)
- Family Action Information and Resource – FAIR - England
- Information Network Focus on Religious Movements - INFORM - England (partly government funded)
- Cult Information Centre (England)
- European Federation of Centres of Research and Information on Sectarianism - FECRIS – (government funded)
- Bundesstelle für Sektenfragen – (Austrian government office)
- SFRAEM (*Société Française de Recherche et d'Analyse de l'Emprise Mentale*)
- Dialogue Ireland Trust (Ireland)
- Hjälpkällan - Sweden (government funded)
- U.U.T. – Uskontojen Uhrien Tuki Ry- Finland (government funded)