



Centre universitaire de santé McGill
McGill University Health Centre

Religion and Organ and Tissue Donation

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PREFACE

This document has been designed to assist healthcare professionals when interacting with families whose culture and religion are not familiar to them. Our society is rapidly changing and the greater Montreal reflects these changes. After Toronto and Vancouver, Montreal is the city of choice for immigrants. In the province of Quebec, 10% of the population is foreign born.

When people are ill or dying; culture, traditions and religion become or regain importance (Kemp, 2005; Warren, 2005); especially in a hospital setting where very little that goes on is under a patient's or family's control. During these difficult times, spiritual care services is available to support families and individuals as they try to reconcile their religious views with what is being explained to them by the treating team. The dying process, withdrawal of life sustaining therapy, and organ and tissue donation needs to be addressed with sensitivity, as not every family deals/reacts to these issues in the same way.

Healthcare professionals, along with spiritual care services, social workers and others can significantly impact the kind of experience the family will have. By exploring our own cultural biases and recognizing that North American medicine has its own culture, we can equip others and ourselves with the tools to become culturally aware.

Culhane-Pera et al (1997), based on the Bennett Model, outline five levels of cultural awareness that healthcare workers can use. This step-by-step approach will assist in identifying where someone is in his or her learning process:

- Level 1** No insight about the influence of culture on medical care
- Level 2** Minimal emphasis on culture in medical setting
- Level 3** Acceptance of the role of cultural beliefs, values and behaviors on health
- Level 4** Incorporation of cultural awareness into daily medical practice
- Level 5** Integration of attention to culture into all areas of professional life

It is important to note that someone does not need to be from another country or have a different religion to be culturally different. Values, communication styles, education level, social class, sexual orientation, length of time in Canada, and past experience with the healthcare system will affect healthcare professionals exchanges with families.

The exploration of cultural and religious awareness will not only enrich the hospital experience but also decrease frustrations for everyone as we integrate the priorities of family needs and clinical excellence.

Please note that the document provides guidelines on cultural and religious issues. Cultural practices and religious views can vary widely. It is not meant to replace individual or family choices that are made when the option to donate is presented.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact:

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SECTION 1

Most popular faith groups in the Province of Quebec, in order of population representation. Percentages were taken from the 2001 Canadian census, where the question is asked every 10 years.

RELIGION	%	page
Roman Catholic	43.2	1
United Church of Canada	9.6	1
Anglican	6.9	1
Islam	2.0	1
Judaism	1.1	2
Buddhism	1.0	2
Greek Orthodox	0.7	2

SECTION 2

In alphabetical order, other faiths present in Canada. Percentages were taken from the 2001 Canadian census, where the question is asked every 10 years.

RELIGION	%	page
African Methodist Episcopal	N/A*	3
Baha'i Faith	N/A	3
Baptist Church	2.5	3
Brethren in Christ Church	0.1	3
Christian and Missionary Alliance	0.2	3
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)	N/A	3
Christian Reformed Church	N/A	3
Christian Science	N/A	4
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day-Saints (Mormons)	0.3	4
Church of the Nazarene	N/A	4
Doukhobors	N/A	4
Eastern Orthodox Churches	0.8	4
Evangelical Free Church	N/A	4
Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada	0.2	5
Free Methodist Church	0.1	5
Gypsies	N/A	5
Hinduism	1.0	5
Hutterian Brotherhood	0.1	5

RELIGION	%	page
Jehovah's Witness	0.5	6
Lutheran Church	2.0	6
Mennonite Church	0.6	6
Native Spirituality	0.1	6-7
Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada	1.2	7
Presbyterian Church of Canada	1.4	7
Rastafarianism	N/A	7
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	N/A	7
Salvation Army	0.3	7
Seventh-day Adventist Church	0.2	8
Shintoism	N/A	8
Sikhism	0.9	8
Ukrainian Catholic Church	0.4	8
Unitarian Universalist Church	N/A	8
Voodoo	N/A	9
Wesleyan Church	N/A	9
Wicca	N/A	9
Worldwide Church of God	N/A	9
Zoroastrianism	N/A	9

* N/A= not available

SECTION 1

Most popular faith groups in the Province of Quebec

Care of Dying	*Agree with OTD	Policy/Mission Statement	Beliefs, Traditions &/or Rituals	Autopsy
ROMAN CATHOLIC				
Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends; rituals or sacraments may include communion, reconciliation, laying on of hands or the sacrament of the sick.	Yes	Yes Addresses organ and tissue donation	Organ and tissue donation, transplantation are encouraged and supported; demonstrates Christian love Practiced in varying intensity depending on the culture of origin and length of time in Canada	Permitted
UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA				
Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends	Yes	Yes Addresses organ and tissue donation	Organ and tissue donation are encouraged and supported; demonstrates Christian love	Permitted
ANGLICAN (Episcopal is the American equivalent)				
Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends. Some Anglicans will ask for "last rites", the sacrament of the sick, or prayers for the dying.	Yes	No However, a church journal states that Anglican Bishops of the ecclesiastical province of Ontario unanimously endorse the Roman Catholic Bishops of Ontario position of supporting organ donation	Organ and tissue donation are encouraged and supported; demonstrates Christian love	Permitted
ISLAM (Main denominations are Sunni and Shi'a (Shiites))				
Imam and family members may read verses from the Qur'an Patient/Family may ask that the head be raised a bit, with the head turned toward Mecca (facing East) Attempts to shorten life not allowed Some use of herbal remedies and faith healing Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends	Religious leaders are divided on this issue	Yes Supports donation of internal vital organs	For many, saving another's life takes precedence over the principles of respect for the body Respect for their views and values is important: Inform the eldest man of the family of the death first Prefer that healthcare workers be of the same sex as the patient To maintain women's modesty, the body should be dressed/covered as much as possible The eyes and mouth of the deceased should be closed. To close the mouth a bandage can be run under the chin and tied in a knot on top of the head Arms and legs should be straightened The body is washed and clothed in white cloth by a family member of the same sex or by the spouse	Only if required by law Try to have it done within 24 hours

*Agree with Organ & Tissue Donation

Care of Dying	Agree with OTD	Policy/Mission Statement	Beliefs, Traditions &/or Rituals	Autopsy
JUDAISM (Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist)				
<p>Mandatory obligation to use all means to save or prolong life</p> <p>Some members only accept cardiopulmonary criteria as a means of determining death</p> <p>If death is inevitable, no new procedures should be initiated but medical therapy already in place cannot be stopped</p> <p>Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends</p> <p>The dying patient will not be left alone</p>	<p>Religious leaders are divided on this issue</p>	<p>In 1991 the Rabbinical Council of America (Orthodox) stated that organ donation is permitted and should be carried out if the person is determined to be neurologically dead.</p>	<p>The highest value is to emulate God through acts of love, compassion and concern. <i>Pikuach nefesh</i>, the saving of human life, is the overriding value which permits donation</p> <p>Hasidic Jews often refuse organ and tissue donation</p> <p>Donor must meet criteria for neurological death</p> <p>Do not support organ donation from live donors</p> <p>Corneal donation is considered life saving</p> <p>Scissors not should be used near the body</p> <p>Close the eyes, wrap the body then leave it untouched</p> <p>A light should be left on at the head of the bed</p> <p>As the dead are not left alone, a family member normally stays with the body until it is picked up by the funeral home</p>	<p>Only if required by law</p> <p>A Rabbi should be consulted</p>
BUDDHISM (Four main streams: Theravada, Mahayana, Hinayana, and Vahrayana)				
<p>Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends</p> <p>An ordained monk or nun may be notified so that specific rituals can be carried out</p> <p>Might want to create an atmosphere for meditation and chanting</p> <p>Might request that medication and pain-killers be stopped in order to "get closer to enlightenment"</p>	<p>Religious leaders are divided on this issue</p>	<p>No</p> <p>However, references in scripture support the concept of organ donation</p>	<p>Believes that donation and transplantation are a matter of conscience; therefore each must decide for the themselves</p> <p>Once death is pronounced, they prefer that the body not be manipulated or touched</p> <p>Spiritual leader might be present to "declare" death and signify when the soul has left the body</p> <p>Often use traditional Chinese medications</p>	<p>Permitted</p>
GREEK ORTHODOX				
<p>Sacrament of the sick, laying on of hands, comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Organ & tissue donation is encouraged as long as it improves the quality of human life</p>	<p>Support organ and tissue donation, and transplantation; but not research and experimentation</p>	<p>Permitted</p>

SECTION 2

Other Canadian faith groups *(In alphabetical order)*

Care of Dying	*Agree with OTD	Policy/Mission Statement	Beliefs, Traditions &/or Rituals	Autopsy
AME & AME ZION (African Methodist Episcopal)				
Death is seen as a natural progression in a person's life Family will spiritually and physically care for the dying Vocal expression of emotions Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends	Yes	No	Organ and tissue donation is encouraged and seen as an act of brotherly love and charity	Permitted
BAHA'I FAITH				
Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends Spiritual Assembly available to provide support, comfort and prayers (Montreal number: 514-849-0753)	Yes	No	Permitted to donate their bodies for medical research Transplantation is acceptable The body can only be transported within an hour distance of where the person died	Permitted
BAPTIST CHURCH (Includes American, Southern, Progressive, National and Seventh Day Baptists)				
Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends	Yes	No However, in 1988, U.S. Southern Baptists passed a resolution to encourage and support organ and tissue donation	Amongst some members organ and tissue donation is encouraged and supported as it is seen as an act of charity	Permitted
BRETHREN IN CHRIST CHURCH				
Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends	Yes	1993 U.S. Annual Conference resolved to support and encourage organ and tissue donation	Organ and tissue donation is encouraged and supported; demonstrates Christian love	Permitted
CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE <i>(B. Doyle, personal communication, July 19 2006)</i>				
Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends	Yes	No	Considers itself a movement and not a denomination Organ and tissue donation is a personal decision	Permitted
CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)				
Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends	Yes	1985 U.S. resolution encourages members to provide consent and to pray for recipients	Organ and tissue donation is a personal decision to be made with family members and medical personnel	Permitted
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH <i>(T. Veldboom, personal communication, July 17 2006)</i>				
Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends	Yes	No	Organ and tissue donation is a personal decision to be made with family members, medical personnel and possibly consultation with church minister	Permitted

*Agree with Organ & Tissue Donation

Care of Dying	Agree with OTD	Policy/Mission Statement	Beliefs, Traditions &/or Rituals	Autopsy
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE				
Unlikely to seek medical help to prolong life Presence of Healers, Christian Science Nurses Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends	Yes	No	Organ and tissue donation, and transplantation are a personal decision Many prefer spiritual healing but are free to seek out any medical care that they choose Do not usually use blood or blood products	Only if required by law
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS (Mormons)				
Anointing with oil, healing prayers, laying on of hands Presence of church elders, members of "The Relief Society" Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends	Yes	1974 U.S. policy statements says that it is an individual choice; a person should weigh the pros and cons, seek guidance through prayer and make a decision that they can feel comfortable with	The decision to donate or accept transplantations are to be made by the family after receiving medical counsel and confirmation through prayer Power of God can bring healing	Permitted
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE (A. Verge, personal communication, July 17 2006)				
Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends	Yes	No	Believe in spiritual healing but are encouraged to seek out medical care as necessary Organ and tissue donation, and transplantation are a personal decision	Permitted
DOUKHOBORS (Union of Spiritual Communities of Christ, USCC) (Other types: Independent, Community, Sons of Freedom or Reform) (J. Verigin, personal communication, July 17 2006)				
Presence of family and community members to provide spiritual comfort through reading &/or singing of Doukhobor songs &/or hymns Will not prolong life by unnatural means Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends	Yes	Yes Views outlined in an information sheet of the USCC Other sects might have a different point of view	Believe God dwells in each person. Do not have trained clergy or formal churches, traditions are passed on verbally Do not consider themselves a religion but a way of life Majority are lacto-vegetarians Organ and tissue donation, transplantation and autopsy are a personal, faith based decision	Permitted
EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCHES (Includes Antiochian, Armenian, Russian and Serbian except for Greek and Ukrainian)				
Sacrament of the sick, laying on of hands, comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends	Yes	Some churches have them. Refer to sections addressing Greek Orthodox and Ukrainian Churches	Believe the body is sacred and that it will be restored when resurrected	Permitted
EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH (Each church is autonomous) (Maureen, personal communication September 14 2006)				
Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends	Canadian organization has not addressed the issue; dealt with by each church	1982 U.S. resolution to encourage, support and educate their members about organ and tissue donation	Organ and tissue donation, and transplantation are a personal decision	Permitted

Care of Dying	Agree with OTD	Policy/Mission Statement	Beliefs, Traditions &/or Rituals	Autopsy
EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY CHURCH OF CANADA (<i>L. Della Foresta, personal communication, August 15 2006</i>)				
Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends Montreal (NDG) church: Rivers Edge Community Church Pastor Della Foresta 514-487-9696	Yes	No	Organ and tissue donation, and transplantation are a personal decision	Permitted
FREE METHODIST (<i>K. Elford, personal communication, July 21 2006</i>)				
Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends	Canadian organization has not addressed the issue	1984 U.S. resolution states, "The United Methodist Church recognizes the life-giving benefits of organ and tissue donation, and thereby encourages all Christians. . ."	Organ and tissue donation, and transplantation are a personal decision	Permitted
GYPSIES (ROMANY) (<i>Are multiethnic group who share historical origins, common folk beliefs but not religion</i>)				
Family at the bedside. Presence of spiritual advisors will be culture/faith dependant Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends	Generally opposed	No	Believe that for one year after death the soul retraces its steps; and that the soul retains its human physical shape Opposed to transplantation	Only if required by law
HINDUISM				
Prefer to have loved one die at home May tie a thread around the neck or wrist to bless a patient, sprinkle holy water and /or place a scared leaf in the patient's mouth Relatives may bring in money or clothes for patient to touch before distributing to the needy Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends Hand written notes from family and friends will often be placed under the person's body	Yes	No However, there are many references that support the concept of organ donation. The <i>Manusmriti</i> states " of all the things that it is possible to donate, to donate your own body is infinitely more worthwhile"	Organ and tissue donation, and transplantation are a personal decision Traditionally associates death with respiratory failure Distress may be caused if body is touched by a non-Hindu, but one can often touch the body when wearing gloves DO NOT remove any jewellery, sacred threads or religious objects, the family will take care of this The body is often washed by same sex relatives Face body south Time of day that person is declared dead is important	Only if required by law
HUTTERIAN BROTHERHOOD (<i>Elias, personal communication, July 12 2006</i>)				
Family and community members will help look after the patient Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends	Yes	No	Their way of life is based on their religious practices. They live in colonies and German is their common language Will use available health services Organ and tissue donation, and transplantation are a personal, faith based decision	Permitted

Care of Dying	Agree with OTD	Policy/Mission Statement	Beliefs, Traditions &/or Rituals	Autopsy
JEHOVAH'S WITNESS				
Members and elders pray for the sick person Scripture reading to provide comfort, mental and spiritual healing Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends	Views vary, individual consultation is necessary	No	Will not accept blood transfusions but will consider albumin, immunoglobulins and clotting factors Organ and tissue donation, and transplantation are a personal decision. If consent is obtained, all organs and tissues must be completely drained of blood Are more comfortable with tissue donation as no blood is involved	Only if required by law
LUTHERAN (Evangelical Lutheran, Lutheran Church-Canada and the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations of Canada)				
Comfort, support, and bedside prayers with family and friends	Yes	1981 U.S. resolution requesting that members consider donation and to make the necessary family and legal arrangements	Organ and tissue donation, and transplantation are supported and encouraged Organ and tissue donation, and transplantation are a personal, faith based decision	Permitted
MENNONITE (Mennonite Church of Canada and Brethren Church)				
Anointing patient with oil, comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends Do not believe that life should be continued at all cost	Views vary, individual consultation is necessary	No	Organ and tissue donation, and transplantation are acceptable to some	Permitted
NATIVE SPIRITUALITY: First Nation (Mohawk, Cree, Algonquin, Naskapis, Montagnais, Mi'kmaq, and Atikamekw) (R. Carlton, personal communication June 4, 2007)				
Possible presence of a shaman who is a physical and spiritual healer Guidance from elders Prayerful ceremony Comfort, support for family and friends at the bedside	No However, a personal/family decision to donate would be respected and supported A barrier to donation is the confidentiality process concerning recipients	No	Much diversity across and within each group, traditional beliefs influence religious beliefs. Teach that only the creator knows how long one has to live and that the body is supposed to be intact at death. The Creator will send them on a search for lost parts or that the person will be caught between the earthly and spirit world Mourning practices vary among the different groups May ask that the body not be moved so that the soul can depart May burn sweet grass to purify the area and ban bad spirits Believe that a person's name has power and should not be said frequently Some are uncomfortable with shaking hands and being touched by strangers Organ and tissue donation, and transplantation is a personal choice made after much reflection and guidance	

Care of Dying	Agree with OTD	Policy/Mission Statement	Beliefs, Traditions &/or Rituals	Autopsy
NATIVE SPIRITUALITY: Inuit (C. Carreau, personal communication, July 2006)				
Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends Short periods of wailing when a person dies	No However, a personal/family decision to donate would be respected and supported	No	90% of the population are Anglican, the others are Catholic or Pentecostal Decisions are taken as a family Believe that you inherit another's soul if donation is performed and that you change your destiny Organ and tissue donation, and transplantation is a personal choice made after much reflection and guidance Practice cultural homeopathy	Only if required by law
PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES OF CANADA (Some are also affiliated with the United Pentecostal Church International) (C. Carreau, personal communication, July 2006)				
Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends	Yes	No	Organ and tissue donation, and transplantation are a personal decision	Permitted
PRESBYTERIAN				
Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends Do not believe that life should be continued at all cost	Yes	Only refers to organ donation	Organ and tissue donation are encouraged and supported	Permitted
RASTAFARIANISM (Except for the Boboshanti and the Twelve Tribes of Israel they are not a formal organization, it is a personal religion)				
Visits are made in groups and family members pray at the bedside Comfort and support for family and friends at the bedside	Is generally not accepted	No	There is a taboo on wearing second hand clothing so many prefer to wear their own or disposable gowns Many are not comfortable with blood transfusions due to concerns regarding contamination of the body Also prefer to avoid medical treatments due to concerns regarding contamination of the body Prefer alternative therapies such as herbalism and acupuncture	Only if required by law
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS) (J.O. Smith, personal communication, July 17 2006)				
Comfort and support for family and friends at the bedside Silent prayers at the bedside by family and friends Offer to contact Molly Walsh, a local member in Montreal, for spiritual support: 514-270-8956	Yes	No	Organ and tissue donation, and transplantation are a personal decision Do not believe in rituals, sacraments, holy water or oil etc. Use of these things are deeply offending to them The religion more closely resembles Buddhism than Christianity	Permitted
SALVATION ARMY				
Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends	Yes	No	Is a church and social service agency	Permitted

Care of Dying	Agree with OTD	Policy/Mission Statement	Beliefs, Traditions &/or Rituals	Autopsy
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST				
Prolong life as long as possible Deacons/ Ministers and elders pray for and anoint the sick Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends	Yes	No	Organ and tissue donation are strongly encouraged and supported Believe in divine healing Have a world wide system of hospitals and clinics	Permitted
SHINTOISM				
Family presence at bedside	No	No	Believes that the body is polluted after death and that someone is not dead for 49 days Many think that organ procurement is disrespectful Family may override a person's decision to donate out of fear of making the soul miserable	Only if required by law
SIKHISM				
Family and friends at the bedside Will not maintain someone on artificial life support who is in a vegetative state Prayers should not be interrupted for routine care Comfort, support, and bedside prayers for family and friends	Yes	No	Prefer the word traditions Believe that life continues in the soul, not the physical body If the turban needs to be removed, give it to a family member and cover hair with something else. NEVER store the turban with a person's shoes Women might ask for extra clothing to cover themselves, prefer female healthcare providers The five <i>Kakkars</i> that all Sikhs respect, are worn at all times and should not be removed from the body without permission: <i>Kesa</i> : Uncut hair worn in a turban and beards, a reminder to do no harm to the body <i>Kacha</i> : An undergarment, a symbol of chastity <i>Kanga</i> : A wooden comb to keep the hair in place, a symbol of cleanliness <i>Kara</i> : A steel bracelet, signifies devotion to truth <i>Kirpan</i> : A ceremonial dagger, symbolizing the protection of the weak and helpless Family may wish to wash and lay out the body Keep limbs straight	Only if required by law
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH				
Sacrament of the sick, laying on of hands, comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends	Yes	Yes Adopted position of Catholic Church	Organ and tissue donation is a demonstration of Christian love Resurrection occurs with a new and perfect body	Permitted
UNITARIAN/UNIVERSALIST				
Uses science to facilitate healing Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends	Yes	No	Organ and tissue donation, and transplantation are encouraged and supported	Permitted

Care of Dying	Agree with OTD	Policy/Mission Statement	Beliefs, Traditions &/or Rituals	Autopsy
VOODOO (originated in West Africa, predominantly practiced by Haitians)				
Presence of Priest or Priestess calling on spirits to (Iwa/Loa) to assist in the care or healing of the dying person	Is generally not accepted	No	Religion is a mix of African spirituality and Catholicism. About 15% of the Haitian population are evangelical protestants and have renounced any connection to Voodoo The practice of Voodoo is a mix of religious and health oriented ceremonies/rituals Permission must be obtained from the Iwa/Loa spirits to change someone's fate. Low regards for free will and personal responsibility. Voodoo still plays a role in the spiritual life of many West Africans and others	Only if required by law
WESLEYAN CHURCH				
Extraordinary pain management is acceptable as long as it not intended to shorten life or free up a hospital bed Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends	Yes	No	Organ and tissue donation, as well as donation of body for medical research are supported	Permitted
WICCA (K.E. Scholler, personal communication, July 17, 2006)				
Members will pray at bedside for the safe passage of the spirit DO NOT want members of other organized religions present	Yes	No	Organ and tissue donation, and transplantation are a personal decision	Permitted
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD (D. Lawrence, personal communication, July 18 2006)				
Comfort, support and bedside prayers with family and friends The focus is to have the patient spiritually and medically comfortable when they die	Yes	No	Organ and tissue donation, and transplantation are a personal decision	Permitted
ZOROASTRIANISM (J. Begali, personal communication, July 19, 2006)				
A priest and family recite special prayers, <i>Ashem vohn & Patet</i> , and give holy water to the dying person; for the safe sojourn of the soul to the spiritual domain Prefer that their priest is called in but Spiritual services are welcome to provide comfort and support	Yes	No	Organ and tissue donation, and transplantation are a personal decision Wear a sudeh, a white undershirt After death the body is washed and dressed in white May ask to have the body placed on a clean white sheet on the floor so that the priest and family can surround the person in prayer. Once this is done the body is said to be impure and will not be touched again by the family	Permitted

CANADIAN POPULATION	
No Religion	16.2%
Total of other religions/organizations not described	6.4%
Population practicing other religions or no religion vs. Catholic and Protestant population	28.0%

Statistics based on 2001 Canadian Census, Statistics Canada

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